

## Re: Is Publisher 2003 an effective way of creating and managing a

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Publisher/microsoft.public.publisher.webdesign/2009-01/msg00036.html>

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- *From:* Doug <Doug@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 5 Jan 2009 15:26:09 -0800
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Thanks for your thoughts, David. Yes, I realized that Word was "pushing the envelope" regarding HTML coding -- the resulting pages are generally so complex that I don't even attempt to manually tweak the coding. But they worked, for years -- until Firefox came along. I hadn't even bothered to install Firefox, until someone mentioned that the links on one of my sites weren't working. It was then that I discovered massive incompatibilities, incompatibilities which seem to have no solution.

I'm guessing that Microsoft specifically designed IE to be able to handle code from its products. And now that Firefox has come along, Microsoft is probably reluctant to make changes to accommodate this upstart competition. Understandable from their point of view, but from my point of view it's a repeat of the disastrous Netscape/IE showdown, where the big losers were the Web designers of the world, who were expected to design separate sites for Netscape and IE users.

I'm sure eventually Microsoft will get the message -- that Firefox isn't going to go away. But for now, it seems that they're perhaps still hoping it will... ;-)

Doug

"DavidF" wrote:

Doug,

David Bartosik has not been active in this group for more than two years, so you will not be getting a response from him.

I don't disagree with much of what David says. He is a true expert and I am just a lay person that has chosen to use Publisher to build my site, and have worked out most of the problems associated with cross browser compatibility. I haven't used Word to build a site, but your comment about "...Word can do layout tricks that I can't do on any other program -- stuff that Front Page can't even dream of..." is probably the key to your frustration. Word and Publisher are primarily programs for print

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publications, and FrontPage for web publications. The simple fact is that there "layout tricks" in a print publication that simply will not convert to html...there is no html equivalent. Print and web media are two different things, and require two different mindsets and design approaches. With Publisher at least, if you design your pages correctly keeping in mind what is possible and what is not possible in html, then you can build a site with good cross browser compatibility. You can look for an alternative to Word or Publisher, but ultimately it will probably not matter what program you use to build your site, you will still need to change your design and layout in order to convert it into html that is cross browser compatible.

This is not to say that you shouldn't move to Expression Web or some other program specifically designed for web building. It all depends on the goals and the scope of what you are trying to do with your site. But even if you do move to a different program, you will still have to work within the limits of what you can and cannot do in html.

DavidF

"Doug" <Doug@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:BD163646-BBB5-4065-9F93-56CBEB63B8CC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

So true, David. I just spent x hours trying to salvage my web pages created in Word after discovering that they don't display properly in Firefox. After reading your post, I'm finally giving up. In my experience, both Word and Publisher are endlessly frustrating for creating web pages (even before this Firefox fiasco). But the cross-platform incompatibility is the final straw.

It's sad, because Word can do layout tricks that I can't do on any other program -- stuff that Front Page can't even dream of. I just tried Word 2007, hoping that they'd worked out the bugs, but apparently MS has no intention of ever making this into a reliable crossplatform web design program.

Forgive me, but I \*am\* assuming that this is Microsoft's failing, because it seems very unlikely that Firefox would make non-compliant software. They have no incentive to. Microsoft does.

So now I have to go find a new program and try to import all my Word-authored web sites into it. And then try to duplicate what I did in Word...

As David said, plan ahead. And I'd add, plan on using something other than

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Signed, one very regretful, and thoroughly disgusted ex-Word user,  
Doug

"David Bartosik [MSFT MVP]" wrote:

Publisher is a desktop publishing tool that can save to html.  
Publisher  
does  
come with web page wizards. It is important to be clear on  
the fact that  
Publisher is a DTP tool only with web page output ability,  
Word also has  
web  
page functionality and can be used for a simple site, and also  
Excel and  
PowerPoint provide html output. While all the above  
mentioned tools can  
create a web page they are not web design nor html editors  
nor web site  
management tools. They do not allow for full support of all  
browsers, nor  
support the wide range of design techniques. That is where  
FrontPage fits  
into the Office Suite. FrontPage is the web site design tool.

With these facts clear you should be able to make an  
informed decision.  
Don't use Publisher if the possibility exists that it's  
limitations will  
be  
an issue for you. If you still can't make a decision then I  
recommend you  
make a sample web page with Publisher ( and even Word as  
well ) to find  
if  
you are comfortable with the results or not, and if you will be  
long-term.  
Long term planning is important because if you have big  
plans for your  
site  
then you don't want limitations.

David Bartosik – [MSFT MVP]  
[www.publishermvps.com](http://www.publishermvps.com)  
[www.davidbartosik.com](http://www.davidbartosik.com)

"RKamm" <RKamm@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

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wrote in message

[news:07BD49C8-30D4-439F-8772-00FF84F970BC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:07BD49C8-30D4-439F-8772-00FF84F970BC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

What additional does FrontPage offer? Is it  
necessary for relatively  
simple  
web pages or will Publisher work ?