

ED 597GA: Independent Study

Lesson 3: Research, Compare, and Choose a Web Authoring Program

	KompoZer	Dreamweaver	Microsoft Visual Web Designer Express Edition	Web Page Maker	Sea Monkey
Created By	Visual Gear Media	Adobe	Microsoft	Web Page Maker Software	Mozilla
Description	Complete web authoring system that combines web file management and easy-to-use WYSIWYG web page editing	Comprehensive professional toolset for designing websites and web applications, offering both a coding environment and a powerful, standards-based WYSIWYG design surface.	Framework, web server, database, and tools you need to build and run websites and applications on the Microsoft Web Platform.	Web Page Maker is an easy-to-use web page editor that allows you to create and upload web pages in minutes without knowing HTML.	Web-browser, advanced e-mail, newsgroup and feed client, IRC chat, and HTML editing made simple—all your Internet needs in one application
Cost	FREE, DONATION	\$19/month (pd. for year) \$29/month-to-month	FREE: 90 Day Trial	FREE: 15 Day Trial (\$49.00)	FREE, DONATION
Ease of Use	Extremely easy to use for non-technical computer users	Features and tutorials make use easier, for intermediate and advanced users	Create a simple web page really quickly with the built in templates and wizards it's really easy to do	Extremely easy to use for non-technical computer users, with ability to accommodate advanced features.	It's perfect for newcomers to Web design who want to learn only one application.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FTP Site Manager ▪ CSS Editor ▪ Customizable toolbars ▪ Forms ▪ Table/Cell Resizing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiscreen Preview Panel ▪ CSS/HTML Support ▪ Live View ▪ FTP Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Standards Friendly ▪ Java Script Front and Center ▪ Rich Design Surface ▪ Manages Everything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No HTML Coding required ▪ Ability to import and edit HTML ▪ One-Click Preview and Publishing ▪ Hundreds of functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Image and Table Resizing ▪ CSS Support ▪ Powerful HTML Editor ▪ Positioned Layers
Support	http://kompozer.net/	http://helpx.adobe.com/dreamweaver.html?promoid=DINMF	http://www.microsoft.com/visualstudio/en-us/products/2010-editions/visual-web-developer-express	http://www.webpage-maker.com/support.html	http://www.seamonkey-project.org/
Other	KompoZer is a standalone tool so it is a small size and fast.	Dreamweaver is high on features; built for professional web designers.	If you are still running Windows XP Home Edition, you won't be able to install this application.	Supports many common multimedia types, but not animation or QuickTime clips.	It's built-in with the browser and mail client so you don't need as much space.

After researching several different web design programs, I would like to use a program that features both WYSIWYG as well as a code editor. With this choice, I will be able to start designing a website with no experience, but have the ability to edit and enhance the site as my coding skills progress. Because I am only beginning my experience with web design, I would prefer to not invest in the power or cost of a professional program such as Dreamweaver. When researching the above programs I discovered that SeaMonkey makes weekly revisions. I prefer to use a program that I will not have to continually update to maintain my website. On the contrast, Microsoft Visual Web Designer Express Edition came out with its last update in 2010. When comparing the two remaining programs, KompoZer and Web Page Maker, I found that KompoZer had numerous templates and a friendlier environment than Web Page Maker. I also liked the add on features like link checker and widgets. Oh yea, I'm a college student with four children... and it's FREE!!

Please let me know if you have any concerns regarding KompoZer or my research regarding web design programs. This is VERY new information to me and I had difficulty with the vocabulary and concepts at first!

Nancy