

Comparing Authoring Tools: Dreamweaver CS4 ~ Lectora Publisher

Authoring Features

Dreamweaver is a high end HTML editor which connects to the Adobe suite of products for a robust e-learning; live view to see the source solution. Several views are available with code and finished website views seen side by side. Can use the software in HTML or WYSIWYG form;. There is strong use of CSS for standard page layout.

Animation

Dreamweaver uses behaviors and Spry Effects to simplify JavaScript development. Spry Effects done through use of Ajax

Compatibility

Dreamweaver uses SCORM packager. For compatibility with mobile devices, Dreamweaver connects to Adobe Device Central.

Compatibility with Seciton 508 accessibility guidelines can be checked through running a compatibility report. Dreamweaver can be used by low vision individuals through use of screen readers.

Audio

Dreamweaver works with Adobe Soundbooth to refine audio and to mix multiple clips

Video

Dreamweaver works with Flash video. In addition, Flash video can be created in Adobe In-Design.

Costs

Adobe E-Learning Suite: \$1,799
Dreamweaver CS5 \$399.00
(Current Version)

Visuals

Accepts a variety of file formats i.e. gif, jpeg. Also accepts psd files and auto converts them

Assessment and Testing

Assessment and testing can be cstructured with form creation. Dreamweaver CS4 CourseBuilder extension allows HTML-based e-learning modules with assessments.

Audio

Lectora supports almost all audio formats. Audio files can be inserted through drag and drop into the workspace.

Video

SWF and FLV files can be dragged and dropped into the workspace. Originating files can be Flash, Captivate, Camtasia Studio, or other program which produces SWF or FLV files.

Costs

Lectora Publisher with Support - \$1790
Lectora Online, new subscription - \$1290
Lectora Inspire with Support - \$2790

Visuals

Lectora supports almost all types of digial image files through drag and drop into Lectora workspace, clip art gallery, shapes and lines designer

Animation

Lectora supports Flash animation (.swf). It has games libraries and animation wizards.

Authoring Features

Lectora is not an HTML editor; it is a WYSIWYG application using the drag and drop approach with HTML code being generated in the background. Lectora can be used in a PC or MAC environment. Lectora Publisher is part of the Lectora Pro Suite which collaborates with Camtasia, Snagit, and Flypaper

Assessment and Testing

Graded tests can be included under Lectora. Question types include multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill in the blank, hot spot, and drag and drop. Graded test results can sent to an LMS system, a database, or an email address.

Compatibility

Lectora conforms to SCORM 1.2 and SCORM 2004, AICC compliance standards, and XHTML 1.0 (internet standards compliant). It has 508 compliance tools - 508 compliance checker and 508 documentation, FLV closed captioning. Lectora hasiPhone functionality.

Dreamweaver

Lectora

References:

Adobe Systems Inc. (2011). Taming the web with Greg Rewis. Retrieved from <http://tv.adobe.com/watch/taming-the-web-with-greg-rewis/>

Trivantis Corporation Inc. (1999 - 2011). Lectora publisher. Retrieved from <http://www.trivantis.com/elearning-software>