

Learn Dreamweaver CS4

Working with Related Documents

Web pages frequently include compound documents such as HTML with CSS, JavaScript, or both. Previous versions of Adobe® Dreamweaver® require you to preview compound documents in a browser to test layout and interactivity. Adobe Dreamweaver CS4, however, has built-in functionality to make previewing web pages intuitive and efficient. In this tutorial, you will learn how to use Live View, the Code Navigator, and Related Documents to preview pages without having to open them individually to make changes.

REQUIREMENTS

To complete the task(s) demonstrated in this tutorial, you will need the following software and files:

- **Products** – Adobe Dreamweaver CS4
- **Sample file** – lrvid4044_dw.zip
- **Prerequisite knowledge** – Intermediate knowledge of web page design

Live View

Live View allows you to preview your web page in Dreamweaver, even if it includes CSS and JavaScript elements. To use Live View:

1. Open a page in Dreamweaver. The page should have a Spry master detail region. Spry is Adobe's Ajax library. Spry elements require an external JavaScript file and may also have an associated CSS file as well.
2. Collapse the panels docked on the right side of the Dreamweaver window.
3. Click Live View on the document toolbar at the top of the Dreamweaver window. Live View is located next to the icons for Code, Split, and Design. You will see a rendered view of your page. In addition, you will see your CSS-based and JavaScript-based interactivity directly in Dreamweaver.

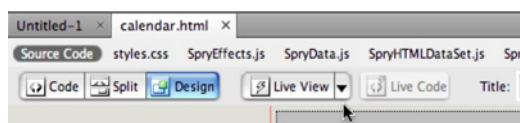


Figure 1: Using Live View



4. If you want to preview a page at a particular stage you can freeze the page in Live View by choosing Live View > Freeze JavaScript. When you click or hover over any element, you will not activate it. The ability to freeze elements is useful when editing a single state in a multistate object.

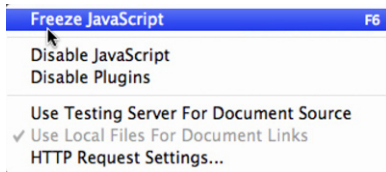


Figure 2: Freezing JavaScript

5. To unfreeze elements, choose Live View > Unfreeze JavaScript.

Tip: You can also freeze or unfreeze elements by pressing the F6/Option+F6 keyboard shortcut.

The Code Navigator

When working with compound documents, finding the specific CSS rules that drive a particular element can be time-consuming. The Code Navigator makes accessing specific files more simple. To use the Code Navigator:

1. Click an element and hover the mouse over it. An icon resembling a ship's wheel appears. This is the Code Navigator icon.

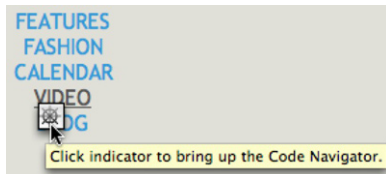


Figure 3: The Code Navigator icon

2. Click the icon to open the Code Navigator.

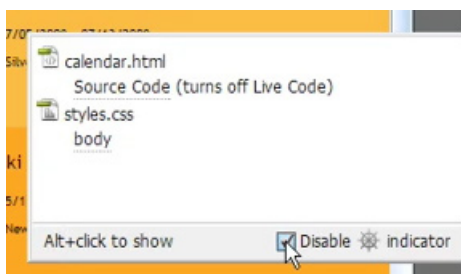


Figure 4: The Code Navigator menu

3. Note that the Code Navigator is accessible whenever you click and hover over an element. To turn off the automatic Code Navigator, click the disable button in the Code Navigator as shown in Figure 4.

Tip: To access the Code Navigator at any time, press Alt-click/Command+Option-click.

Note: The Code Navigator can be very useful when you need to isolate specific lines of code. For example, when selecting elements, the hover state and selected state should not appear identical. To visually differentiate between these two states, use the Code Navigator to isolate the exact CSS rule that dictates the appearance of link states. When you select an element, rules applied to that element are listed in the Code Navigator in the order in which they are applied. You can see all of the rules in any external style sheets as well.



Figure 5: Isolating a CSS rule

4. You can change the appearance of the web site by clicking the related CSS rule one time. You will be taken to the exact place in the document where that rule appears.

Tip: To get a summary of a particular rule without opening the source document, hover over the rule in the Code Navigator.

Related Documents

Related Documents is another new feature in Dreamweaver CS4. It lists any first-level child documents related to the current page. Related Documents also displays CSS files, even if they are nested within other documents. To view all of the documents related to a particular file:

1. Look directly under the tab for that file. You'll see a bar displaying all related documents.

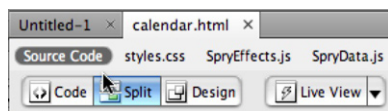


Figure 6: Viewing related documents

Note: If there are too many documents to view in the document bar, a menu appears at the end of the bar.

2. Click Split to access both the Code and Design views at once. If you make a change to the code on the right, the preview on the left updates automatically.

Note: Even before you save the CSS rule, you can still see the change to the web site take effect with Live View. This feature allows you to preview changes without having to commit to them.

3. You can access the Code Navigator in Code view by clicking the Show Code Navigator button on the left side of the Dreamweaver window.

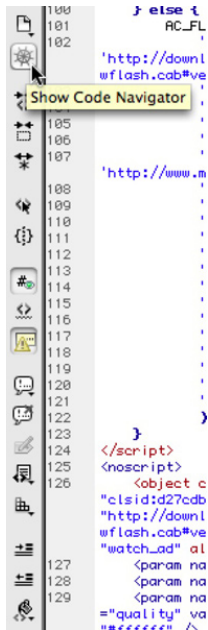


Figure 7: The Show Code Navigator button

4. You can also use the Code Navigator by choosing View > Code Navigator in the menu bar.

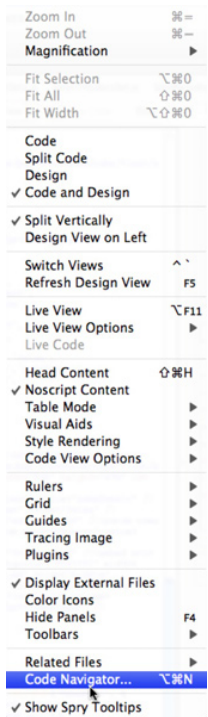


Figure 8: Selecting Code Navigator from the View menu

5. In addition, you can access the Code Navigator using the tag selector at the bottom of the Dreamweaver window. Choose the Select tool and then click to insert your cursor in any line of code. Right-click any tag in the string that appears directly below the document window. Choose Code Navigator from the context menu.

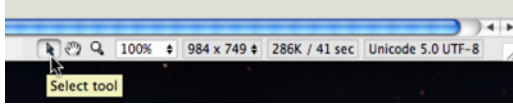


Figure 9: Accessing Code Navigator from the tag selector

6. Switch back to Design view by clicking the Design icon at the top of the Dreamweaver window.

Where to go from here

[Dreamweaver CS4 Help and Support Center](#)

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[Introducing Dreamweaver CS4](#), by James Williamson

[Creating a Spry data set](#), by James Williamson

[Spry Tooltip and form validation widgets](#), by James Williamson

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