

Re: New problem with Firefox

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Publisher/microsoft.public.publisher.webdesign/2008-06/msg00106.html>

- *From:* "John G" <green@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 13 Jun 2008 09:40:31 +1000
-

Well I just looked again (9:00AM Australian eastern time Friday) and the evaluation form still has the buttons all in the wrong places with IE7 and FF2 and the Submit and Revise buttons are still over the line starting "Would you like to reveal" (I did refresh and try on 2 machines at 1024 X 768 and 96dpi)

How did you set your screen resolution to 1024 X FOUR68 or was that a typo??

—

John G.

Wots your REAL problem?

"CWWJ" <CWWJ@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:A4E6D513-7671-452C-B59B-96A14B70F2A0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

David and John G.

One final thing. I downloaded IE7 this morning and accessed our web site. Used the forms with no problem whatsoever, so I don't understand John's insistence that they "fail" with both FireFox and IE7. However, I note a peculiarity in IE7 — when viewing a web site (this one we're on right now, for example), only the top half of the page is visible; the bottom half is just white space. You have to scroll down to see the rest of the page. This is disconcerting at best. Anybody have the same experience? I am at 96dpi and with a screen resolution of 1024x468. What gives?

"DavidF" wrote:

Hiya,

I agree with your computer guys. I don't like my workaround anymore than telling people that they have to use IE in order to view a page properly, which you see on some web sites. I also think the issue of centering your

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pages or laying your pages out so that they simulate centering is not really that important, if your forms pages are still jumbled for some users in some browsers.

This key issue is how the Publisher html coding engine fails to produce code that works equally well whether it is produced or viewed on a screen or monitor set at either 96 dpi or 120 dpi. Until now most people have been able to live with the pages produced at 96 dpi, as most screens and monitors

came at that setting, but that is increasingly not the case these days.

Also

I have no reason to doubt John G when he says that IE7 also now chokes on the different dpi settings...IE6 rendered both fairly well. And also until

now the people that have had this problem were not using forms on their pages, and so if the pages looked a bit different in FF, that was also something people could live with. But now given all these things, I think you have reached a place where you should consider moving away from Publisher.

You are also using HTTP uploading protocol which is dependent upon FPSE. MSFT has made that process difficult in IE7 and especially with Vista, and they have stopped supporting FPSE. This means that eventually your host will probably discontinue their support of FPSE...many already have. Your forms are dependent upon FPSE.

Bottom line is that MSFT has to update Publisher to deal with evolving technology or people such as yourself will have to move on to something else. As Rob said, Web Expression which replaced FrontPage is your choice if

you want to stay with MSFT. They just released version 2, and by most accounts it is a great program. It just will present a big learning curve for you, and you will have to rebuild your site mostly from scratch.

Alternatively, I would suggest that you consider Serif Web Plus. It will be

less expensive and it gives you much the same ease of use as Publisher...perhaps easier. To my knowledge it will do everything that Publisher fails to do in your case...and rebuilding your site in it shouldn't take that long.

I am sure this isn't what you want to hear, but given your circumstances,

I

think it is time for you to abandon Publisher. Sorry, but it is failing you

on too many levels.

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DavidF

"CWWJ" <CWWJ@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:E4D556C9-26E0-4E9E-8D29-0E38AB219653@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I am still using IE6, but I will download IE7 tonight and see if I find the same problem John G. says he noticed. Gulp. I think having two versions, one at 96 and the other at 120 makes sense. But some of my computer guys say I should never ask a client to "do something else" --- it makes it appear we didn't know what we were doing in the first place. (Of course we didn't). But that certainly is an option. The "centering code" option would be difficult, since we have a 28 page site that is updated fairly often. Did I understand you to say that each iteration would involve redoing all pages, not just the ones being updated?

I do understand what the different screen resolutions --- 1024 x 768 to 800x600 --- might do to an attempt to fake "centering" by simply moving the left margin of the page over and building the page over a background color, texture, picture or design (even a custom design). But I have done a couple of sample pages this way and have viewed them at 800x600, and although the page does move to the right, at that screen size it still looks much better

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than it would jammed to the left with all that space, no matter what the color or background. (Hmmm. How about creating a custom background of a photo montage that pertains to the site — court rooms, conference rooms, maybe even some kind of logo watermarking used as a background)?

But even that would not eliminate the forms problem between the two resolutions of 96 and 120! Is there any way you can think of to overcome this really fundamental problem? The pages may look okay in both browsers, except for the forms, which are, after all, the most important elements in the web site. MS really needs to tackle this, because no web site created with Publisher can guarantee that forms will ever work in both resolutions, when viewed on FireFox. I have just been lucky because our client base is so small, and most are apparently aol or yahoo subscribers.

"DavidF" wrote:

Only you can decide what dpi setting to use as a default...you know your customers. And yes the forms page looks ok with IE6, but according to John G. not in IE7. There simply is no simply answer I am afraid. Publish at 96 dpi and some people at 120 dpi are going to have problems...and the other

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way around. My suggestion to build your site with two Pub files is not a great workaround, but I can't think of another at this point that would guarantee your customers a page that will look ok in whatever browser at either 96 or 120 dpi. And like I said, if you want to discuss that more, let me know...there are a couple ways to go.

I do think you are misunderstanding something though in terms of laying your page out so it fills the space on YOUR monitor. You may be viewing your site with your monitor set at 1280 X 768 and your browser window at full screen. But I have my monitor set at 1152X864 so any page you design to "fill" a browser window at 1280 pixels wide is going to require me to scroll horizontally. And what if I have it set at 800 pixels wide? In reality I rarely view a page at full screen, and if I do, I almost always have the favorites or the history sidebar, which means I have significantly less than 1152 pixels width to view the page. I also tend to use multiple browser windows set at less than 800 pixels wide without the sidebars...a leftover practice from using IE6 without tabs. What I am saying is that just because it looks like it is filling your browser on your

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computer, doesn't
mean
it
won't overflow mine or still come up short
for that young person's
eyes
that
has their monitor set to 1920 pixels wide.

I do hear what you are saying about the
excess padding not looking
good...and depending on the background
used, I would agree. But the
advantage of using the centering code is that
you can make a 760 pixel
width
page dynamically center in whatever width
browser window it is viewed
in.

If
it is viewed in a 800 pixel wide browser
window, there will be a tiny
amount
of padding on both sides of the page. If it is
viewed on a 1920 pixel
wide
window, there will be 580 pixels of padding
on both sides, but it is
likely
to look better than if it was left justified.

Anyway, I just wanted to
clarify that...and in case you want to read
David Bartosik's article

again,

here it is: Understanding background
padding in a Publisher web (aka

white
space) :

<http://msmvps.com/blogs/dbartosik/archive/2006/01/07/80563.aspx>

Enough for now...

DavidF

"CWWJ"

<CWWJ@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:3E70437D-7EE2-4BA4-A103-7EDB140725DE@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

It is helpful to know that a
centering option is now

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available.
However,
that is not going to solve the
problem of a FireFox user at
120dpi
visiting
my 96dpi site. They will
find chaos.

Let me say something about
our clients. Most (nearly all)
are
repeat
clients from a relatively
small community --
lawyers and in some
cases,
judges. They book
mediations with us most
often by phone and mail.
However,
they have booked a
considerable number online
-- probably a couple
of
hundred
in the last two years -- and
we have received (my
coordinator tells
me
now)
only one complaint, vs.
dozens of thank you's for
making this
feature
available. That's what leads
me to believe that we have a
preponderance
of
aol and yahoo users (IE
works with both 96 and 120
dpi), and
whatever
FireFox
users are out there are set at
120dpi. In other words, our
clients
know
in
advance they are either
going to use us or someone

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else -- a
non-functioning
forms page won't lead them
elsewhere.

I like your idea of the link to
a 96dpi version of the web
site for
FireFox
users. But although I think
Publisher is a good,
easy-to-use web
authoring
tool for simple sites like
mine, I am baffled by the
"padding"
issue.

I
can't imagine developing
software that will publish
files at a
default
96dpi
knowing that you are going
to have 25% of the
right-hand side of the
page
blank. I know some sites do
this -- link to Love Field or
DFW
Airport
from
our web site -- but unless
you know in advance this is
the way it is
going
to
look and design your pages
accordingly, your site is
going to look
weird.

I had thought I might just
set my left page margin at
about 20% of
the
page
to give the illusion of
centering. That would give
me 55% of the
viewable

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screen for my content, and
then instead of using big
blocks of color
and
text
boxes inside frames laid out
like a newsletter or
brochure, I would
let
text,
photos and graphics "float"
over a background color or
texture.

Meantime, I have
republished the pages at
120dpi as before, and I'm
relieved
that everything works on
both IE and FireFox. Whew.
Thanks
again ---
now
I'm
going to visit your info on
centering.

CWWJ

"DavidF" wrote:

Ok. Thanks
for the
explanation.
I am going
to assume
that you do
run
the
compress
graphics
function
and the
Design
Checker,
and that the
issue
is
primarily
the 96/120

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dpi issue.
Unfortunately
there isn't a
good
answer,
but
here is the
explanation I
promised.

About 4 to
5 years ago
I got a new
laptop that
produced
Publisher
pages
that
looked
different
than when I
produced
those pages
from my
desktop.
I
sent
the files to
David
Bartosik the
MVP who
was active
at the time,
who
agreed
that the
code was
different,
but we
couldn't
figure out
why. About
a
year
later or so,
with the
help of
others in the
group, I
narrowed it
down

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to
the
laptop
screen
being set at
120 dpi and
the desktop
monitor set
at
96
dpi.
With most
computer
monitors
coming
preset at 96
dpi, and
Publisher's
default
output at
96, the best
solution
was to reset
the laptop,
and
produce
the
pages at 96.
However,
that meant
that when
the pages
were
viewed at
120
dpi,
they looked
jumbled. I
also
compensated
on the
laptop by
right
clicking
the
screen,
properties,
Appearance
and
increasing
the font size

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to
large.
This
might make
it easier for
you to
read...

So, you are
correct that
the problem
is with the
way the
Publisher
html
coding
engine
works, and
you are
probably
becoming
more
correct
that
more
of
your
customers
are using
monitors set
at 120
dpi....especially
new
laptops.
You might
not be
correct that
no one had
problems
before,
however.
It
may
be
that those
customers
that did
have
problems
didn't
bother

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calling
or
emailing
and
complaining...they
just left in
frustration.
There is
no
way
of
knowing.

At this
point I don't
know of a
good way to
workaround
this
problem,
and
expect it to
become an
increasing
problem in
the future.
Hopefully
MSFT
will
address this
in the
future.
Right now I
would guess
that the
majority
of
people have
their
monitors
and screens
set at 96 dpi
vs. 120, but
I
can't
prove it.
Never the
less, I think
the safest
choice of
two bad

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choices
is
to
publish
your pages
at 96 dpi,
but I do
have one
idea for a
workaround.

There have
been several
Publisher
users post
here that are
producing
their
sites in
multi-languages
using
multiple
Publisher
files (an
example:
<http://www.somoscapazes.org/>).
To do this,
they
produce two
different
version of
their site
and provide
a link at the
top of the
home
page
linking
to the other
home page
in the other
language.
They
upload their
primary
language
site to the
main
directory,
and their
secondary

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language
site
to
a
subfolder
on their
host. Since
your site
appears to
be fairly
static,
you
could do the
same thing
but produce
one site at
96 and the
other at
120.
Then on the
forms
pages...maybe
even the
home page,
add a notice
at