



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



Copyright © 1995-2005
ACD Systems of America, Inc.

Protected by the copyright laws
of United States and Canada
and by international treaties.



Exporting Canvas Documents to HTML

Here are a few tips that will help you export your Web pages from Canvas and get the results that you want.

Keep in mind that Canvas isn't intended to replace your current HTML editor; however, Canvas can make quick work of image maps, homepages, and graphic heavy pages as well as convert a Canvas file to HTML format.

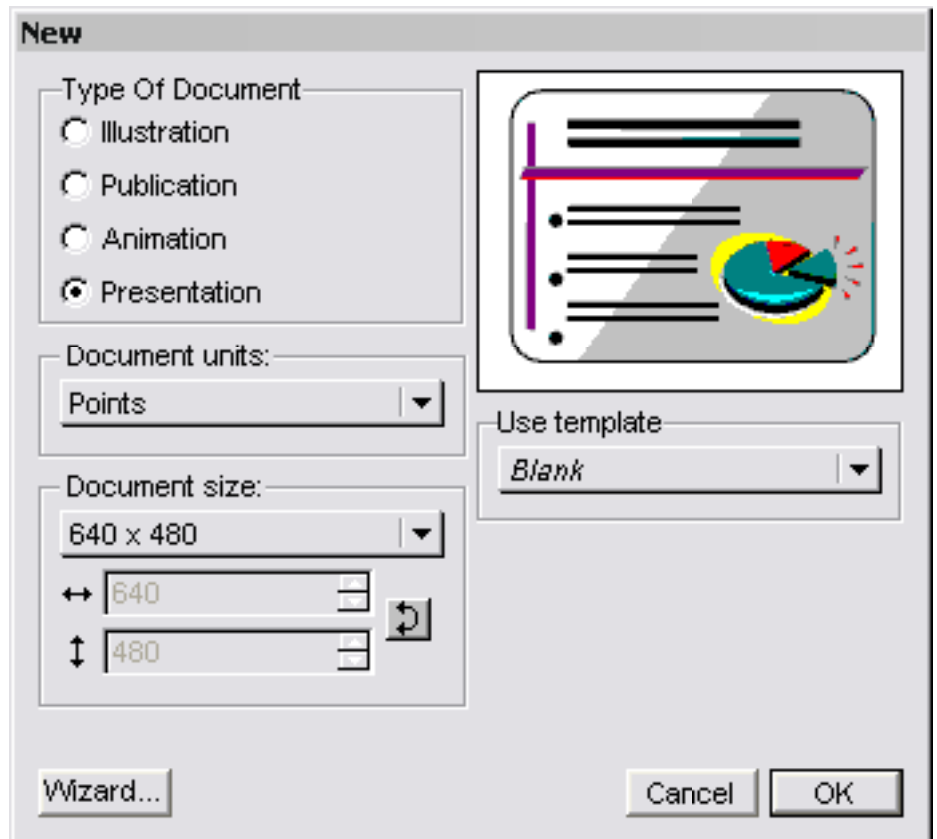
Step 1

New Document

First you should set up your document size to simulate a view area of the Web page. A Presentation document works well as a base for the Web page. Set your Document units to points.

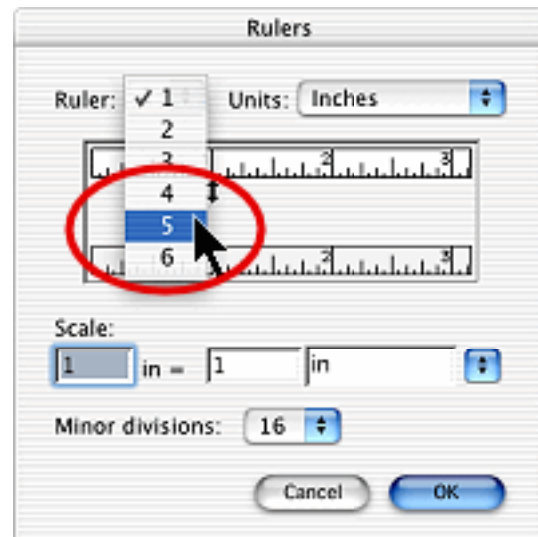
For best compatibility with the most common display sizes, a size of 640 x 480 is best. If you want to change it, you could use the Layout > Document Setup dialog box to modify it later.

Click OK.

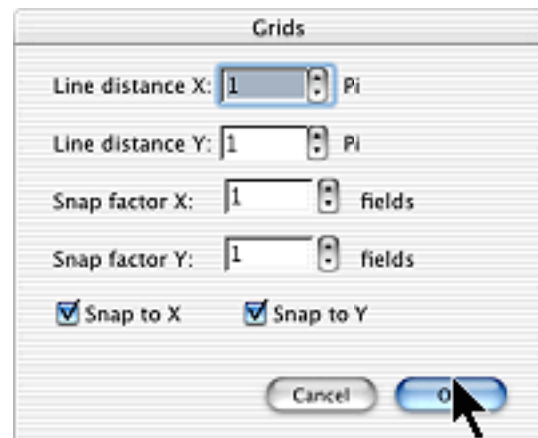


Exporting Canvas Documents to HTML (Continued)

Next, we will prepare the document to measure in pixels. To do this, choose Layout > Rulers. When the Rulers dialog box opens, pick Ruler 5 from the Ruler menu (see example) and press OK. Ruler 5 is preset to measure in pixels.



Now we want to set our grids to snap to pixels. This will prevent objects from falling between pixels. To set your grids, choose Layout > Grids. In the Grids dialog box, change the Line Distance X and Y to 1 pixel. Then, select Snap to X and Snap to Y. Finally, click OK to save your choices and close the dialog box.



Here is a Web page we have already started.



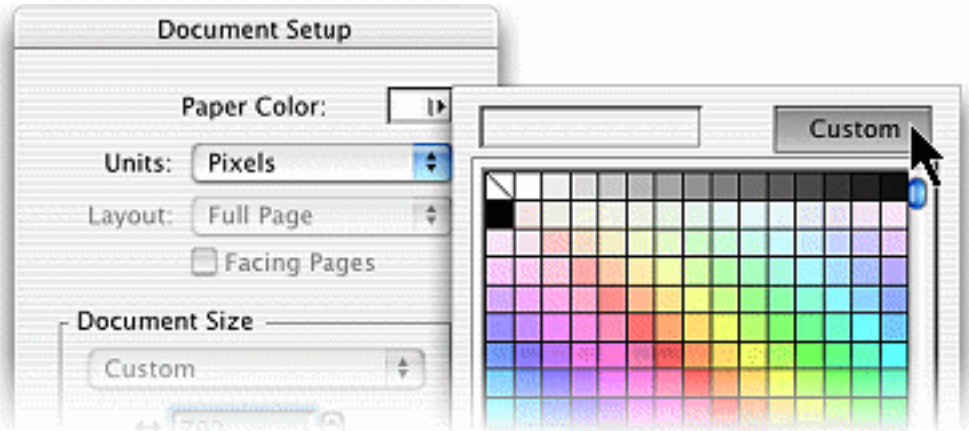
Step 2

Changing the Paper Color

We've decided to make our Web page mostly blue, so we used the Document Setup feature to change the paper color to blue.

To change the paper color, choose Layout > Document Setup. Click on Paper Color and choose the color from the Inks palette. If you wish to use a custom color or if you know the Web-safe color values, click the Custom button (see example).

It is best to use Web-safe colors that match that of your Web page; however, you could still get good results using a color close to the one used on the Web page.



As you could see, you have a lot of flexibility when creating Web pages in Canvas. You could have text and images overlapping, and graphics wherever you like; however, there are a few things to look out for to ensure that you get the best results in the browser. Most of the issues you have to look out for have to do with text. Canvas has the ability to export almost all text to HTML, except for words that have SpriteEffects, SpriteLayers, or other complex effects applied. You need to decide which uses of text on your page are artistic and which are informational; e.g., the headline on our Web page is in a fancy font, so it is obviously an artistic use of text. We want to be sure that it always appears like this to our site visitors, regardless of the fonts installed in their computers. You can handle this by converting the text to paths.

This is easy to do. First select the text and then choose Object > Path > Convert to Path. Now, when we export the page, the converted text will export as a graphic, not text.

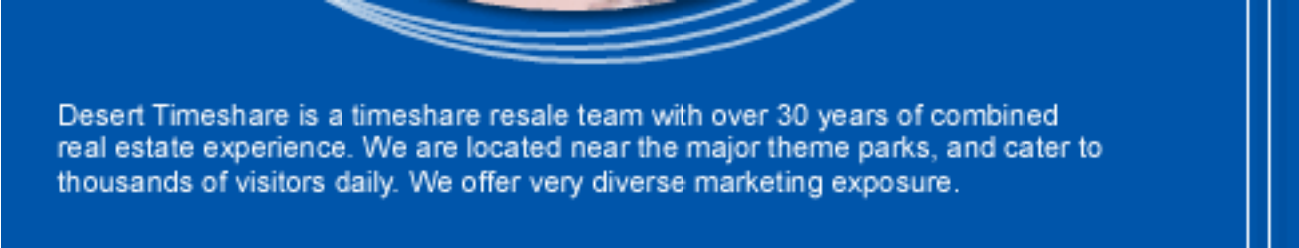


Exporting Canvas Documents to HTML (Continued)

Since these fonts will not be rendered when your document is exported to HTML, it is recommended that you use a common font found on most computers such as Arial, Courier, Impact, Times New Roman or Verdana.

There are a few other rules to follow if you want to ensure your text does not render:

- Non-solid colors for either the background of text, the text or the background object are prohibited.
- No effects can be used on the text.
- Text has to be within the page.
- Images must never overlap text.
- Text must never overlap text.
- Breaking these rules will not create bad HTML, the user has to follow them only if they wish the text to be exported as a text object, i.e., not rendered.



Desert Timeshare is a timeshare resale team with over 30 years of combined real estate experience. We are located near the major theme parks, and cater to thousands of visitors daily. We offer very diverse marketing exposure.

Step 3

Creating Hyperlinks

Now, we want to set up some hyperlinks using the URL Attachment palette. Start by selecting the object that will contain the link; e.g., the white buttons. Then choose Window > Palettes > URL Tag.

When the palette appears simply type in the Web address and press Assign. You could even link to other pages in your Canvas document that appear in the palette; e.g., Slide #1, Slide # 2. This creates a sequence of Web pages. You could also assign a URL to text.




Step 4

Image Maps

It is very easy to create an image map. Suppose we want just one area of a central graphic to link to another page. In this example, we want the top corner of the page that includes text and an icon of a house to link back to the homepage.

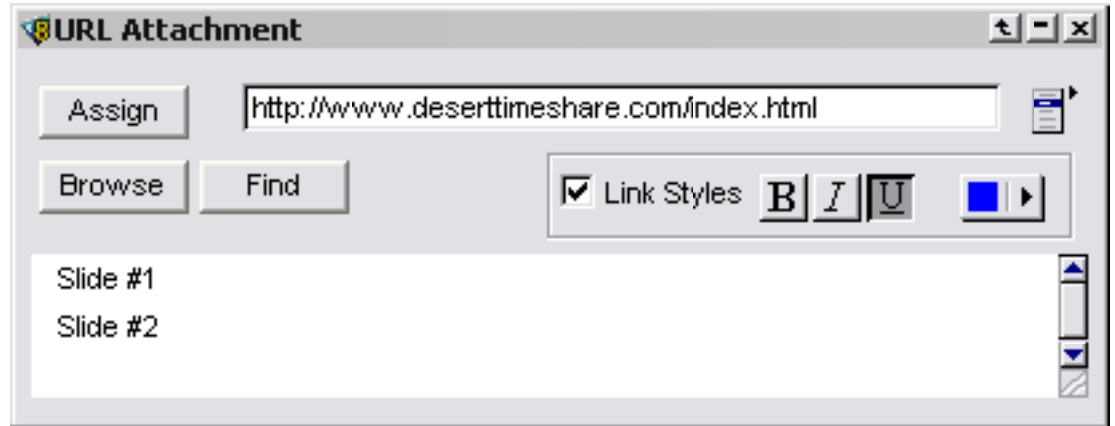


 **Tip:** This works equally as well on images.

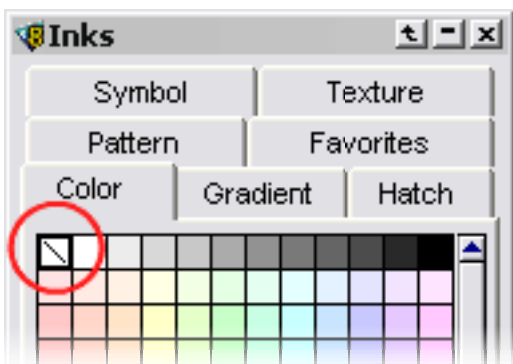
To do this, we just create an object to define the area we want as a link. For our example, we used the Rectangle tool to create the object.



Then we use the URL Attachment palette to assign a URL to that object.



Then hide the object by setting the fill and stroke to "no ink".



Step 5

Saving as HTML

Now, we have come to the final and most important step: exporting the Canvas document as HTML pages.


To export your Canvas Document as an HTML file, choose File > Save As. Name your file if you already haven't done so and choose HTML for the file type from the menu. Make sure to select the Save Entire Document radio button.

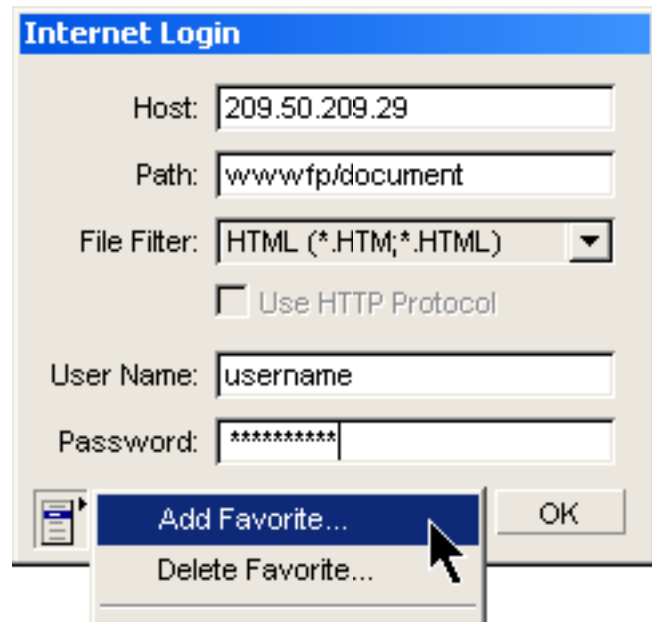
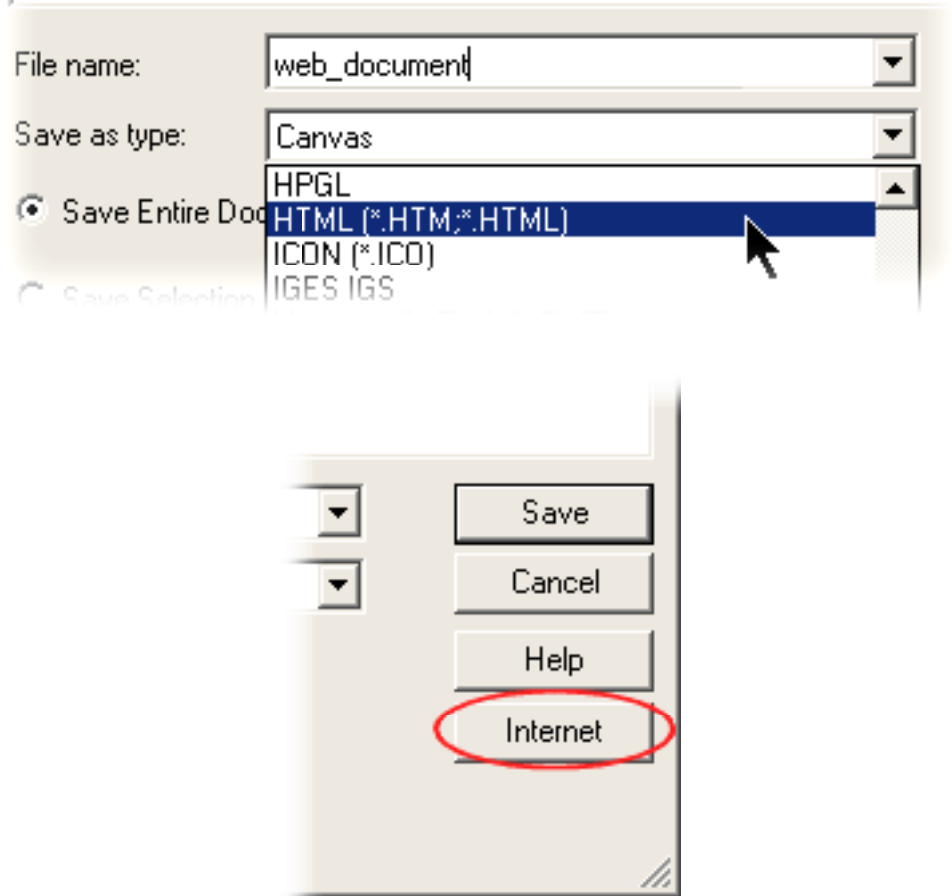
If you wish to save the files locally, choose a location on your hard drive and select Save.

Windows only If you want to FTP the HTML files directly to your Web host, select Internet from the Save As dialog box.

If you choose to FTP the files up to your Web host (Internet option) you'll be presented with the Internet Login dialog box.

For Host, enter the actual IP address or the URL. Next enter the Path and finally Enter your User Name and Password. If you're not sure about any of these settings, contact your Web site hosting company or IT personnel. When you're ready, press OK.

 **Tip:** If you plan on exporting many HTML files from Canvas to your Web host, it is a good idea to click on the Internet Login menu icon and select Add Favorite. Therefore, the next time you want to export your Canvas files to your host, all the settings will already be saved for you.



Exporting Canvas Documents to HTML (Continued)

Next you'll be presented with the HTML Options dialog box. Select Create new folder, Put images in subfolder, and Separate pages if you have a multiple page document.

For the text options, select Never from the Render text menu. Press OK.

For more information on exporting to HTML, see our Advanced Web Techniques tutorial.

