

ColdFusion Dynamic Apps

Duration: 3 Days

Course Overview:

This 3-day course is designed to move students from creating static web pages to creating dynamic sites that are interactive, easy to maintain, and compliant with current Web design standards. Using Dreamweaver in conjunction with a programming language, students will learn how to retrieve information from a database and display it on a Web page, enable drill-down functionality through which users can view detailed information on demand, and display subsets of data through a recordset navigation system. Students will also learn how to enable database-driven searching capabilities and add email-sending features to their Web sites.

Students Learn How To:

- Add dynamic elements to a Web page and build dynamic site navigation into an existing Web site
- Build a form and a Web page that retrieves information from a database
- Deploy a Web site for public viewing
- Create a data drill-down application in which Web pages retrieve detailed records based on user selections
- Create an application that displays subsets of records selected by the user on demand
- Add features to a database-driven Web site that enable users to search the database for records and display the results
- Create functions and custom tags that enable you to easily reuse code within a single page or many pages

Who Should Attend: Anyone who needs to create a powerful, dynamic Web site that interacts with a lot of ever-changing data and is able to be deployed quickly.

Prerequisites: This course is designed for the experienced computer user who understands Internet functionality, is experienced with HTML (particularly HTML forms), has taken Dreamweaver Introduction and understands database concepts.

Course Outline:

Introduction to Newland Tours

Upgrading to XHTML

Upgrading to the XHTML Document Type
Replacing Strings in Source Code
Replacing Tags & Stripping Tags
Closing Empty Tags that have Attributes
Finding Images without the Alt Attribute
Validating Your XHTML

Creating The Presentation Layer

Redefining HTML Elements with CSS
Creating and Applying Custom CSS Styles
Creating a Reusable Template
Enhancing Accessibility with Invisible Navigation

Dynamic Web Sites

Dynamic Web Site Basics
Choosing a Server Model
Redefining the Newland Tours Site for Dynamic Development
Developing with a Local Server
Setting Up a Local Environment for IIS/ASP, ColdFusion, or Apache/PHP
Developing with a Remote Server
Defining a Dynamic Site in Dreamweaver (All Users)
Building a Simple, Dynamic Application

Passing Data Between Pages

Understanding the HTTP Protocol
Retrieving Data from the URL
Sending Data with Hyperlinks
Setting and Receiving Cookies

Sending Email from a Web Form

Introducing SMTP Email Service
Configuring Your System to Send SMTP Email Messages
Configuring IIS to Send Email (ASP Users)
Configuring ColdFusion to Send Email
Writing Code to Send a Message
Understanding Objects, Methods, and Properties
Creating the Web Form
Emailing Dynamic Form Values
Client-Side Form Validation

Building a Tour Price Calculator

Creating Pages and Building the Form
Collecting, Processing, and Displaying the Data
Adding Server-Side Form Validation
Creating the Conditional Region
Creating and Applying a Custom CSS Class

Databases on the Web

A Crash Course on Databases
Introducing Database Objects
Understanding Relationships
Databases on the Web
Database Security and the Web
Installing and Running MySQL
Touring the Newland Database
Connecting to a Database
Retrieving Recordsets and Displaying Database Information

Completing the Price Calculator

Dynamically Populated Drop-Down Menus
Creating Filtered Recordsets
Revising the Calculation Script with Live Data
Documenting Your Code with Comments

Filtering and Displaying Data

Preparing the Input Page
Generating URLs Dynamically
Preparing the Output Page
Populating Page Layouts Dynamically
Adding Dynamic Images and Formatting the Population Number
Looking Up Foreign Table Data With SQL

Building the Tour Descriptions

Planning the Application
Creating Recordsets with Joins
Building the Descriptions
Inserting the Images and alt Attributes
Implementing Recordset Paging
Passing Data to Other Applications

Building Search Interfaces

Preparing the Search Page and Creating the Search All Link
Searching By Region: Building the Interfaces

Building Search Interfaces (cont.)

Revising the Query and Commenting Code for Testing and Debugging
Suppressing the Navigation Bar
Searching by Country: Filtering by Form Variable
Switching SQL Statements According to Environmental Variables

Authenticating Users

User Authentication as a Web Application
Building the Registration Pages
Building the Log-in Page
Creating Application.cfm (ColdFusion Only)
Ensuring Session Management is Enabled (Windows PHP Users Only)
Restricting Access to Pages

Managing Content with Forms

Creating the Admin Section
Two Approaches to Formatting Content Stored in a Database
Creating the Form Interface
Using Session Variables and Hidden Fields to Track Users
Inserting the Record

Building Update Pages

Preparing the Pages
Planning for the Master-Detail Pages
Making the Detail Page Updateable

Hand-coding a Basic CMS

Preparing the Content Management System
Building the Form and Hand-coding a Recordset
Adding the Insert Functionality
Creating the Master Page
Creating the Update Record Page Detail
Adding the Update Functionality
Adding the Delete Functionality
Where to Go from Here