Ought Medal

Junior

"The no brainer Web Page Maker!"

Shareware Demo version 0.2 for Windows 3.x

If you can *barely* work a word processor or paint program, then you can make a nice web site -- quick and easy as: 1, 2, 3, 4

1. Write your text elements out, line by line and paragraph by paragraph using the TexRyter module.
2. Create links to photos, e-mail addresses, other pages, web site or sound files using the Linker module.
3. Design an optional style for your page by changing text color and background using Metal Make up.
4. Smelt the metal and forge the page, laying the above elements out from top to bottom in the Forge!

No coding, no secret handshakes, no speaking in tongues -- it's so easy, even your boss can use it (so if you want to keep looking like a rocket scientist to everyone else in the world, you better hide this program away in a special place)!

You can run each of the modules separately from the program group and use the...

OUGHT MEDAL MAIN MENU

This module is used to call up all the other modules, so you can switch between tools. There are four bit map buttons -- from left to right: Metal Make-up [the female face with color boxes on the side is for page styles] , "Your words" [TexRyter, for creating text elements], the linker [connects pages, pictures and sounds to your pages] and the Forge [layout and page maker] -- you need only press one of these pictures to get the desired program module. A smaller version of this "main menu" appears as a bit map button on each of the other modules. When you press on that image you close the module and return to the MAIN MENU.

METAL MAKE-UP

The graphic of a female face with colors on the right side. This is where you can put a background texture (the commercial upgrade offers more flexibility on background images) or change the color of the background (from default gray) and text (from default black). Each new style is given an automatic name (the only thing ***you must name*** is the actual htm page when you Forge it, so don't change these names or number, we provide

the file selector only so you can change drives and sub-directories).

Note! If you assign the background "paper" texture to a site, don't select a background color as well, this only adds an extra step that delays the user as the site is being built.

TEXRYTER

The computer keyboard with “YOUR WORDS” on the screen. This is where you create the text. Web pages are not like pages in a word processor where you create a paragraph or new line by pressing the <RETURN> or <ENTER> key. To make a new line or paragraph requires a code designation (if you attempt to put a carriage return or blank space the browser will ignore it and group the words together). Therefore you make your head lines one line at a time. You make your body text one paragraph at a time. It may require 5, 10 or 15 separate text files to create a single page. You can’t have ornate text lettering (that must be done as a GIF graphic using a third party paint or photo program), but you can have different size text. We list these according to HTML code from H1 (large head line type) to H6 (bold small type) and Normal (10 or 12 point text that is not bold).

You can switch between type sizes and the results is seen on the screen (even when you call them back in for editing), making it easy to change sizes as you fine tune the site.

You can have about 80 - 200 text elements in a given sub-directory (we only support a maximum of 30,000 characters in the Forge, but most web pages are only a few thousand characters in size).

You can insert quote marks for things like book titles or advertising “hooks” and the Forge will automatically code the quotes for you.

Again, don’t change the file names or numbers when saving! These are automatic and used by the Forge to smelt your final page!

You can all the .TXT files into any third party tool for spell and grammar checking, just remember to save them as plain .TXT (ASCII) files and don't move or remove the three numbers at the top of the file (these are used by the program and won't show up in your finished page).

NOTE: Don't attempt to import or open any .TXT file extension that doesn't have a PAR_ prefix with a sequential number (e..g. README.TXT) or the system will crash!

LINKER

The picture of a stick figure person, a page with letters and numbers and a loudspeaker putting out sound waves, all linked together by a chain.

Here is where you give descriptions to graphics (this version only supports GIF images, the commercial version also supports JPG or JPEG), sounds (this version only supports

WAV files, the commercial version also supports MDI [MIDI files] as well as a few other sound related links), other web pages, other web sites, e-mail addresses (that call up the e-mail tool and address it for your users).

Press <NEW>, then all you do here is put the file name (for pictures and sounds) or "URL" (internet e-mail, file transfer and hot metal page addresses, which follow the standard prefix, number or alias format described later in this document, but probably well know to most readers already) in the lower long edit box and a description that will be seen at your sight in the box above it. You can browse your computer drives for files names or enter them from memory or a log sheet. To browse files, press the <BROWSE> button and the file selector will appear. Click on the file you want and the name will be imported and inserted into the box. There are also buttons for importing common prefixes (e.g. http://www.) into the address, file name or URL box. As for description, be creative but don't be ambiguous (e-mail, for example, might use the description: **E-mail us for more information!**).

Once you have the description and the file name or URL, press <MAKE LINK> and then <SAVE>. Use the default name and number, but make sure you put the item in the correct sub-directory (that's why we include the file selector).

COMPUSERVE MEMBERS TAKE NOTE! CompuServe is still using number for e-mail. To make your e-mail address internet compatible, replace the comma with a period. For example: 12345,67890 becomes 12345.67890 Then put the @compuserve.com after it, so and internal CompuServe e-mail address of 12345,67890 becomes:

12345.67890@compuserve.com

Also, you may wish to consider using your entire URL for internal links. This has advantages when someone is coming to your site from another referral. This way if a person wants to explore your site there won't be any chance of address errors.

For a GIF link, Ought Medal normally assigns just the file name:

filename.gif

You might wish to manually put the cursor in the text box and change this to:

http://www.myisp.com/~yourname/filename.gif

Of course you must change all this information to your specific ISP address and your personal user name, this generic example is just to give you an idea how to write a complete URL link address.

If you don't wish to go this far, the simple filenames created by Ought Medal are generally sufficient for most sites!

Note! Web site builders love using graphics, but graphics take time to build, especially at 14,400 and there are a lot of 14.4 users! Use only those graphics you really need on a given page. If you need ornate text, then go to a paint or draw program and make a quick, simple GIF. Keep it small, keep it only a few colors. If you are an entertainer or personality, then of course you'll want pictures to be included (and your users will be willing to wait for them to build). But, if you can use colorful text instead of a GIF image, consider it! It will make your site quicker to build in a user's browser and make them want to come back to your site without hesitation.

NOTE! If you put "display text" with a GIF image, the text will appear next to the lower right of the image and both the text and image will be centered. To put text under or over a GIF, use a separate text paragraph.

THE FORGE

Here is where all the elements come together to create a page that can be read by virtually all browsers (the text type size varies from Mosaic to Netscape to Explorer).

You see a list in the top log screen of your text items. Push another button to get the links and styles.

First, enter a style number in the lower right box (to view your different styles press the ()Style button at the top of the form screen and they will scroll in the log box).

Next enter an optional page title (this isn't seen at your site but appears as a reference when you import this page into another web designer so you know what page you are working on).

Next, press <NEW PAGE>

An alert box comes up to remind you that if you didn't enter a new style you will create a page using either the style of the previous page or the default black text on gray background -- if your press <OK> you accept the default style, if you press <CANCEL> you can go back and enter a new style number.

Next comes a box for your page name. The first page in any site should be called INDEX -- don't add the "htm" or "html" as the program does this for you (and it can be seen in the center left of the form after your entry has been made).

Finally, start adding your items. You can see the text or description in the top log box (scroll up, down and sideways as required). Select either a link or text item and put the number of that item into the appropriate box on the lower left. In the lower log you will see the order and descriptions. If you make a mistake, press <SAVE> then press <NEW PAGE> use the same file name and start again!

As you enter an item it is written to disk. When you press <SAVE> you close the file (in the last sub-directory used).

That's all there is to it! Now all you have to do is install the page on your site and test it out (and it should work because we tested this program using all the features on our sites).

When you transfer the pages from your system to your web site server, make sure you also transfer all the linked pages and files (GIFs and WAVs) and that they go into the same sub-directory.

Note: If the program crashes or gives an error message about not seeing files, then your "save" files for text, links and styles (one or all of these), along with the .NUM files are not present, either because you have moved to another sub-directory or because you didn't move all the necessary files. This demo version does not include a file sector for Forge (the upgrade includes a file selector and also has a tool that allows you to designate regular "save" paths to a specific, common sub-directory) and Forge will look in the last directory path provided by any file selector.

It is recommended that you either keep all your files in the main OTTMTL directory (including your image and wave files) or that you copy Forge to the directory where the files will be kept.

DEALING WITH FILE PATHS

When your launch the program, whatever directory (OTTMTL by default) in which the programs are located becomes the default path. All your "save" files (NUM, STY, TXT, LNK) must be in this same directory, along with a copy of the FORGE2.EXE program and (if you intend to create more styles) a copy of the MTLMAKUP.EXE program.

To verify or change or set a directory path, go to either TexRyter or LINKER and press the <OPEN> button. Here you get the file selector and your can verify or generally alter your current file path. You should probably open at least one file and then move on to do other work.

File path errors only occur when you move work to other directories or DO NOT SAVE a LINK which required a call to another directory for a file name (such as a GIF or WAV). If you SAVED the link the file selector appears and YOU MUST save the link in the directory you have designated for the work (OTTMTL by default).

The upgraded version you can purchase has a tool for creating sub-directories and setting "SAVE" paths so that your work always saves in a specified directory.

VIEWING THE FINISHED PAGE

If you're running an installed version of Microsoft Internet Explorer, by simply double-clicking on the .HTM extension your finished page file should launch Explorer and then load the page from your hard drive (along with the GIF images if they are in the same directory) so you can see how the finished page will look.

If your browser doesn't launch as outline above, try launching the browser directly (some browsers will automatically dial your Internet service, but you can still use the FILE menu to load your HTM file from the browser directory).

If neither of these methods work, you must install the files on the internet server and then view the finished site as any normal web page.

SETTING UP A NEW PROJECT FOLDER

Included in the package are three null files:

paragraf.nu link.nu style.nu

These three files have "zero" value and are used to help you start a new project.

First, make a new sub-directory (make new directory) from your Windows or Win95 menu that does this function.

Then copy these three files to that sub-directory and rename them:

paragraf.num link.num style.num

Then run Ought Medal Jr, call up the Linker and open LINK_0.LNK, make a dummy link and save it to that sub-directory. Do the same for TexRyter. Once this is done you are ready to start from scratch.

Since most people will keep their styles and links from project to project, most of you will probably just move the paragraf.nu file to a new directory and work with links and styles from the home directory by copying these files to the new directory.

You will have to copy your link and style files to this new directory if any problems occur...

(If you lose these files you can copy the *.num files to another directory and then call up any word processor or the Note Pad program from Windows Accessories, change the value you find in each of these files to 0 (zero, a number) and save the file. It should work!)

It might also be best if you moved your GIF and WAV files into this same directory.

Take care when saving! When you BROWSE a GIF or WAV file you have the option of looking through your entire computer, all drives and directories. If you don't change the directory path when you go to save the link the files will save wherever your GIF of WAV is located and you will generate an error and have difficulty, so remember to save all your LINK, TEXT and STYLE files in the same directory!

UPLOADING YOUR FILES TO AN INTERNET SITE

To create a web site or home page you must have internet web site space available to you from some Internet Service Provider (ISP) and a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) program (or advanced version of Netscape or Internet Explorer which provides FTP).

America Online (AOL), CompuServe and Prodigy all offer about 1 Mb web space to PC Windows users (and possibly to Macintosh users). You must use special FTP tools provided.

For example, on AOL you simply click on the INTERNET button found on the main menu. Once there you will see an FTP button. Press this and then select MEMBERS from the list of FTP favorite sites. You will automatically be taken to your space. You then follow their instructions, pull the HTM files from the folder (sub-directory) in which you created them, change the HTM extension to HTML. Don't forget to put your GIF and WAV files into your web space!

For other ISP services (e.g. Earthlink) the web master must first tell you what directory path must be used to get to your web space area. You enter this path into your FTP tool or include it in the FTP address. A typical FTP address might look like this:

ftp.myisp.com/customers/homepages/~yourname

This first page name should be called INDEX.HTML. If you do this under most ISPs then when a user goes to your site:

http://www.myisp.com/~yourname/

They get the INDEX automatically without having to write:

http://www.myisp.com/~yourname/pagename.html/

If you DON'T create a INDEX.HTML then users MUST use a name for a legitimate HTML page at your site or they will get a NOT FOUND error message!

Your ISP should provide you with an FTP program of if you are running version 3.0 of Netscape or Explorer these can provide you with FTP services.

You will also need to know any special passwords or user names to get past the firewall on your ISP server. This is generally the same password and user name you use to access the ISP with your Winsock or dialer...

Contact CompuServe and Prodigy for specifics on their FTP access to your web space if you are on either of these services.

NOMINAL PROGRAM IRREGULARITIES

The OUGHT MEDAL MAIN MENU bit map button will be dark (often a greenish color) on a given program module form the first time it appears. This is not a bug and it

is not correctable on our current compiler.

If you press the <ADD TO PAGE> button in the Forge program module and there is no text or link number in either two boxes, the "item number:" will still increment. This offers no problem, the item counter is simply for your reference. Put a link or text number in one of the boxes and press <ADD TO PAGE> again and continue stacking your items on the page. All that will happen is more item numbers will be seen than there are actual items in the log box.

When your run the various modules via the OUGHT MEDAL JR MAIN MENU program module and then close your program after you finish work an error message box will appear indicating that there is no current form. This is normal and due to the fact that we programmed the system to run a given program independently or via the MAIN MENU shell. Do not consider this a bug. Again, our compiler can't currently deal with this error call. This message will not occur if you run only one module directly (without using the MAIN MENU module).

After you close any given program module a maximized :"Window" still remains. This is the run-time window shell. You must manually close it (you can close both the program and the shell by pressing < CTRL > < F4 > and then < ALT > < F4 > to close the shell.

The "paper" background image looks better under Netscape or Explorer than it does on the Metal Make-up form, this is because of the conversion to a Windows bitmap (.bmp file format) which was then compiled directly into the program module (the actual image used by your web browser is a direct GIF file).

(Note most of these compiler problems are still present in the upgrade version.)

HOW WEB SITES AND THE INTERNET WORK

The Internet was originally a text base Wide Area Network (WAN) openly available to schools and government. It allowed researchers to look at other research found on the various computers around the world. Then about 5 years ago it began to get more commercial.

The original on-line services for everyday mini computer users included CompuServe and GEnie (two of the oldest) -- America Online and Prodigy are Johnny-come-lately services!

Users from these services started gaining access to the Internet. Graphics began to see usage and special browsers were developed. These browsers allow anyone on a compatible computer to see the same colors and graphics (within reason) as someone else on another system. That how Mac users can see the same sites (and graphics) as PC users! (Very old computers only see the text elements and tags, if any, for the graphics.)

HTML is a special "programming" language -- equate it to BASIC, like Q BASIC for the

PC. If you write simple BASIC programs on a PC you can send the text code to a Macintosh over a modem. Then a Macintosh BASIC system, like MS BASIC 2.1 can run the same program, but if you include special PC only programming lines (for graphic images or sounds) the Mac will crash and burn if you try to run the program.

HTML also has this problem. A special term to make an image or text flash on and off can only be used by some browsers. The wrong browser can see a strange image on a blinking site!

This is why some sites say: Viewed best with Netscape 3.0 or Explorer 3.0. These sites are "Java" enhanced (a very special, highly technical programming language that resembles C++) or uses special Apple Script. Users not equipped with the right tool may not be able to use the site at all!

What happens is the HTML coded web site is automatically downloaded by your browser and saved on your hard drive in a CACHE (and you should delete these files every so often to free up hard drive space). Then the ASCII text based code is read by the browser. Special code lines are not put on the screen for viewing, but routed to the browser to activate "plug-in" and other elements of the browser so you can see graphics, hear sounds and send e-mail. If a line of code is unknown to the browser some type of error handling routine is supposed to resolve the matter. The finished results are then put on the screen in the form of background, colors, images and text.

To make all this requires that code be integrated with the text and this program, Ought Medal Jr., handles the coding for you on a simple level (it won't design a data base front end or make text blink -- the commercial upgrade offers more features, but still won't do fancy tricks that require Java or Apple Script).

All you have to worry about is the text to be displayed for users to see and any special links to make your site more useful!

The commercial upgrade will include a code viewer and editor so that those who can program in HTML can add custom code not supported by Ought Medal.

This version, however, includes all the tools an average user or even a small business will need to create a web site in minutes that looks professional!

You navigate the Internet by special "alias" addresses, most commonly starting with:

http://

This prefix designates that the user is going to a file server for viewing. Occasionally you will see an:

ftp:// or ftp.

URL prefix. This is a server that allows you to access in both directions, uploading and

downloading (that is how you put your web pages and GIF images on the internet -- by copying them from your computer to, more than like, a UNIX server miles away from where you live).

Another common element is:

www.

This is the "world wide web" a Wide Area Network (WAN) of computers operating 24 hours a day that are all connected by phone lines through a device called a router. It costs big money to access a router and takes expensive software and hardware. Routers work on special dedicated phone lines often called T-1, T-3 or T-10. These lines allow many people to communicate in both directions (asynchronous communications) at the same time, but there is a limit any line can handle at a given moment (thus you can't always reach an address all the time).

Some systems, like American Online, are not on the direct WWW, instead they have their own special network. AOL call theirs: MEMBERS.

Finally the address contains the alias of the computer you wish to access, such as AOL.COM. Then the directory and file on that computer (and the HTTP and FTP prefixes may route some users to specific directories automatically). This file is your HTML pages and GIF graphics.

The addresses for these routers and computers are actually numeric! The following imaginary examples are for the same imaginary computer:

http://206.108.406/mypage.html/
http://www.myisp.com/~mysite/mypage.html/

Using numbers is faster, but alias names are easier to remember. When you set up your PPP access you probably had to put these numbers into the Winsock device or dialer (or they were already there and you will notice three or four three digit numbers in boxes or separated by a period). Those are the numbers for your ISP computer server -- the UNIX server your access to get on the Internet (a piggy back process -- you use your modem to reach a larger computer server who is connected to a very, very large modem that is on the internet -- you call Jimmy, who calls Sally on another phone and then Jimmy puts the two phones together so you can talk to Sally over his two phones, because it would cost you $1,000 a month or more to talk to Sally directly) and becaise Jimmy has lots of phones he can split the cost between you, Sally and a bunch of other people to cover his $1,000+ expenses and labor costs.

It is just like CompuServe e-mail addresses. AOL and other services also use numbers for their addresses, but they assign "alias" names for ease of use by average people. CompuServe is now doing this (available in 1997), but they are the oldest and are computer-wise user based (not average person based like AOL or Prodigy) and probably never had a need to switch (also an expensive proposition)! When you call up an AOL

or Prodigy alias:

user@aol.com

It is still really a number!

4596049585.1459.208.506

It's obvious as an alias has advantages!

The alias @ designates an e-mail server or router, just like WWW designates the router for the World Wide Web or http:// designates a common read-only file server, while FTP designates a read-write file server.

YOU must type in URL addresses to link to other sites (it is best to use a complete URL for your own sites, but a file name will also work).

That's basically how it all works!

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This program should run essentially as outlined above. If you experience a bug or program failure contact us, let us know what you did and what happened. Give us your e-mail address and VERIFY YOU CAN RECEIVE FILE ATTACHMENTS (JUNO.COM, for example, can't accept attachments). If we determine the bug is legitimate we will e-mail you a bug fix if and when it becomes available. Aside from this, if you did not register your shareware there is no further warranty or support and by using this software you accept all other liabilities and agree not to hold Earl R. Dingman, his assigns, agents and licensees liable for any damages, loss of income or business that may result from the use of this software. If you can not agree to this, then don't use the software!

REGISTRATION AND UPGRADES

To register your shareware send $15.00 in US Funds on a US BANK (or international money order) to:

Earl R. Dingman
PO Box 39A16
Los Angeles, CA 90039 USA

If you are outside the US add $2.00 extra US for small packet air mail service (otherwise we will ship by small packet surface and that can take 3 months for delivery).

CompuServe users can also register via the direct CompuServe Shareware Registration site which is charged to your bill, credit card or direct debit account.

OR give us your E-MAIL address if you can accept attachments and we will send you the commercial upgrade via e-mail attachment (and you avoid the shipping charges). Specify if you want it sent pre-ZIPed (using PKZIP 1.0) or separately un-compressed. It takes about 10 minutes at 14,400 to download this via e-mail (longer for the unziped separate programs).

The commercial copy supports more features (such as JPG and MDI files) has more HTML functions for making a better page and includes a HTML CODE VIEWER/EDITOR that allows you to read the finished page with all the code and make corrections or manual enhancements, then save the correct HTM page.

The commercial copy also removes some annoying features we intentionally programmed into the demo (just to be ornery) -- what do you expect for free? It took 4 months to develop and produce this software and here we are giving away a version that actually creates nice, basic Web sites quick and easy. No experience required! No time limit.

If you do not like the way the shareware version works or the results it provides, then don't register and don't send us any money!

For more information send an SASE to: **Earl R. Dingman Productions, PO Box 39A16**, **Los Angeles, CA 90039 USA**.

Visit our web sites: **http://members.aol.com/e1d2p3/**

e-mail: **e1d2p3@aol.com**
erd@calcom.com

Also: Storyboard Maker DEMO (storybrd.zip) is available to make story boards for films and videos.
Coming in 1997 our small business accounting package! Watch for it!