

# Using <OpenEditor><sup>TM</sup>

## *TUTORIAL*

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This workshop provides an introduction and tutorial to <OpenEditor><sup>TM</sup>, an XHTML editor written in Java 1.5. <OpenEditor><sup>TM</sup> features functionality found in a number of commercial products such as FrontPage® and Dreamweaver®. The code, generated in XHTML 1.0 Transitional, allows students to develop webpages quickly without the price and overhead of learning more complicated packages such as FrontPage® and Dreamweaver®, yet provides more pedagogical support than raw text editors such as Notepad and Wordpad. The <OpenEditor><sup>TM</sup> software downloads are available from <http://www.OpenEditor.org/>.

In Fall 2004, a class of twenty-four CS0 students used <OpenEditor><sup>TM</sup> to develop their first webpages. A survey of the students found the following advantages to using the software:

- Ease of use (point and click to generate code)
- Eliminates overhead of using a complex Integrated Development Environment
- Logical organization of available tags
- Does not require any presets to produce a simple webpage
- Fast formatting of text
- Restricted number of commonly used commands (users are not confused with too many commands and options)
- Does not require memorization of XHTML commands and syntax
- Saves time by providing shortcuts
- Eliminates hesitation for beginners to start writing code
- Previews webpages in your own default browser
- Eliminates selecting “All” file format (as Notepad requires)
- Requires the user have a command of XHTML commands to be successful

Almost no disadvantages were found by the students when <OpenEditor><sup>TM</sup> was compared to Notepad and Wordpad. Beginning students who had used FrontPage® and Dreamweaver® prior to the class found <OpenEditor><sup>TM</sup> much easier to operate and develop a four-page website.