

## Adding Images to Your Site

Now that you've created a page that can direct visitors to your favourite Websites or to navigate around your own site, how about a page with a couple of pictures? They could be of you, your logo, your products - anything you want. If you don't have any images to use, there are lots of places on the net to download royalty-free ones:

<http://www.freeimages.co.uk/>

<http://www.comstock.com/web/default.asp> ...and many more

Just like all other things in HTML, images use tags. The tag for an image is `<img>`. There are quite a lot of attributes for this tag, but for now we'll just look at two:

```
src="images/logo.jpg"
```

The `src` attribute specifies where the image is located. This could be a URL, or a path on the local Website like the one I've included in the example above. For example, "images/logo.jpg" indicates that we want to display an image stored in logo.jpg, a file that can be found in the images subdirectory of the directory that contains the HTML file for this page.

```
alt="My Logo"
```

The `alt` attribute gives the image a description that can be used in a number of circumstances. Using the alt attribute is optional, but there are many good reasons for doing so.

### ***Why Bother Using the alt Attribute?***

You may be wondering why people use the alt attribute if it's not required, and as it doesn't appear to do anything when you view your page. In actual fact, there are a number of advantages to using the alt attribute.

Firstly, if your image should ever be deleted, corrupted or moved, then the description set with the alt attribute will be shown in its place. That

will at least give the viewer some description of the image that should appear.

Secondly, it means your site is friendlier to disabled people, as the text-only browsers and text-to-speech systems that many of these visitors use do not pick up images, but will recognise alt attributes.

In addition, recent browsers like Microsoft Internet Explorer will display the description provided in the alt attribute when you move your mouse over the image. Perhaps the only disadvantage is that the inclusion of alt attributes will make the page's file size slightly larger; however, the difference in speed is negligible. I certainly see no real reason not to use alt tags.

So now, let's put a couple of pictures into an HTML page:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>
      My Business Web Site
    </title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p>
      <font size="2">
        <b>
          Pictures of My Products
        </b>
      </font>
    </p>
    <p>
      
      <br>
      <i>Product 1</i>
    </p>
    <p>
      
      <br>
      <i>Product 2</i>
    </p>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
</p>  
</body>  
</html>
```

As you can see, I've only included two pictures here, but there is no limit to how many you can include on your page.

### ***More Attributes for the Image Tag***

The image tag uses a large number of attributes that are optional, but useful. Here are just a few:

```
border="n"
```

This places a border around the image. The "n" specifies the border's width in pixels. This is especially useful when you make images into links, because, by default, an ugly colored border is displayed around these images.

```
height="n"
```

This tells the browser the height of the image in pixels. This attribute is used so that, when the page is being processed and loaded, the browser will reserve the right amount of space for the image. As a result, your page layout will look perfect at all times - even while the images are still loading.

```
width="n"
```

This attribute serves the same purpose as the height attribute, except that it obviously defines image width instead. Again, it should be specified in pixels.

There are many more attributes, but these will give you a good start.

If you've made it this far, pat yourself on the back, in the next section, we will take a look at one of the most useful of the HTML layout functions - tables.