



# Short User's Guide to H-PaGe

**Svetoslav Nikolov**

Ørsted•DTU

December 8, 2003

## 1 Introduction

This is a short User's Guide for the **Home Page Generator (H-PaGe)**, pronounced Eitf Peidzh). H-PaGe is a program which generates automatically web pages from a given specification, which look like the web pages of DTU. The user provides only the *content* of the page, and the layout is created by H-PaGe. Thus, if the outer appearance of the web site changes, the user can update his/her web site without changing anything from his/her files. This will be done automatically by H-PaGe. The program was initially written to provide a fast and easy way of creating and maintaining web pages. Then some additional features have been added to the program to make it more flexible and usable. Section 2.1 shows how to quickly and easy create a web page.

## 2 Quick Start

### 2.1 Creating a "simple" page

H-PaGe creates pages like the one shown in Fig. 1. In order to create such a page, follow these steps:

1. Copy the file `index.php` to the directory which is going to be the *root* directory of your web site. The file `index.php` is a small program written in PHP, which is executed by the web server. The output of the program is an HTML code for the page you will see in your browser. Changing `index.php` will change the layout of the web page.
2. Copy the file `web.config` to the same directory. This file contains the names of the pictures which will appear in the web page. Presently it is necessary to provide names for at least 4 pictures - upper-left, upper-right, middle-left, and middle-right (see Fig. 1).
3. Create a file with a name `main.html`. This file should be either a simple text file, or a simple HTML file. The contents of this file will appear in the middle row, on the left of the web page (the one designated as "Contents" in Fig. 1).

### 2.2 Playing With The Menus

Consider again Fig. 1. Presently there are 3 menus, which are supported by H-PaGe- left, top, and bottom menus. The top and the bottom menus are optional. You can choose either to have such menus, or not. The left menu, however will always be present. There are two ways of adding menu items to the left menu: (a) using the directory structure, and (b) using the file `web.config`.

#### 2.2.1 Adding menu items to the left menu

The first way to add new items to the left menu is to create new directories. For example, let's assume that the file `index.php` is placed in the directory `test`. If now you create the following subdirectories of `test`:



Figure 1: Layout of the page generated by H-PaGe.

```

Introduction
Test
.pictures

```

you will get two menu items in the left menu: *Test* and *Introduction*. Directories, whose names start with a *dot* will be “hidden”. Now, if you want to add some contents for these two menu items, you must create two files `menu.html` in `Introduction`, and `Test`, respectively. When you click on the menu item *Test*, then the program will display the contents of the file `Test/menu.html`. If you want to add sub-menu items to the menu items, then you must create sub-sub-directories of the sub-directories. There is no limit for the number of levels of sub-directories. The recursion will, however, be stopped if there is a file `index.php` in some of the sub-directories. This way of adding contents to your web site is the simplest.

There is also another possibility for controlling the contents of the menus - by changing the file `web.config`

## 2.2.2 Changing the menus from `web.config`

It is possible to control the contents of all of the menus from the file `web.config`. The syntax of the command is:

```
add_menu('position', 'name', 'place', 'content');
```

where `position` specifies to which menu an item is being added, and can be one of `'left'`, `'top'`, `'bottom'`. Notice that the quotes (`'`) are obligatory. So is the semicolon (`;`) at the end of the line. The second argument `'name'` is the text that will appear on the screen. This can be any valid HTML text. The third argument `'place'` is the link itself. If `'place'` begins with `"http://"`, this means that the place is an absolute Internet address. Otherwise, it is assumed to be the name of a directory. The last argument `'content'` is optional. It is used only if `'place'` specifies a sub-directory. The default value of `'content'` is `'main.html'`. Let's consider the following example. We have created the two subdirectories `Test`, and `Introduction`, and we have the following file structure:

```

test/main.html
Introduction/main.html
Introduction/intro.html

```

Test/main.html  
Test/test.html

We can add items to the left menu using the following commands:

```
add_menu('left', 'Main<br>Introduction', './Introduction');           # Line 1
add_menu('left', 'Some<br>Introduction', './Introduction', 'intro');  # Line 2
add_menu('left', "Test's test", './Test');                           # Line 3
add_menu('left', '<font color=yellow>Yellow<br>Test</font>', './Test', 'test.html');
add_menu('left', 'DTU', 'http://www.dtu.dk');                       # Line 5
```

Several features have been demonstrated above. You can have comments in your configuration. The comments start with the letter # and end with the end of line. You can use double quotes (") for the text, if you have to use the single (') quotes in the text. You can use HTML tags to format your text. For example (<br>) breaks the line. The example on line 4, shows how you can even change the color of a single link.

The link defined in line 1 will point to the file: Introduction/main.html (main.html is the default file to be displayed). The link in line 2 will point to the file Introduction/intro.html. The script automatically checks for files intro, intro.html and intro.htm. Line 5 shows how an absolute link is provided - placing 'http://' in front of the name.

Adding menu items to the top and bottom menus is done in exactly the same way- just replacing the first argument from 'left' to 'top' or 'bottom', respectively. If you do not add any items to the top and bottom menus, they will not appear on the web page. If you do not add any items to the left menu using the command add\_menu, then the items will be taken from the directory structure.

## 2.3 Changing the pictures

Presently, there are at least 4 pictures on the DTU web pages: upper-left, upper-right, middle-left and middle-right (see Fig. 1). Optionally you can specify a bottom-left picture. Adding the pictures to the page is done again from the file web.config using the command:

```
add_image('position', 'file', 'description', 'link');
```

The first argument 'position' is a string and can take the following values: 'upperleft', 'upperright', 'middleleft', 'middleright', 'lowerleft', and 'menu-line'. The special picture 'menu-line' is used for the line between the items of the left menu. The second argument 'file' contains the path to the picture. The path is given relative to the *root* directory (the directory in which index.php is placed). 'description' is a description of the picture. It is also shown instead of the picture, if the picture cannot be displayed. The last parameter 'link' is optional. If it exists, then the picture is used also as a link. The link must be a full Internet address.

The sizes of the pictures is as follows:

- Upper-left : 151 × 20 pixels.
- Upper-right : 600 × 20 pixels.
- Middle-left : 151 × 72 pixels.
- Middle-right: 600 × 72 pixels.
- Bottom-left : 151 × 72 pixels.

*It is important that the images have exactly this size, else a white spacing will be added around them.*

## 2.4 Setting the title of the page

You can set a title for the web site using the command:

```
set_title('text');
```

If you do not specify a middle-right image, then the text for the title will be shown instead of the middle-right picture.

## 2.5 Adding a text at the bottom of the page

If you do not have a menu at the bottom of the page, then you can have add a text at the bottom of the page with the command `add_bottom_text`. For example:

```
add_bottom_text('This page is maintained by <b>Svetoslav Nikolov</b>');
```

## 2.6 Last updated ...

If you want to show when a page was last updated you can call the command `show_updated` with a parameter 'true':

```
show_updated('true');
```

## 2.7 Changing "Home"

`index.php` creates a default menu entry "Home", which is the "Home" of the web site. If you want to change this text, for example to "Home MyName", then you can use the command `set_home_text` ('Some text'):

```
set_home_text('H-PaGe Home');
```

## 2.8 Changing The Color

The contents of the web page must be structured. For example you should specify: "this is a link", "this is a header", etc. The colors and the fonts are automatically controlled by the means of "Cascaded Style Sheets" (CSS). They are given in a separate file. You can change the file with the CSS by using the command:

```
set_style('file');
```

where 'file' is the name of the file with CSS. There are several such files, which can be found in the distribution. They have an extension "\*.css". You can get the decorations for the different color schemes from the web. The images are located in the subdirectory `.pictures` of the distribution.

## 3 Keeping everything in one single directory

When new versions of `index.php` appear, you can update your web site by copying it to the respective directories. Alternatively, you can have only a single copy of THE "index.php" in a single directory, and in each directory you can have a small file with the same name ("index.php"), with the following text:

```
<?php
    include("/home/sn/2www/hpage/index.php");
?>
```

You must replace the path `/home/sn/2www/hpage/` with the path to your own copy of `index.php`.

## 4 Additional Features

The additional features are available only at Ørsted•DTU. They include password protected directories and access to the publication database.

### 4.1 Accessing the publication database

If H-PaGe opens a file with `.php` extension, it assumes that the file is a script that has to be executed. A php script is embedded in an HTML document like this:

```
Normal html document ....
<?
  PHP script - call commands from PHP
?>
Normal html document again ....
```

H-PaGe provides a couple of useful function that you can use. Let's assume that you want to show your publications in the file `publications.php`. The file will contain a fragment of code like this:

```
<?
    pubdb_page(12, "conference", 2002, "Svetoslav's Conference papers");
?>
```

The function `pubdb_page` connects to the publication database of the department, retrieves the publications and displays them. The function is defined as:

```
function pubdb_page($user_id=0, $type="all", $year="", $title="Publications")
```

The inputs are `user_id`, `type`, `year`, and `title`. `user_id` is the identification of the user. You can see it when you log in to the database. You can get your user ID either from Allan Jørgen, `aj@oersted.dtu.dk`, or from Mogens Yndal Pedersen, `myp@oersted.dtu.dk`. The second parameter is the type of publications. It is a text string, and get one of the following values:

`all` - Show all publications

`journal` - Journal papers

`conference` - Conference papers

`book` - Book

`msc` - MSc Thesis

`phd` - PhD Thesis

`report` - Technical report

`notes` - Lecture note

`software` - Software

`misc` - Misc

`patent` - Patent

`dsc` - Doctor thesis

The third parameter is `year`. If you do not specify a year, then all years will be included. The final parameter `title` specifies the title that should stay above the publications. The default value is "Publications".

If you want just to show a link to the publications database, then you can use the function `pubdb_link`:

```
function pubdb_link($user_id, $type, $year, $title, $link_text)
```

The only new parameter is `link_text`, which is the text shown as a link in you page.

## 4.2 Password protection

If you want to restrict the access to some of your files, you can add the command:

```
<?
    allow_users('sn', 'jaj', .....);
?>
```

to your `web.config` file. The users will have to log in with their login names for the web server.