

FrontPage 2003: Using Layers

A layer is a container in a Web page that holds page elements, such as text and graphics. Layers can be used to create animations, flyout menus, or page layouts.


You can overlap, nest, and show or hide layers on a page. You can also animate layers by using Behaviors, which add script to any element in a page.

In FrontPage 2003, a layer is defined as an absolutely positioned DIVISION. A layer can be viewed in browsers that support HTML 3.2 and later (for instance, Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or later, or Netscape Navigator 4 or later).

You can create layers using the **Insert** menu, and move layers by clicking and dragging them. You can also fine-tune the exact placement and stacking order of layers by using the **Layers** task pane.

Note Layers were introduced with Netscape 4.0. Although a layer is called the DIVISION element and is represented by the <div> tag, the term "layer" has persisted.



Add a layer



1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. On the **Insert** menu, click **Layer**.

Modify a layer

To modify layer visibility, layer z-index (Z- index is the stacking order in which layers or objects overlap one another. The higher the number, the closer to the top of the stack they will appear. For example, if a layer's z-index is 2, it will be on top of a layer with a z-index of 1.), and layer ID, use the **Layers** task pane (task pane: A window within an Office application that provides commonly used commands. Its location and small size allow you to use these commands while still working on your files.). Otherwise, use your mouse pointer for resizing the layers, or the task pane to control precise layer dimensions.


To modify layer visibility

1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. On the **View** menu, click **Task Pane**.
3. In the **Layers** task pane, in the **Layer Visibility** column , click the layer that you want to modify.


Note The open eye icon  indicates that the layer is visible by default. The closed eye icon  indicates that the layer is hidden by default. If no icon appears, it means that the layer inherits the visibility setting from the previous layer.

4. Click again to change layer visibility.

To modify layer z-index

1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. On the **View** menu, click **Task Pane**.
3. In the **Layers** task pane, in the **Layer Z-index** column, double-click the layer that you want to modify.
4. Type the desired z-index in the box.


To modify layer ID

1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. On the **View** menu, click **Task Pane**.
3. In the **Layers** task pane, in the **Layer ID** column, double-click the layer that you want to rename.
4. Type the desired layer name in the box.


To modify layer size

1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design**.
2. Click the corner of the layer that you want to resize and drag the corner until the layer is the desired size.

To modify layer size to precise dimensions


1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. On the **View** menu, click **Task Pane**.
3. In the **Layers** task pane, right-click the layer that you want to modify, and then click **Positioning** on the shortcut menu.
4. In the **Position** dialog box, under **Location and size**, enter the desired width and height in the **Width** and **Height** boxes.

Set layer border, shading, and positioning properties

1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. Click the layer for which you want to set properties.
3. On the **View** menu, click **Task Pane**.
4. In the **Layers** task pane, under **Layer properties**, click **Borders and Shading**.
5. In the **Borders and Shading** dialog box, click the **Borders** tab and choose from among the border properties.
6. In the **Borders and Shading** dialog box, click the **Shading** tab and choose from among the shading properties.


Positioning

Note: Setting the **Positioning style** to any setting other than **Absolute** will prevent the layer from appearing in the **Layers** task pane. A layer (or DIVISION element, represented by the <div> tag) with a **Positioning style** set to **None** or **Relative** can be modified using the mouse or the toolbar. Although the DIVISION will no longer appear in the **Layers** task pane after the **Positioning style** is set to **Relative** or **None**, the **ID** will remain the same.

1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. Click the layer for which you want to set properties.
3. On the **View** menu, click **Task Pane**.
4. In the **Layers** task pane, under **Layer properties**, click **Properties**.
5. In the **Position** dialog box, choose from among the position properties.

Delete a layer

You can delete an absolutely positioned layer using the **Layers** task pane.

1. In Page view, at the bottom of the document window, click **Design** .
2. Click the layer you want to delete.
3. Press **DELETE**.