GIMP Practice 6 - ImageMaps

Objective: Become familiar with using the GIMP environment to create an ImageMap that could be added to a web page. There are three types of area shapes that can be defined in an image map: circle, rect and poly. We will do a map with each of these area types in this activity.

Validation Notes: For validation purposes, the <img> that is used as the image that is mapped and each hotspot <area> tag needs an alt attribute defined. The <map> tag will need an id="something" tag added or the map will not validate.

Step 1. Download the GIMP6 folder with the following files:
an index.htm home page along with: the circle.htm, rectangle.htm, polygon.htm pages and an Images folder for your site.

Step 2. Open the map.gif image found in the Images folder in GIMP.
Open the ImageMap dialog panel by using Filters=>Web=>ImageMap.

Select the Mapping=>EditMap option and set the Image Name to be: Images/map.gif.
This will allow the image to be found in the Images folder.
Click the Apply button and then OK.
View the source code for the ImageMap by using the View=>Source option.
You can see the <img> tag that will be used for the ImageMap and also the map tag.
Click the Close button.

Step 3. To create a circle hotspot region, click on the circle in the left menu.
Click in the middle of the circle shape in the map image and drag until the dotted line covers the entire circle.
Double-click to end the drawing mode.
A dialog will appear for the circle hotspot.
Set the URL for the circle hotspot to be the page circle.htm.
Set the alt text to be Circle Page.
Click on the Apply button and you will see the URL and alt text info added in the Selection window.

Step 4. To create a rectangle hotspot region, click on the rectangle in the left menu.
Click in the corner of the square shape in the image and drag a dotted rectangle the correct size.
Double-click to end the drawing mode.
A dialog will appear for the rectangle hotspot.
Set the URL for the rectangle hotspot to be the page rectangle.htm.
Set the alt text to be Rectangle Page.

Click on the Apply button and you will see the URL and alt text info added in the Selection window.

Step 5.   To create a polygon hotspot region, click on the polygon in the left menu.
Click in the top point of the star shape in the image.
Walk your way around the shape clicking at each indented or pointed place on the star.
Complete the polygon by double-clicking at the top point of the star.
A dialog will appear for the polygon hotspot.
Set the URL for the polygon hotspot to be the page polygon.htm.
Set the alt text to be Polygon Page.
Click on the Apply button and you will see the URL and alt text info added in the Selection window.

Step 6.   Open the source code for the ImageMap using the View=>Source option.
Copy the <img> tag and all of the <map> tag.
Open the index.htm page in Notepad.
Paste the ImageMap code just below the <h2> tag.

Step 7.   Add the following to make sure the file with this ImageMap will validate:
Add alt text to the <img> tag.
Add an id attribute to the <map> tag: id= "anything".
Make sure the usemap in the <img> tag and the name in the <map> tag are the same value with no spaces in it.
The usemap value will also have the #character before the name.

Step 6.   Save the file.
Open the index.htm page in a browser.
Try out the hotspots.
You should see the alt text appear when you mouse over a hotspot.
Click on a hotspot to take you to that page.
Notice there are no return links, so just hit the Back button.

Step 10.   **Validate** your finished index.htm page.

Conclusion: Imagemaps are an interesting way to add hyperlinks to your web site. Make sure your hotspots are not too small and that they do not overlap. You should always have the ImageMap links available with actual hypertext links somewhere else on your page. This is because some viewers do not notice that the image is actually an ImageMap.