

Dr Jack's HTMLview

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About HTMLview

HTMLview was designed and written to allow webmasters and others involved in the creation of html pages to quickly and easily view their entire collection of images and background tiles.

As commercial web page consultants, we often found our collection of hundreds of tiles, buttons, and bars difficult and confusing to manage. To ease this burden we wrote the first (very simplistic) version of this program and gave out copies to friends and associates. The response, and requests for added features, was so overwhelming that HTMLview v1.1.. and now, version 2.0 evolved.

Easy to use, and lightning fast, HTMLview allows you to automatically create temporary html documents preformatted to display and review your collection. Actually the program is so completely automatic that you don't even have to be an html programmer to use and enjoy it.

Simply tell HTMLview the various locations of your html images, push the "create" button and, in a few seconds, the catalog will be updated, and a new "Menu" html document create in the directory of your choice. If you have selected to automatically launch Netscape.... nothing more needs to be done and in moments you will be viewing your collection.

Images in the Background display areas are shown in two optional styles including the file names. New in version 2.0 is the option to click on any tile and instantly see it tiled to full screen with both black and white text.

New features in version 2.0 allow for controlling which areas receive page breaking and the ability to override the default display styles for buttons, bars and other non-background images and have them conform to the style selected for tiles. Sound files are also included.

HTMLview from JC Associates is the original HTML graphics viewer
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Paths and Directories

To set a directory/path simply click on the path box and select a directory from the pop-up menu. Double click on the selected directory then click on the "select" button.

To clear a particular path, click on the path box and select "Trash this entry"

Control Menu:

This is the directory in which you want your HTMLview "Menu" to be created in. We recommend that you select your Netscape directory since it will be the first directory shown if you chose to load Netscape manually instead of using the auto-launch feature.

Note: This has been preset to c:\netscape so change it if that is incorrect for your system. HTMLview runs best when the control "menu" is in the Netscape directory.

Backgrounds:

Path to your main collections of html background tiles. Images in this area will be automatically displayed at 96 x 96 pixels in a table [type] document with file names displayed.

Buttons:

Path to your main collection of html buttons and icons and other relatively small images. Images in this area are displayed "free form", full size, without file names and the display will adjust to your systems viewing resolution. Use the override option to display these images in the style set for backgrounds.

Bars:

Path to your collection of html dividing bars. Images are displayed in stacked mode without file names. Use of the override option can be applied and bars will be shown in the style set for backgrounds with all bars shown at a maximum width of 550 pixels.

Extra Backgrounds:

Path to secondary location of background tiles. Shown in same format as those in primary background area.

Assorted Images:

Path to any other images you may have collected but have not yet catagorized (or really just have no idea what the heck to do with them). Like the button area, this area displays in "free form" and is great for previewing new images you have just acquired prior to moving or deleting them. This area can also be controlled by the override option.

Note: Areas for Extra Backgrounds and Assorted Images are accesible in the registered version only.

Display Style

HTMLview allow you to display your background tiles in two distinct formats, on a plain background or in table form. Experimentation will help you to decide which is right for you.

This style can also be applied to other areas using the override option.

Display Override

The Display Override check boxes allow you to mark which of the non-background areas you wish to be displayed in the same style as your background tiles.

Caution should be used when using this option with an area that may contain large images. Both Styles A and B are basically modified tables and the inclusion of an oversize or ungainly image, although it will be displayed, will cause the tabling to look rather strange. A large image will effect the size of all table "windows" directly below it and on the same line.

Background Colors

The background color for each individual area is controlled using the small button to the right of each path box. The selected color is shown to the right of each button.

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Tiling

By far the most talked about addition in HTMLview version 2.0 is the ability to actually see how your various tiles will look when used in an html document with both black and white text automatically added.

While there are many reasons to use this feature, we find it most useful in weeding out those background tiles that we acquire (because they look neat) only to find that they look terrible when tiled or that they are far from "seamless".

To use this great feature you need to do no more than click on the "tiling" check box. When HTMLview is run it will create all necessary files and links. From the "Control Menu" (automatically accessed by Netscape in launch mode)... simply view the background areas as you normally would but now, when you click on any tile... it will be instantly displayed (fully tiled) across the entire screen.. exactly as it would appear on your html page.

The extra files needed for this option will be cleaned up next time HTMLview is run or you can choose the "Auto-Clean" feature or click on "Clear" from the top menu bar.

Note: Choosing the Tiling option does add processing time to the normally lightning fast speed of HTMLview.

Page Breaking

While there is no limit (that we know of) to the number of images that HTMLview can write to a display file.. Netscape, your computer and possibly your patience, do have their limitations.

Netscape displays an error which it calls "Segment Load Failure" when ever you try to view an html document that exceeds the memory made available by your computer's various settings (ie files, buffers, stacks, etc).

To avoid this problem, and to make navigation through a large collection quicker, you can have HTMLview create multiple pages containing only 60 or 90 images per page. HTMLview will automatically show those pages on the "Control Menu"

Although HTMLview defaults to "no page breaking"... we recommend that you select the 60 per page option.

Selective Page Breaking

Use these check boxes if, for some reason, you wish to use page breaking in some areas but not in others. Un-marking an area will defeat the selected page break option and display that area as one page.

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Launching Netscape



One of the best features of HTMLview is the ability to automatically launch your copy of Netscape 2.x. If you wish to use this feature, click on the "set path" button under the Netscape option box. HTMLview will verify this path and will not allow the "launch" to be set if a valid copy of Netscape is not found in the chosen directory.

If, after establishing the path to Netscape, you select "launch"... HTMLview will automatically run Netscape AND display the HTMLview "Menu" document on completion of it's run.

HTMLview tries to call up a "fresh" copy of Netscape even if you have Netscape minimized. We recommend that you "unload" any copies of Netscape currently running, or minimized, before using the launch option.

Registered users can choose to manually launch Netscape.

NOTE: The first time you launch Netscape from HTMLview Netscape may appear as an icon.

NOTE: As of May 6, 1996... HTMLview does not support the beta release of Netscape 3.0

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Files Created

HTMLview creates files (all with the extension of .HTM) in the directories established in the path settings and these files are cleaned up at the start of each program run.

The Control Menu is an html document called HTMLVIEW.HTM and is created in the path set for "Control Menu". It also is deleted each time the program is run.

When "Tiling" is selected... HTMLview creates temporary files in subdirectories of the directory from which it is being run. While these files are also deleted at the beginning of each run... you can save disk space by selecting "auto-clean" and HTMLview will delete these files when you exit the program.

DO NOT attempt to Edit, Move or Delete any files created by HTMLview or it, and it's control menu will not function properly.

Disk Space Used

During normal usage HTMLview requires very little disk space. However, when the Tiling option is turned on... HTMLview needs about 57k for every one hundred background tiles it access (both in the primary background directory and in the extra background area).

While this usage is relatively light... checking the Auto-Clean option will insure that these files are not left on your system after HTMLview is run. Clicking on Clear in the top menu bar will also accomplish this.

Clear Files

Clicking on the Clear option in the top menu bar will cause all files created by HTMLview during it's previous run to be deleted.

While this can also be accomplished by using the "Auto-Clean" feature, or by HTMLview itself each time it is run... some users wanted this feature available to insure that un-wanted or old files were deleted if/when they changed the path setup.

Default Settings

Clicking on the Default Settings option on the top menu bar causes all options and paths to be reset to initial default settings.

Note: This does not reset the path to Netscape.

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Auto Clean

While the disk space used by HTMLview is minimal, even with the Tiling option on, you may wish to clean up these files when exiting the program rather than wait for HTMLview to do its own clean up the next time you run it.

By checking "auto-clean", HTMLview will take a few seconds after you click on the Exit button to delete all files it has created for that session.

We recommend that you leave "auto-clean" in the ON mode.

Note: In the non-registered version, this option is not available and all files are automatically cleaned up and deleted upon exiting the program.

Demo Limitations

Version 2.0 has only a few restrictions in the Demo/Trial version.

- (1) 9 day evaluation period.
- (2) Will only display up to 20 images per directory.
- (3) No access to Extra Background or Assorted Image areas.
- (4) Auto-Clean option is dis-abled - files auto-cleaned upon exit.

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Registering

It will cost you a whole \$10.00 to register your copy of HTMLview !

For information on how you can **get your registration code within 24 hours..** Please refer to HTMLVIEW.DOC and REGISTER.FRM in the distribution files.

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Known Problems

When Tiling is turned on.... the last background tile in a collection will not display properly.

The workaround is simply to take a small image and rename it to ZZZZZZ.GIF and leave it in your backgrounds directory. This should cause it to always be the "last tile" in your collection.

We have included a small file already named as ZZZZZZ.GIF and have installed in the program directory.... simply place this (and leave it) in your Background Tile directories.

Even when we find the solution to this "bug"... it probably won't show up in future version since we will be so thrilled we'll party our butts off for a month non-stop <grin>

NETSCAPE (the first time) and Version 3.0 (beta)

As of May 6, 1996.. HTMLview does not fully support the recently released "preliminary Beta" of Netscape 3.0. We recommend that you continue to use version 2.x until which time Netscape issues 3.0 as a final release and at which time HTMLview will accomodate it.

Further more... HTMLview is not guaranteed to work if you have more than one copy/version of Netscape installed on your system.

Sometimes the first time you launch Netscape from HTMLview... Netscape will be minimized as an icon. This is especially true of Netscape's beta releases. If this happens simply double click on the Netscape icon then, after viewing the documents created by HTMLview, exit Netscape normally. From then on HTMLview should launch Netscape correctly.

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Viewing Files

The files created by this program are intended to be easily viewed by a copy of Netscape 2.x launched from within HTMLview.

If, for some reason, you chose not to automatically launch Netscape you must **completely exit HTMLview before attempting to manually load Netscape**.

Note: this manual option of viewing is not available in the un-registered version as all files are automatically deleted on exit.

For registered users... once you have manually loaded Netscape... simply use the Load File option and select HTMLVIEW.HTM from the directory you designated for your "control menu".

WE RECOMMEND that you use the "launch Netscape" option as it insures the integrity of all files.

HyperText Markup Language

HyperText Markup Language is a way of adding various attributes to plain text files which are published on the World Wide Web. HTML lets you mix graphics with text, change the appearance of text, and create hypertext documents which interact with the user

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Sound

WAV format sound files can add fun to often boring tasks. HTMLview provides the option of having sounds play during the program at both startup and exit.

Included with this program are two WAV files from the NBC hit series *"3rd Rock From The Sun"*. These files have been installed in your windows directory and by deleting (or renaming) these files you can **turn off the sound if it bugs you**.

You can also **substitute your own favorite WAV sounds** simply by naming them "DJSTART.WAV" and/or "DJFINISH.WAV" and placing them in your Windows directory.

HTMLview has been programed to play these WAV files as the program runs so that they will not interfere with, nor slow down, the operation. You can perform all operations even if the sounds are still playing.

NOTE: The playing of WAV files requires memory (while playing). Systems with little memory may experience incomplete WAV playback. This hurts nothing but if it occurs and you find it annoying... simple delete the WAV files. Imcorrect settings for your sound drivers can also effect quality playback.



Produced by: The Casey-Werner Co. in association with YBYL Productions and NBC-TV. Music by Ben Vaughn
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Support

HTMLview is fully supported.

If you have questions about HTMLview you can obtain help or information by any of the following methods:

(1) Internet E-mail:

Send your questions to: htmlsupport@drjack.com

(2) The WEB:

Access: <http://www.drjack.com/htmlview> and leave a comment.

(3) Snail Mail:

Mail your questions to:

Cheryl Chandler
JC Associates
4480 Treat Blvd, Suite 184
Concord, CA 94521-2762

(4) Fax:

(510) 689-1679 *(be sure to include your return fax number)*

(5) Voice:

Voice support is available ONLY from 11:00am until 8:00pm PST at (510) 685-0987

Graphics Logo

The Bitmap Graphics Logo which appears in the upper left corner of the control panel may not display properly on systems not equipped with video boards.

If the logo appears blurred or seems to change it's coloration... you can change it to a "non-graphical" text logo by placing the cursor on the logo itself and (while depressing the Shift key) click on the logo with the Right mouse button.

You can toggle it back to the graphics logo by repeating this procedure.

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Segment Load Failure

This Error Message is Netscape's way of telling you that you have asked it to take a bigger bite than your computer can chew. This is why we give you the option to set page breaks. Even then, if you are trying to many large images, reducing them to 60 per page may still result in this error.

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