
Introduction to CMS and web authoring tools

Objectives: At the end of this lesson you shall be able to

- explain the meaning of content management System.
 - list some of the popular CMSes.
 - explain the use and main features of kompozer web authoring tool.
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Definition of CMS:

CMS Stands for "Content Management System." A CMS is a software tool that allows you to create, edit, and publish content.

Description of CMS:

The goal of a CMS is to provide an intuitive user interface for building and modifying webpage content. Each CMS also provides a web publishing tool that allows one or more users to publish updates live on the Web. The editing component is called the content management application (CMA), while the publishing tool is called the content delivery application (CDA). These two components are integrated together in a CMS to streamline the web development process.

In terms of web publishing, content can be simple text, photos, music, video, documents, or just about anything you can think of. While early CMS software was used to manage documents and local computer files, most CMS systems are now designed exclusively to manage content on the Web. A major advantage of using a CMS is that it requires almost no technical skill or knowledge to manage.

Content management systems are available as installable applications and web-based user interfaces. The use of a web interfacesimplifies the website updating process. Additionally, most web-based CMSes are updated automatically, ensuring all users have the latest tools to manage their content.

A major advantage of using a CMS is that it requires almost no technical skill or knowledge to manage. Since the CMS manages all your content, you don't have to.

There are several web-based CMS tools available today. The following are some of the most popular ones:

- WordPress - free web software designed for creating template-based websites or blogs
- Blogger - Google's blogging tool designed specifically for maintaining a blog
- Joomla - a flexible web publishing tool that supports custom databases and extensions
- Drupal - an open source platform often used for developing community-based sites

- Weebly - a web-based platform for building simple personal and business websites
- Wix - a collection of web publishing tools for creating a highly customizable website

Introduction to WYSIWYG web authoring tools

WYSIWYG stands for "What You See Is What You Get". In such editors you edit not directly the source code of your documents, but its presentation as it will appear in the final document. So instead of writing blocks of code manually (as you e.g. would do it in Word or Notepad), you manipulate with design components using an editor window. This means that you view something very similar to the final result while the document or image is being created.

There are many easy-to-use WYSIWYG programs having all the tools needed to create a complex and fully functional websites, even by beginners. These sites even have options to work with HTML code be it design or editing. It is easier to create a Web site with an HTML editor, as software developers continue to add tools that let you develop advanced features with style. Many WYSIWYG web authoring tools offer advanced features to integrate Dynamic HTML or many other features into a site with an elegant and consistent design.

Introduction to Kompozer

KompoZer is a complete Web Authoring System that combines web file management and easy-to-use WYSIWYGweb page editing capabilities found in Microsoft FrontPage, Adobe DreamWeaver and other high end programs. With kompozer you can create web pages and manage a website with no technical expertise or knowledge of HTML.

A useful feature of Kompozer is that you can use it to publish your web pages to a web hosting server. You just need to know your FTP account username and password as well as the site URL and Kompozer will log in and place your web pages on the server.

KompoZer's File Menu contains menu items for all major operations possible while using it. KompoZer's tool bar user interface consists of:

- Composition Toolbar
- Format Toolbar
- Tab Browser Toolbar
- Edit Mode Toolbar
- Status Toolbar

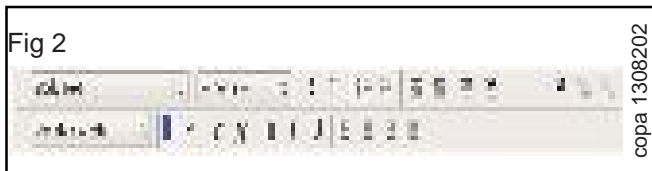
Composition Toolbar

The Composition Toolbar consists of buttons for the most used major operations. Below is the a snapshot of the default Composition Toolbar with text below each button indicating the respective button's function. (Refer Fig.1)



Format Toolbar(Refer Fig.2)

The Format Toolbar is a very useful tool while editing web pages with KompoZer. With the Format Toolbar you can apply paragraph format, choose a font, change foreground or background colour, increase or decrease size, and emphasize a block of text. You can also create ordered or unordered lists and justify a block of text to left, right or centre. To know which button does what just hover your mouse over the button and a tool tip will appear indicating the function of the button.



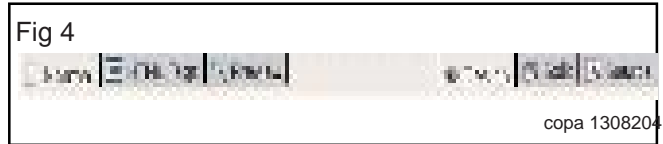
Tab Browser Toolbar(Refer Fig.3)

KompoZer allows you to simultaneously edit multiple web documents using different tabs for each opened document. Having multiple tabs gives a cleaner look to your desktop as it is not cluttered when multiple windows are used for each document. As a visual indicator a "red floppy icon" icon appears for pages which have been edited but not saved yet.



Edit Mode Toolbar(Refer Fig.4)

The Edit Mode Toolbar indicates the viewing mode which is presently active for the current document. Available viewing modes are the Normal view, HTML Tags view, HTML source view and the Preview mode. You can easily change your viewing mode by simply clicking any of the other three with the mouse.



Status Toolbar(Refer Fig.5)

KompoZer's status bar shows the position of the cursor with respect to the HTML tag hierarchy. You can easily edit/assign the properties of any particular tag in the status bar just by right clicking and choosing the desired option. Simple left-click of the mouse on a tag in status bar selects the text surrounded by that tag.

