

## A few words on Dreamweaver

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*At least not without knowing what you get yourself into and have it properly configured.*  
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Some of you might have read my Frontpage article (related story). I used to send a couple of Dreamweaver users to it as well, but got feedback saying they didn't want anything to do with those Frontpaggers. Well, it forced me to write an article about Dreamweaver as well.

Given Dreamweaver doesn't produce as bad result as frontpage, *if*, and here is an important one: *if it is properly configured*. This article on getting Dreamweaver in Compliance mode<sup>1</sup> is a nice place to start.

As I also stated in my other article, a What You See Is What You Get editor isn't all that bad if you use it properly. By properly I refer to the fact that it is a tool, not intended to do the whole job. Using a WYSIWYG editor is no excuse to not knowing the markup-language yourself.

Now if you don't know HTML yourself and fix up the source DW produce afterwards. Then your visitors might be in for an un-friendly experience. Displaced elements, bloated source that increase the loading time. Especially a phenomenon called "spacer"s I've gotten upset about several times, as it often fill a page of sourcecode.

Accessibility is the keyword of web content. For people with disabilities, using special browsers it might be even more important. Non-compliant websites make it very hard for this special group to use the website at all.

Regarding DW I'd like to point at the price tag and ask you this question; Is it worth it? Does using it justify the 400 USD pricetag if getting it from macromedia.com<sup>2</sup>? Please answer this question in a comment posted at [kfwebs.net](http://kfwebs.net)<sup>3</sup> and I'll add the user experiences as they arrive

1. <http://www.kfwebs.net/links/goto/271>
2. <http://www.macromedia.com/go/buydreamweaver>
3. <http://www.kfwebs.net/contact.php>

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