

Web Design & Publishing

Troubleshooting Your Code

You made this fantastic Web page, uploaded it up to the Web, but when you load it in a browser, some strange things are happening. Below are some steps to help you troubleshoot problems like empty links or missing images.

Remember, the browser only shows what the code is telling it to show, so you have either a problem in your code or you don't have the file in the right place on your Web site. Keep searching. The truth is out there.

» General Tips

1. Did you refresh your browser?
2. Did you upload newly saved files to your Web site in the appropriate folder? Are the folders on your Web site named the same as the folders on your disk?
3. Look at the address (URL) line in the browser. Is the file located locally (disk or hard drive) with "file:/ " at the beginning of the address or is it being served from your Web site (with http://) at the beginning. From where did you think you were loading it?
4. When uploading, pay careful attention to the folder in which you are currently. The box at the top of the window in Fetch will always indicate which folder you are in.

» Links

1. If a link is missing, go back to the page with the link on it, take the mouse, and put it over the missing link reference. What is the address that is showing for the link? Is that where you put the file?
2. You can also go directly into the HTML source (Chrome: **View > Developer > View Source**. Safari: right-click and select **Show Page Source**. Firefox: right-click and select **View Page Source**.) to check the link reference in the code (i.e. `Links`). Be careful to check the directory structure. Use relative link references for all files local to your site.
3. When checking the source, is the tag closed properly (i.e. ``)? Check for any other problems with your tags (misspelled tags or attributes, missing values, missing quotations marks, etc.)
4. Now that you know where the link is pointing, use Fetch to check the Web folder to see that a file of that name is in that folder (check for any inconsistencies in the file name like misspellings, capital letters, spaces, different extensions). If not, you need to upload the file to the proper folder or change the link reference in the original file. **Any time you make a change to a file, you must re-upload it.**
5. When saving, pay careful attention to the location to which you are saving: proper folder, desktop, etc.

» Images

1. If an image is missing, you can check the properties of the image by either holding down the mouse button on the image or you can go directly in to Page Source to look at the HTML code. (Chrome: **View > Developer > View Source**. Safari: right-click and select **Show Page Source**. Firefox: right-click and select **View Page Source**.) What directory is the file in according to the IMG tag? Is that where you put it? Check your Web site to see if there is a file with that name in that directory (check for inconsistencies in file names like misspellings, capital letters, spaces, different extensions).
2. Did you save the image with the **Save for Web** feature in Photoshop as either a PNG, GIF or a JPG? These are the only types of images that browsers can view on the Web. Was your original PSD file in the RGB mode? If not, you may experience trouble with your PNGs, GIFs, and JPGs.
3. Does your image show up, but it looks funny or distorted? You probably resized it in the code. You should first resize the image in Photoshop with the proper dimensions and resave it.
4. When saving, pay careful attention to the location to which you are saving: proper folder, desktop, etc.