

It's easy to write your Web page



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first of two parts

(Macintosh fans: This column is written from the point of view of someone who uses a Windows computer. But most of the information is the same.)

As you wander around the World Wide Web, you will see lots of pages — pages is how the World Wide Web is presented. Writing your own simple Web page is not difficult. Actually, writing a simple Web page is ... well ... simple. Or at least as simple as things connected with computers are likely to get.

Before you start writing your Web page, you must know what you want your page to look like. To get an idea of what a Web page can look like, just wander around the World Wide Web a bit. You'll see lots of approaches to pages, ranging from overwrought to nifty to stupid.

A simple home page might consist of the following:

n a title

n a headline
n some text
n some links to other pages
n a mail-to link

Once you have decided what you want your page to look like, you're ready to write your Web page. Using a computer and your favorite word-processing program, create a document. Begin this document with the instruction that you are writing a Web page. To do this, type <HTML>

This instruction is invisible. Then put in the instruction that tells other computers what this page is about. For example, this might be playing games, game conventions, gaming. This, too, is invisible. To insert this information, type <TITLE>

Then type in your title. Follow the title with </TITLE>

Then comes the first thing another human being will see: Typically, this will be a headline. The instruction is <H1>

If you don't tell the computer otherwise, the headline will start at the left edge of the page. If you want the headline centered, type in this instruction before you type in the headline: <CENTER>

Then type in your headline. Follow the headline with </CENTER> Follow this with </H1>

To begin regular-size text, type the code <BODY>

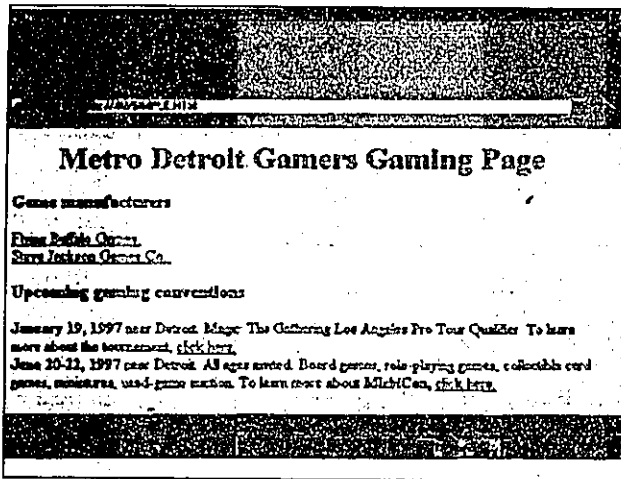
Follow this with the instruction for a new paragraph: <P>

Here's an example so far:

```
<HTML>
<TITLE> playing games, game conventions, gaming </TITLE>
<H1> <CENTER> Metro Detroit Gamers Gaming Page </CENTER> </H1>
<BODY> <P>
```

Note: When putting two or more instructions on the same line, such as <CENTER> and <TITLE>, they must be in a particular order: The first instruction given on a line must be the last instruction canceled; the second instruction given on a line must be the second-from-the-last canceled, etc. See the example's headline line.

As you write your Web page, you can see it as others might if you write it on a computer that also is equipped with a program that will view Web pages. The best-known are Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer.



What others will see: This is the sample Web page as seen by Netscape Navigator. The file information near the top shows the origin of the page. For this example, the page is from a local computer, not the World Wide Web.

When you've written part or all of your Web page, save it in your computer. Use the "save as" capability of your word-processing program. You must save your Web page as "Text" or "ASCCI" or whatever your word-processing program calls saving without formatting.

Write down where the page is stored. For example, my Web page is stored in my computer as C:\html\mdg.htm.

If you want to see how your page is coming and spot errors you've made so far, load the program that allows you to view Web pages (mine is called Netscape.) Most such programs will let you look at the underlying coding, usually by going to that program's file menu and selecting "source" or some such word. Then tell it to look at the your Web page file (mine is C:\html\mdg.htm).

Netscape (or whatever you use) will bring up that file as it will look to anyone using the same version of Netscape. If something looks wrong, I make a note of it and close Netscape. Then I go to a word processing program and open the file, find the area that is incorrect and fix it. Then I can call up Netscape and repeat the whole process until I am sat-

isfied with the way the Web page looks.

Having completed the introductory part of your page, you can begin typing your text, using normal punctuation, capitalization, etc.

To get a new paragraph, use the code <P>

Example:
of their party. <P>
Now is the time...

On my computer, at least, a new paragraph is indicated by a blank line.

If you want to set things like for a line (such as in poetry), use the line break command

```
<BR>
Example:
The time you won your town the
race, <BR>
we chaired you through the market
place. <BR>
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If you want to emphasize a particular word (or words) you have a couple of choices.

```
<I> sets things italic until you type
</I>
<B> sets things bold until you type
</B>
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Learn techniques for ceramic tile installation

Ceramic tile installation will be the topic 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

Cost is \$16 (\$26 per couple). Call The Community House at (810) 644-5832.

Learn from skilled tile designers and installers the techniques for the do-it-yourself buff including measuring, cutting, preparation and finishing of ceramic tile. You can beautify your own kitchen, bath or foyer, or any other

room, with ceramic tile. The session will feature a step-by-step explanation and demonstration.

Presenters are Glenn Barna and Jeff Donovan, owners of Design Kitchen and Bath.