

Web Site Development

AN INTRODUCTION

Editing a Basic HTML Document

Exercise #4

In the previous exercise you created a simple HTML document using Notepad and then viewed it in Internet Explorer. In this exercise you will make some changes to the page you created and learn to view those changes in the browser.

When you are developing a web page, you will be constantly making changes to the HTML source code in Notepad and then checking and verifying those changes in the browser window.

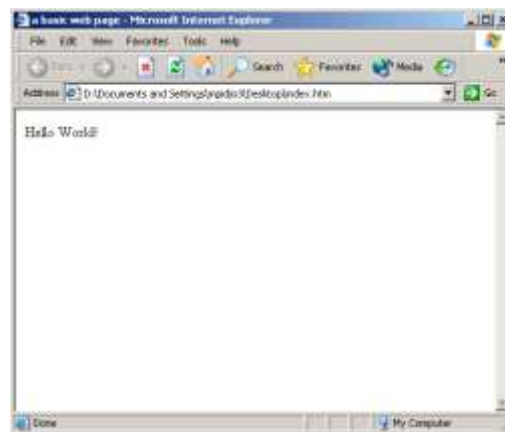
1. Before proceeding, please close any windows and applications you have open. If you have your browser displaying the page from Exercise 3, you may leave that open.
2. You will need to open the page you created in Exercise 3 in Notepad. You may do this in one of two ways:
 - a. Open Notepad [From the Start Menu: Start / Programs / Accessories / Notepad]. A new blank document page will appear. From the File menu select **Open**. In the **Open** window, locate the **index.htm** file you created in Exercise 3. Once you locate the file, you may click once on it and then click the **Open** button **OR** simply double click the file name of the file you want to open. You will then be viewing the HTML source code you had entered.
 - b. *Easier Way* - On your computer, locate the file **index.htm** in the directory **web_dev_exercises**. If you double-click the icon, it will open in Internet Explorer, which is *NOT* what you want to do. Instead, Right-Click on the icon and a contextual menu will appear. One of the options you should see on the menu is **Open With**. From **Open With** a sidebar should reveal the applications on your computer that you can use for viewing that file. Select **Notepad** from that menu. You will then be viewing the HTML source code you had entered.
3. If you had closed the browser window with the page being displayed from Exercise 3, you will need to open it again. If this is the case, refer to Step 9 of Exercise 3 if you require instructions on how to do this.
4. Once you have the index.htm file open in both Notepad and Internet Explorer you need to consider this; what you are looking at is the same file being displayed in two different applications. The Notepad application (*Figure 1*) displays the page as HTML source code, whereas the browser application (*Figure 2*) renders that source code and displays it as a web page.

Figure 1



```
index.htm - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>basic web page</title>
<meta name="keywords" content="html, first, page, baby-steps">
<meta name="description" content="My very first web page.">
</head>
<body>
<h1>Hello World!
</body>
</html>
```

Figure 2



- Next, make the changes (changed area is in the darker color – use the lighter code as reference to where to type the addition) to the HTML source code in Notepad as indicated below:

```
<body>
```

```
Hello World!
```

```
<br />
```

```
Welcome to My First Web Page!
```

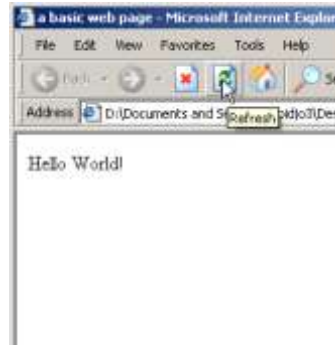
```
</body>
```

- Before you will be able to see the changes in the browser window, you first need to save the Notepad document. Select **File** from the **File Menu** and then click **Save**. Depending upon the version of Notepad, you may be able to hold down the **CTRL** key and hit **S** (CTRL + S) as a quick shortcut for saving the file.
- Even after you saved the Notepad file, you should notice that the page has not changed in the browser window. This is because once the browser loads a page it stops. It does not continually connect to or check the document it is displaying. It simply renders the HTML code it receives and forgets about it.
- To have the browser display your changes, you need to reload (refresh) the page. You may do this in one of three ways:

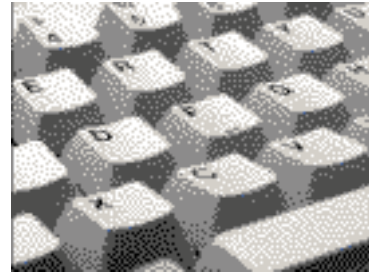
From the browser's menu bar, select **View** and then click **Refresh**.



Click the Refresh Icon on the browser's tool bar.



Simply hit **F5** on your keyboard.



- Once you have refreshed the page, the browser will have updated its display allowing you to see the changes you had just made in Step 5.
- The process of coding a web page is to add HTML source code, save the source code and then refresh the page in your browser so that you may view the changes. Then you add some more code, save and refresh – add, save, refresh – add, save, refresh – add, save, refresh – you get the idea, until the page displays as you intend it to.

To complete this exercise, add some more text to the page in Notepad, save it, and then refresh in the browser window. Continue to do this until you are comfortable with making changes to your Notepad document and refreshing to view the changes to the page in the browser.