Page Properties Part II: Background Images

In the previous lesson we reviewed a group of CSS settings that apply to the entire page. Dreamweaver groups these settings as "page properties" and provides a button in the properties pane to access them. In the Appearance (CSS) category, we were able to pick a default font face, font size, text color, and page background color.

From that same Appearance (CSS) category, it is possible to add a background image to the page and set the margins.

Background images are generally small in both size and file size. These images are most often set to repeat themselves horizontally, vertically or in both directions. Because they are usually used in this way, they are created in such a way, that the repeated image blends together seamlessly as it repeats. Free background images can be downloaded from a variety of sites. If you are going to design a site with a background image, you create it, or download it to your project folder before setting the page properties.

The test file does not yet have headings applied. Add heading tags for levels 1, 2, and 3. The file page should look like the image shown below.

Dreamweaver, Page Properties, and CSS

Dreamweaver and CSS

Dreamweaver is a popular web site development tool. It allows the user to create web pages graphically eliminating the need to hand code html. although Dreamweaver may be the most popular tool, there are many others that can be used to accomplish the same task.

Although old style formatting of web pages was often accomplished through html properties, this is not the preferred method. Dreamweaver utilizes CSS to accomplish all formatting in accordance with current standards. Users must still familiarize themselves with concepts of CSS use if an efficient, well organized site is to be created. Learn more about Dreamweaver and CSS by visiting the Dreamweacver Development Center.

Page Properties

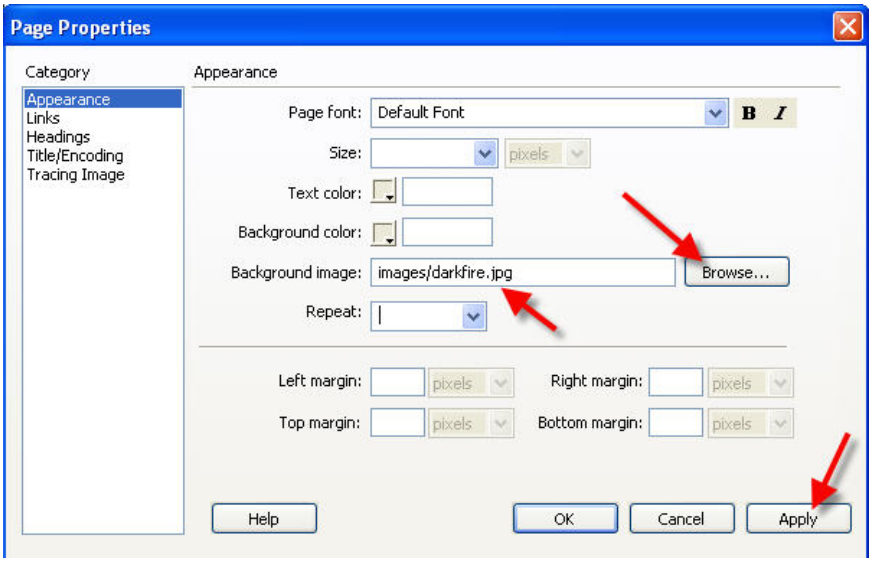
Appearance (CSS)

The appearance tab includes settings such as the font. font size. font color. background color. and page margins. It also

Page Properties Part II: Background Images

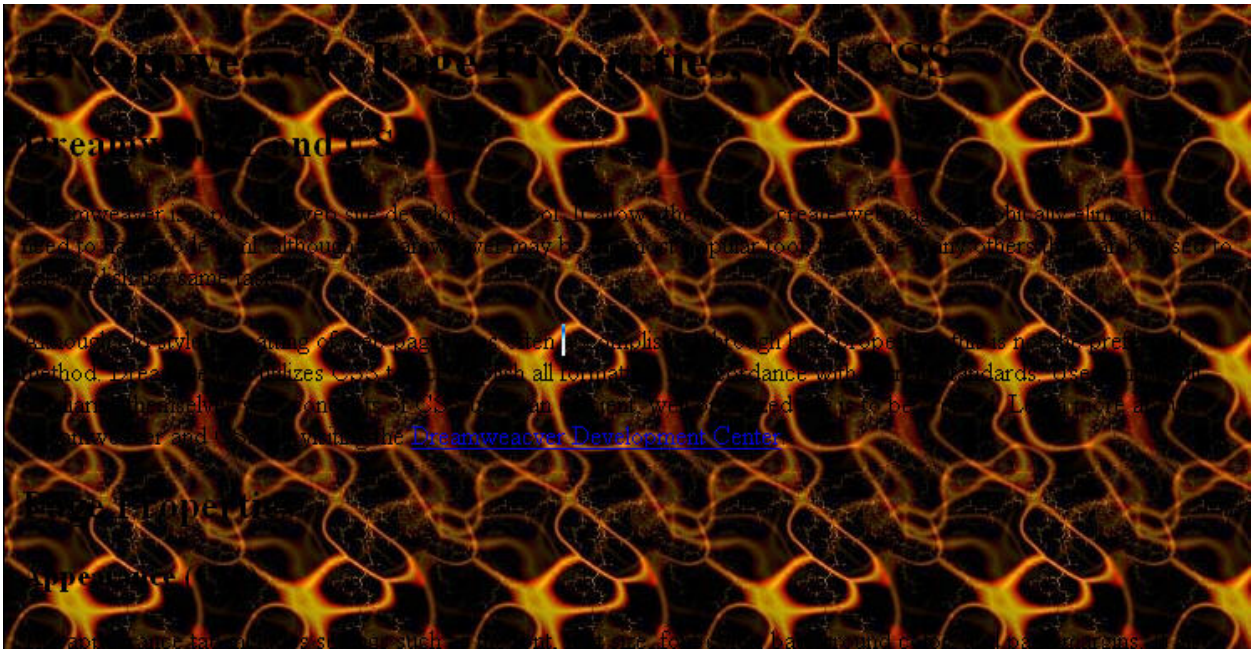
Adding a Background Image to a Page

1. Open the page properties settings by clicking the page properties button in the properties pane
2. Confirm that you are in the "Appearance (CSS)" category
3. Choose the browse button next to the "background image" box
4. Browse to and select your background image
5. Use the "apply" button to see the image tile across your entire page.



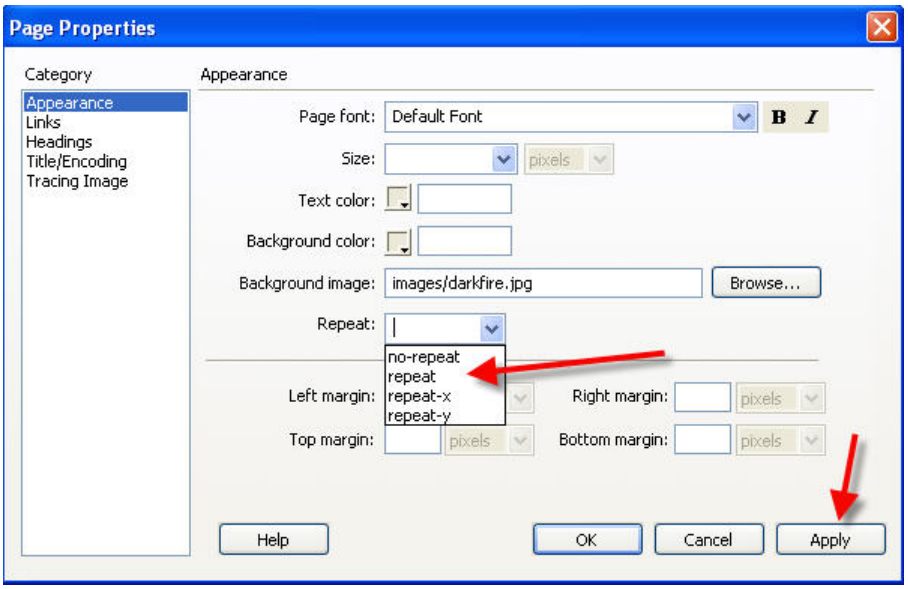
The result is shown here.

Page Properties Part II: Background Images

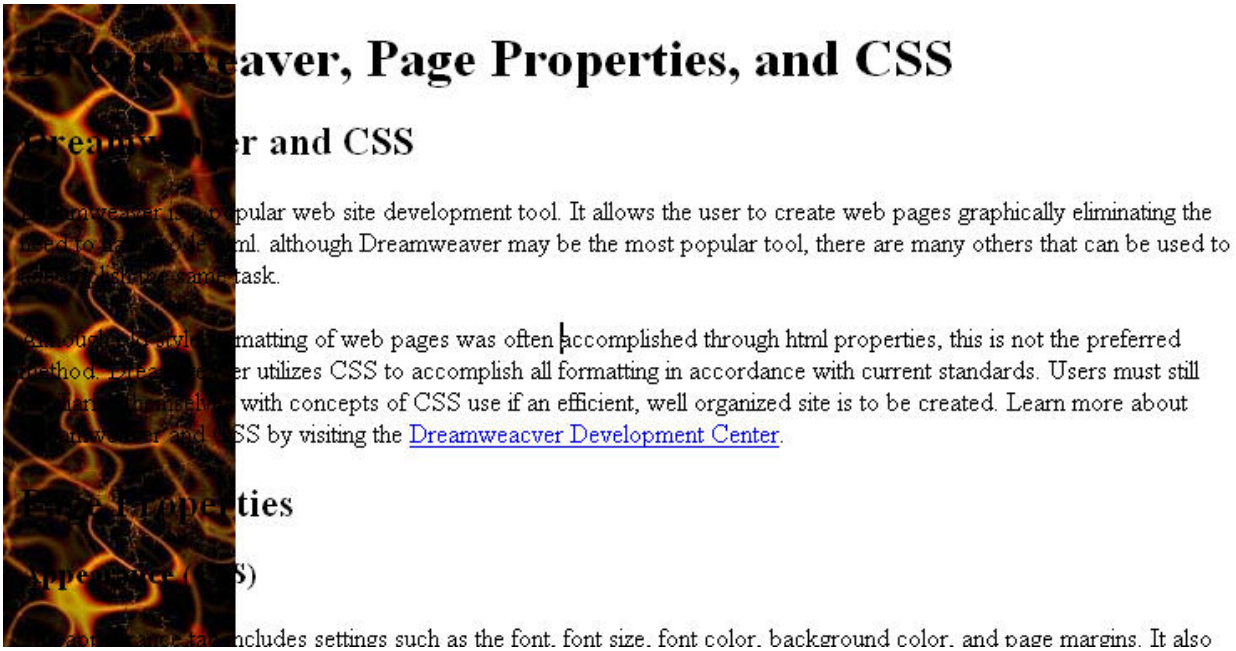


Page Properties Part II: Background Images

6. Select and test the no-repeat, repeat-x, and repeat-y options from the repeat dropdown box. I have chosen the repeat-y option to create a single, left-aligned column.

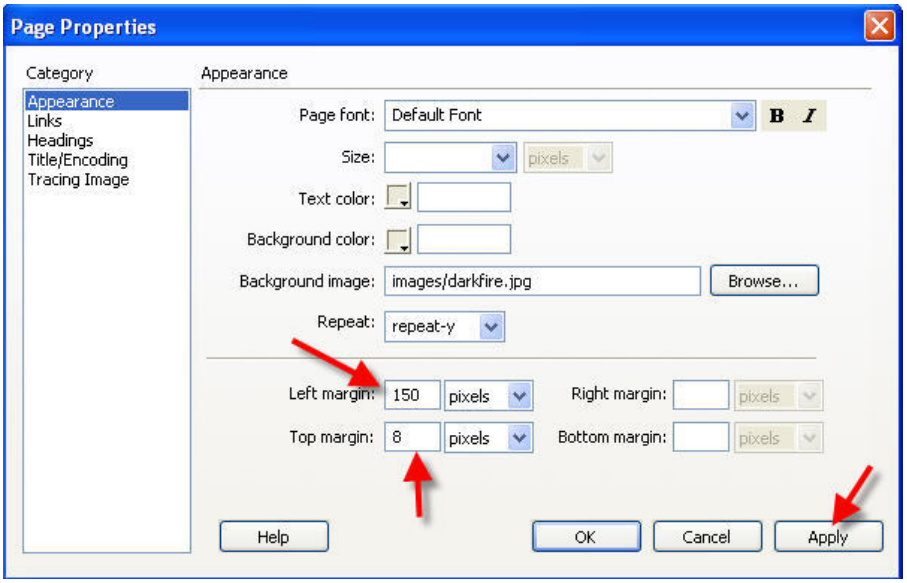


The page now looks like this. Note the text overlaps the graphic.

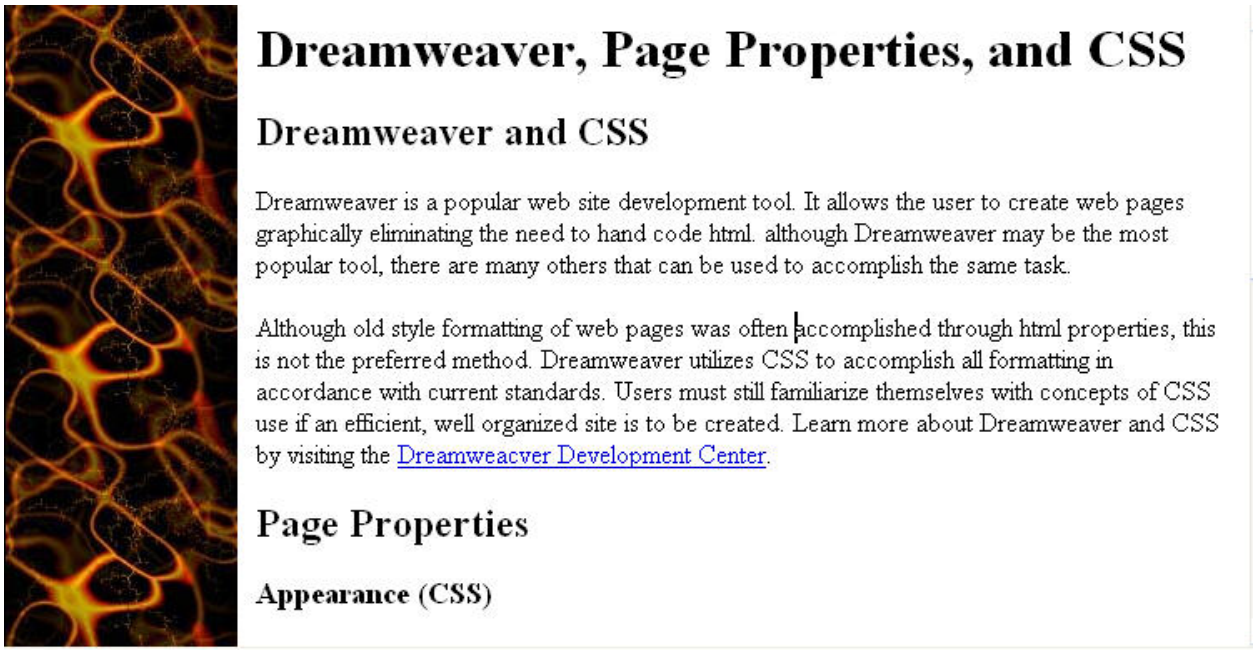


Page Properties Part II: Background Images

7. Select margins to create empty space around the edges of your page. In this example I have added a wide left margin to push the text off my background image. I have also set a top margin to my liking.

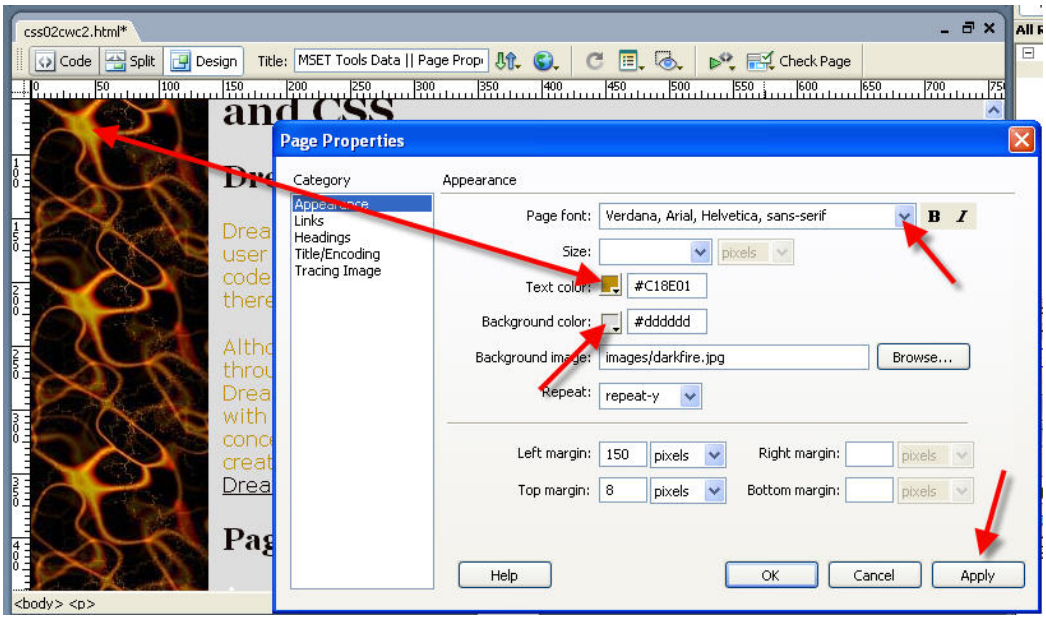


Now the text can be easily read.



Page Properties Part II: Background Images

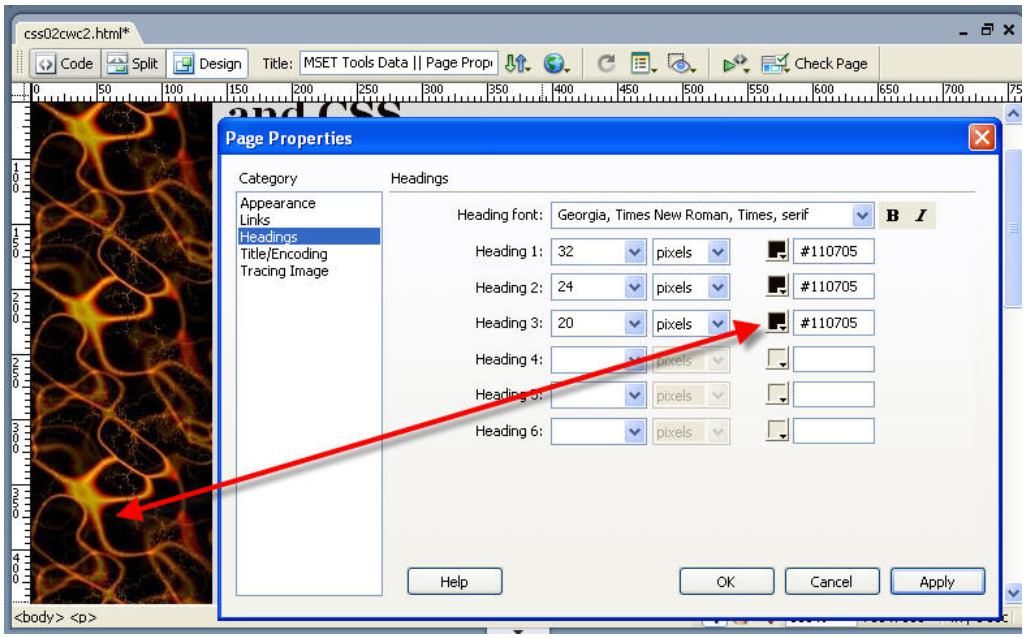
8. Select a default page font, background color, and text color. To coordinate your color scheme with your background image, you may want to use the eyedropper tool to select colors directly from the image as shown for the text color.



Note the results.

Page Properties Part II: Background Images

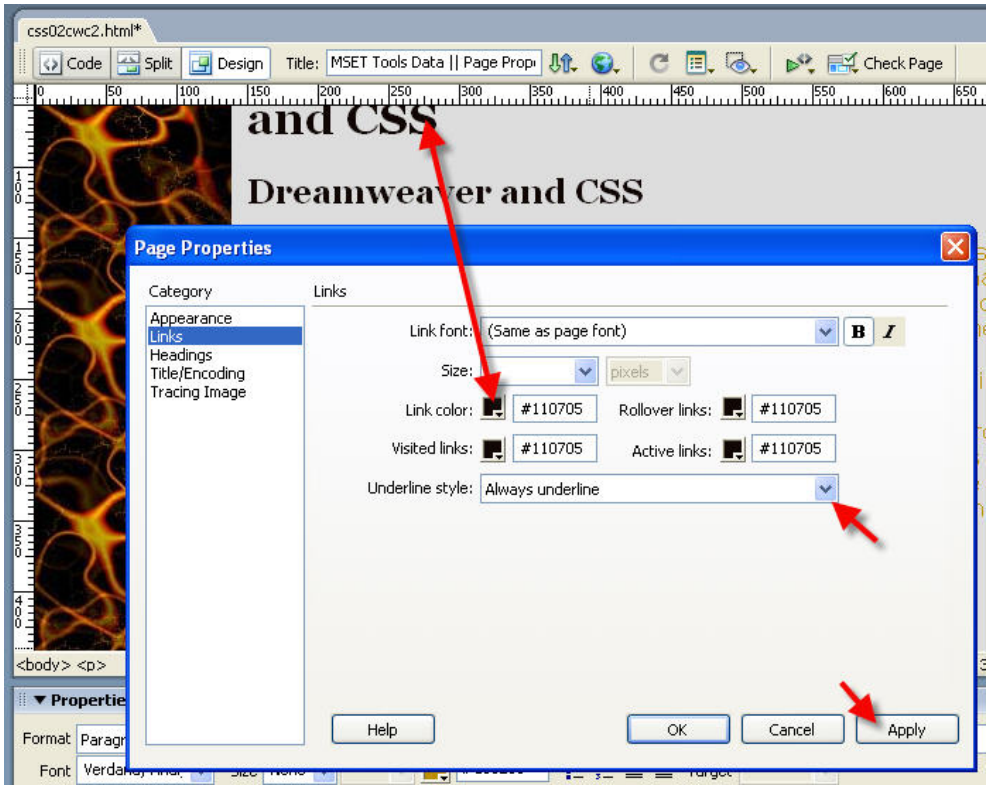
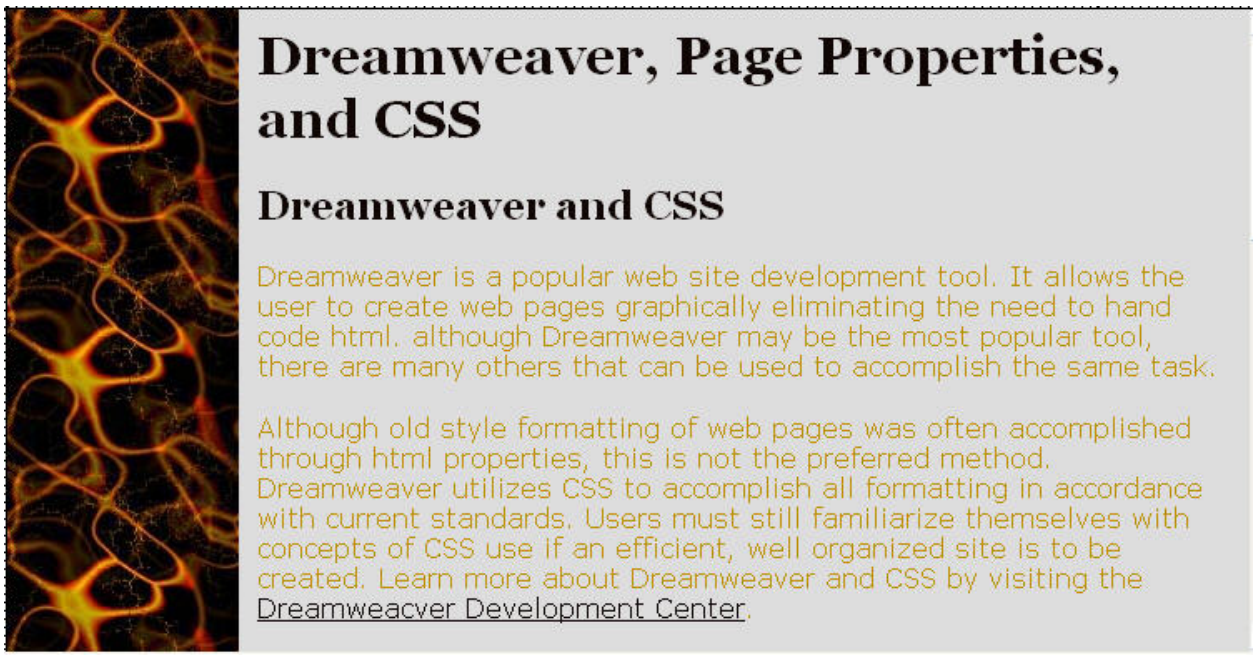
9. Continue the process by using the Headings (CSS) category. Again, you may select colors from the background image.



Heading font, color, and size has changed.

Page Properties Part II: Background Images

10. Complete the page properties settings by styling the links through the Links (CSS) category.



The final page is shown here.