Dreamweaver provides multiple ways to work with code and includes many features to assist you while developing websites. Dreamweaver’s intelligent Code Completion and Code Hinting features allow you to insert and edit code quickly, while reducing typos and other common mistakes.

To enable Code Hints, click Edit > Preferences > Code Hints, and select Enable Code Hints.

To disable Code Hints, click Edit > Preferences > Code Hints, and deselect Enable Code Hints.

HTML CODE HINTS
In Code View Dreamweaver provides Code Hints for HTML Tags and their attributes.

Tag Name Hints
When you press the < key (less than, the character that indicates the beginning of an HTML tag element) on the keyboard to start typing the code for a tag, a pop-up menu appears showing a list of valid HTML tag names. (HTML tag hints also include a short description of the tag, where applicable.) If you continue typing, the number of entries in the list is reduced to those that match what has been typed. You can scroll down the list, and select the tag name, at any time. When the tag name you are seeking appears in the list, select it and press Enter or Return to automatically complete your tag entry.
Attribute Name Hints
When a Tag Name is complete (see above), and you add a following space, Dreamweaver will display a list of valid Attribute Names that can be applied to the tag.

If you continue typing the attribute name, the number of entries in the list is reduced to those that match what has been typed. You can scroll down the list, and select the attribute name, at any time. When the Attribute Name you are seeking appears in the list, select it and press Enter or Return to complete your attribute name entry.

Attribute Value Hints
When an Attribute Name is entered (see above) it will include a following set of quotes (""), with the cursor placed between the quotes. The space between the quotes is where an
**Attribute Value** will be inserted. Dreamweaver will display a list of potential *attribute values* that are appropriate for the associated *attribute name*.

The contents of an *Attribute Value Hint* can be static (choose from a predetermined list) or dynamic (the value has parameters that can be set).

Most attribute value hints are static. Take for example the *attribute value* for the *attribute name* `target`, which is static in nature, and so the hints are static as well.

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**Example of static attribute value hints**

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*The following examples illustrate how Code Hints work in some situations.*

**DYNAMIC CODE HINTS FOR SRC**

In the example below an image is being inserted. When you type *src*, you are presented with valid *attribute values* for the image source (possible image locations), and when you select your *images* folder, Dreamweaver displays a list of valid images that are present in that images folder. You can then scroll down and select the one you want to insert. (You may also manually enter the location path and file name.)
Dynamic code hints for src

If you have assets in CC Libraries, then these assets also show up when you type src. These CC library assets are indicated using a cloud icon.

If you choose a CC library asset, a pop-up menu appears allowing you to resample the image size, and change the image format.

Including a CC library asset in your code

**DYNAMIC CODE HINTS FOR HREF**

In the example below a link is being inserted. When you type `<a` (the opening characters for an anchored link), and select the attribute name href, Dreamweaver inserts href=“” and places the cursor inside the quotes. The space between the quotes is where an Attribute Value will be inserted. Dreamweaver will display a list of potential attribute values that are appropriate for href, with the option to browse and select from the list. (You may also manually enter the path to a file or location - a website URL, for example.)
Dynamic code hints for href

DYNAMIC CODE HINTS FOR ID AND STYLE AND CLASS
If you have defined CSS ids or styles or classes, then type id="" or style="" or class="" within a tag in your HTML file, Dreamweaver inserts the attribute name and places the cursor inside the quotes. The space between the quotes is where an Attribute Value will be inserted. Dreamweaver displays all available defined values for the associated attribute name, with the option to browse and select from the list.

Dynamic code hints for id
Dynamic code hints for style

CSS CODE HINTS

Code hints and tips are available for CSS:

**Code Hints for CSS @rules**

Dreamweaver displays code hints for all @rules along with a description of the CSS rule as shown below.

CSS @rule code hints

**CSS Properties Hints**

If you type in CSS properties, when you type the colon (:) code hints appear to help you choose a valid property value.
In the following example, when `font-family:` is typed, a list of valid font-sets appears. You can choose one of the listed font sets, or you can open the Manage Fonts dialog from within these hints, and set your preferred fonts.

Another example of helpful code hints is when you work with color in CSS. If you type in any color-related property (such as `border color` or `background color`), when you press the colon (:), a list of colors is displayed. You can pick a color from the list, or you can open the Color Picker from within the code hints itself, and set a preferred color.

If you have color swatches in CC libraries, code hints will display these swatches as well. (The cloud icon indicates that the asset is located a CC library.)
Color swatches from CC libraries are indicated by the cloud icon

**Pseudo-selector and Pseudo-element Hints**

You can add a CSS *pseudo-selector* to a selector to define a particular state of the element. For example, when you use `:hover`, the style is applied when the user hovers over the element specified by the selector.

When you type the colon (`:`), Dreamweaver displays a list of valid *pseudo-selectors* if the cursor is in the right context.

**Psuedo-selector code hints**

When you type double colon (`::`), Dreamweaver displays a list of valid *pseudo-elements* (used to style specified parts of an element) if the cursor is in the right context.
Pseudo-element code hints

CSS Shorthand Hints

Shorthand Properties are CSS properties that let you set the values of several other CSS properties simultaneously. Some examples of CSS shorthand properties are background and font properties.

As seen in the example below, if you type a CSS shorthand property (such as background, for instance), after you type a space, Dreamweaver displays:

- Appropriate property values in order of relevancy
- Mandatory values that must be used (for example, if you use font, then font-size, and font-family are mandatory)
- Browser expansion for that property
When the CSS shorthand properties are filled out, the code hints also display the property values you have typed.

**CSS Code Tips**
For some CSS properties (such as `box-shadow` or `text-shadow`), Dreamweaver displays tips that indicate what values should follow it, and indicates which values are the mandatory values using an asterisk (*).

You can also see how the browser interprets the CSS.

```
92 } /* About Section */
93 .text_column {
94   width: 29%;
95   text-align: justify;
96   font-weight: lighter;
97   line-height: 25px;
98   float: left;
99   padding-left: 20px;
100  padding-right: 20px;
101  color: #A3A3A3;
102  box-shadow: 15px 15px
103 }
104
105 .about {
106   padding-left: 25px;
107   padding-right: 25px;
108   padding-top: 35px;
109   display: inline-block;
110  background-color: #FFFFFF;
111  margin-top: 0px;
112 } /* Stats Gallery */
113 .stats {
114   color: #717070;
115   margin-bottom: 5px;
116 }
```

*Tips that appear for CSS properties*

**JAVASCRIPT CODE HINTS**
In JavaScript files, Dreamweaver provides code hints for variables and function parameters.

In the below example, the type is indicated at the bottom of the hint – fn() in this example, indicating that the value highlighted is a function parameter.
JavaScript code hints

Dreamweaver automatically refreshes the list of available code hints as you work in JavaScript files. For example, if you are working in a primary HTML file and switch to a JavaScript file to make a change. The change you make in the JavaScript file is reflected in the list of code hints when you return to the primary HTML file.

**Note:** This automatic update works only if you edit your JavaScript files in Dreamweaver.

Live Object Inspection

Dreamweaver also automatically refreshes JavaScript type code hints.

For example, if you have defined a variable as a *numeral*, Dreamweaver retains that information. When you reference that variable later in your code, it indicates its type.

If you change the variable type (say to a *string*), then Dreamweaver's code hints automatically indicate that the variable is a string.

Code hint indicating variable type

Dynamic Documentation Inclusion

If you have added comments for a particular function, then when that function is hinted, Dreamweaver also displays the documentation for that function.
**PHP CODE HINTS**

Dreamweaver supports code hinting for PHP 5.6 and 7.1 versions. These PHP code hints are site-specific and cover all core functions, classes, and constants.

For more information on PHP 5.6, and 7.1 see [PHP Manual](#).
For more information on site-specific code hints, see [Site-specific code hints](#).

A helpful PHP code hints feature is the auto completion of variables.

When you type a dollar sign ($), a list of all variables in your current script appears. Select the one you want, and press **Enter/Return**. Variables from related files are also listed, eliminating the danger of reusing the same variable for a different purpose.

When PHP 7.1 is set as the default, Dreamweaver displays PHP 7.1 specific code hints.

![PHP 7 code hints](image)

**An example of PHP object code hinting**

**Edit the Delay Settings for PHP Code Hints**

To improve the code typing performance in `.php` files, Dreamweaver 2017.5 and later has an added delay for PHP code hints. When you type PHP code, Dreamweaver displays the hints after a 400ms delay. If you want to modify the delay settings for PHP code, follow this procedure:

1. Quit Dreamweaver.
2. Open `brackets.json` from the following location, using a text editor:
   - **Win**: `%appdata%\Adobe\Dreamweaver CC 2017\<locale>\Configuration\Brackets`
3. Click the **Save Structure** button in the upper right corner of the dialog box.
   In the JSON file, add a comma after the last **name/value** pair.
   Add the following line with your preferred delay time in milliseconds: "delayInPHPHint": `<time in milliseconds>`. For example, "delayInPHPHint": 200.

4. **Save** the file, and launch Dreamweaver.

---

**SITE-SPECIFIC CODE HINTS**

Dreamweaver lets developers working with Joomla, Drupal, Wordpress, or other frameworks, to view PHP Code Hints while developing in Code View. To display these code hints, you first need to create a configuration file using the **Site-Specific Code Hints** dialog box. The configuration tells Dreamweaver where to look for code hints that are specific to your site.


### Create the configuration file

Use the **Site-Specific Code Hints** dialog box to create the configuration file needed to display code hints in Dreamweaver. By default, Dreamweaver stores the configuration file in the `Adobe Dreamweaver CS5/configuration/Shared/Dinamico\Presets` directory.

**Note:** The code hints you create are specifically for the site selected in the Dreamweaver **Files panel**. For the code hints to display, the page you are working on must reside in the currently selected site.

1. Select **Site > Site Options > Site-Specific Code Hints**.
   By default, the **Site-Specific Code Hints** feature scans your site to determine which Content Management System (CMS) framework you are using. Dreamweaver supports three frameworks by default: Drupal, Joomla, and Wordpress.

   The four buttons to the right of the **Structure** pop-up menu let you import, save, rename, or delete framework structures.

   **Note:** You cannot delete or rename the existing default framework structures.

2. In the **subroot** text box, specify the **subroot folder** where you store your framework’s files. You can click the folder icon next to the text box to browse to the framework files’ location.

   Dreamweaver displays a file tree structure of folders that contain your framework files. If the folders and files you want to scan are all displayed, click **OK** to run the scan. If you want to customize the scan, go on to the next steps.

3. Click the plus (+) button above the **Files** window to select a file or folder that you want to add to the scan. In the **Add Files/Folders** dialog box, you can specify any filename
extensions that you want to include.

**Note:** Specifying a single filename extension will speed up the scanning process.

4. To remove files from the scan, select the files you do not want scanned, and then click the minus (-) button above the **Files** window.

**Note:** If your selected framework is Drupal or Joomla, the *Site-Specific Code Hints* dialog box displays an additional path to a file within your Dreamweaver configuration folder. Do not delete this—it is required when using these frameworks.

5. To customize how the *Site-Specific Code Hints* feature treats a particular file or folder, select it from the list and do one of the following:

   o Select **Scan This Folder** to include the selected folder in the scan.
   o Select **Recursive** to include all files and folders within a selected directory.
   o Click the **Extensions** button to open the *Find Extensions* dialog box, where you can specify the filename extensions you want included in your scan for a particular file or folder.

**Rename site structures**

When renaming your site structure, keep in mind that you cannot use the names of any of the three default site framework structures, or the word “custom”.

1. Display the structure that you want to rename.
2. Click the **Rename Structure** icon button in the upper right corner of the dialog box.
3. Specify a new name for the structure and click **Rename**.

**Note:** If the name you specify is already in use, Dreamweaver prompts you to enter a different name, or to confirm that you want to overwrite the structure with the same name. You cannot overwrite any of the default framework structures.

**Add files or folders to a site structure**

You can add any files or folders that are associated with your framework. After you add files or folders, you can then specify the filename extensions of the files you want to scan.

1. Click the plus (+) button above the **Files** window to open the *Add File/Folder* dialog box.
2. In the **Add File/Folder** text box, enter the path to the file or folder you want to add. You can also click the **folder** icon next to the text box to browse to a file or folder.
3. Click the plus (+) button above the **Extensions** window to specify the filename extensions of files you want to scan.

**Note:** Specify a single filename extension to speed up the scanning process.
4. Click Add.

**Scan a site for filename extensions**
Use the *Find Extensions* dialog box to view and edit filename extensions that are included in the site structure.

1. In the *Site-Specific Code Hints* dialog box, click the *Extensions* button.
   The *Find Extensions* dialog box lists the current scannable extensions.
2. To add another extension to the list, click the plus (+) button above the *Extensions* window.
3. To delete an extension from the list, click the minus (-) button.

**CODE HINTS PREFERENCES**
Configure how you want Code Hints to work.

1. Select *Edit > Preferences* (Windows) or *Dreamweaver > Preferences* (Macintosh).
2. Select *Code Hints* from the category on the left.
3. Set any of the following options:

   **Close tags**
   Specify how you want Dreamweaver to close tags.

   - **After typing ""*/""** - Select this option if you want Dreamweaver to automatically complete the closing tag after you insert the closing slash.
   - **After typing the open tag's """"** - Select this option if you want Dreamweaver to automatically add a closing tag after you insert the opening tag.
   - **Never** - Set this option if you do not want Dreamweaver to automatically add closing tags.

   **Enable code hints**
   Select this option to enable or disable Code Hinting and Code Completion in Dreamweaver.
   For more information on Dreamweaver's code hinting and code completion features, see the section titled *CODE HINTS and COMPLETION*, below.

   **Enable description tooltips**
   Select this option to enable descriptions to appear with your code hints. These descriptions provide additional information about the code you are writing.

   **Auto-insert braces**
   When checked, a closing brace is automatically inserted whenever a user types an opening brace. When unchecked, a closing brace is not automatically inserted. Applies to all types of braces and all file types (HTML, PHP, CSS, JS).
Auto-insert quotes
When checked, a closing quote is automatically inserted whenever a user types an opening quote. When unchecked, a closing quote is not automatically inserted. Applies to both single and double quotes and all file types (HTML, PHP, CSS, JS).

Code Hints preferences dialog