

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

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Publisher/microsoft.public.publisher.webdesign/2009-01/msg00044.html>

- *From:* "DavidF" <Nope@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 6 Jan 2009 04:53:32 -0800
-

You aren't the first person that has said this, but I have to ask why was it not a good idea?

If you have compiled a lot of statistics, and large database, marketing materials for your business in one or more of the Office family of programs, why is it a bad idea to be able to extract a data set, plot a chart, produce a graph, build a report, produce a newsletter or a business flyer, etc. and then easily convert those things to html so they can be seen on the web, or even convert that data/information into a format that can be incorporated into a web built with "proper" web program? Why is it a bad idea for a business person, the layperson, hobbyist or anyone who wants a basic, simple, static website not be able to produce that site using the software they already own and understand, and instead invest a lot of money and time to buy and learn how to use "proper" web software, when they don't need it to achieve their simple goals?

Why is it bad to use these programs to produce proprietary html code, when it was ok for FrontPage to produce non-standard proprietary code? Should FP not have been produced?

Once again, please explain why it was a bad idea to build in the ability to produce html into all the Office family of programs, when there is such an obvious need for it?

DavidF

"Rob Giordano [MS MVP]" <webmaster@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:u0IGpf7bJHA.4500@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint were never designed to design websites with although all will output a proprietary html (of sorts), not sure why they did this imo it wasn't a good idea.

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

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Rob Giordano  
Microsoft MVP Expression

"Doug" <Doug@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:CCD0E4D5-274D-436F-84F6-EB9B8502F333@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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.

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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 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

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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](mailto: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

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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 MS products.

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,

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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](mailto:RKamm@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>

wrote in message

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

What  
additional

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

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