How to preview and test a web project

Because you can't control which browsers or operating systems visitors will use to view your site, it is important to test your site in different browsers. Although you can do some of this on your computer by installing several browsers and running a local testing server, it can be a challenge to review all possible combinations of browsers and operating systems. For a detailed overview about the purposes of a testing server, see the Dreamweaver Developer Center article written by David Powers, *Setting up a local testing server in Dreamweaver CS5* at www.adobe.com/devnet/dreamweaver/articles/setup_testing_server.html.

Adobe BrowserLab is an online service that lets you test your website pages in a variety of web browsers and operating systems. For example, the following combinations of browsers and operating systems can produce slight differences in how your site appears:

- Google Chrome 3.0 - Windows XP
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 8.0 - Windows XP
- Apple Safari 4.0 - Mac OS X
- Mozilla Firefox 3.0 - Mac OS X

The service works by taking screenshots of your web pages in different browsers and then displaying them on the BrowserLab page (**Figure 1**).

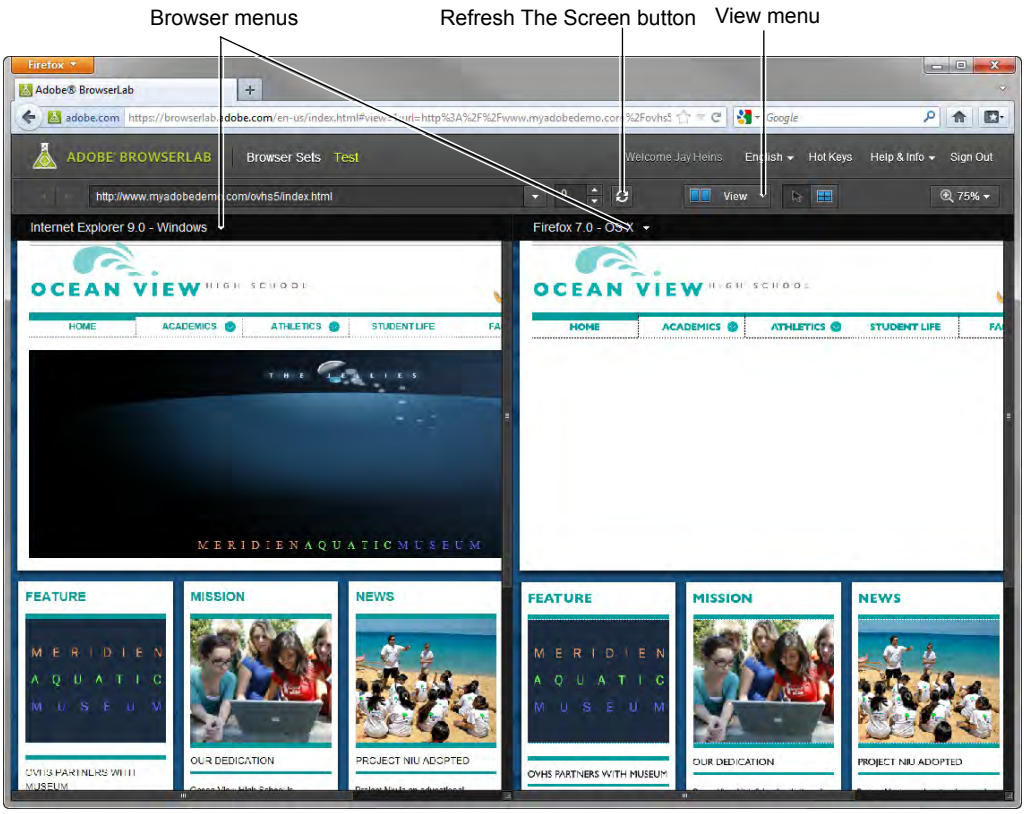

Figure 1 Adobe BrowserLab

BrowserLab is integrated with Dreamweaver CS6. You can test your pages from within Dreamweaver without publishing your pages to a server.

Using BrowserLab in Dreamweaver

BrowserLab lets you preview local web content from within Dreamweaver, without requiring you to post it to a publicly-accessible server first. You can preview files from your local Dreamweaver site.

To use BrowserLab within Dreamweaver:

1. Start Dreamweaver.
2. Open a document that you want to preview in BrowserLab.
3. Select View > Design.
4. Choose Window > Extensions > Adobe BrowserLab.

   The Adobe BrowserLab panel opens.
5. In the Adobe BrowserLab panel, choose Local/Network from the pop-up menu (**Figure 2**).

   The Design view and Local/Network options direct BrowserLab to preview files using the open local file as its source for screen shots.
6. Click the Preview button.
7. When the BrowserLab home page opens, click Start Using BrowserLab (**Figure 3**).

   Note: There may be a Go Back To BrowserLab button instead of a Start Using BrowserLab button if you have used the service before.
8. Enter your e-mail and password and click Sign In (**Figure 4**), or click Learn More to obtain an Adobe ID if you don't already have one.
9. Click the Browser pop-up menu and choose the browser/operating system that you want to test.
10. To compare multiple browser/operating system combinations, choose 1-Up, 2-Up, or Onion Skin from the View pop-up menu (**Figure 1**).

    Observe that the some content blocks in the illustrated web page do not show in the second pane. Make changes to your page until you are satisfied with the way it appears in both panes.
11. Make changes to the page, or to the CSS attached to the page.
12. Click the Refresh The Screenshots button in the BrowserLab application window.

    BrowserLab previews your page without your having to save the local changes first.

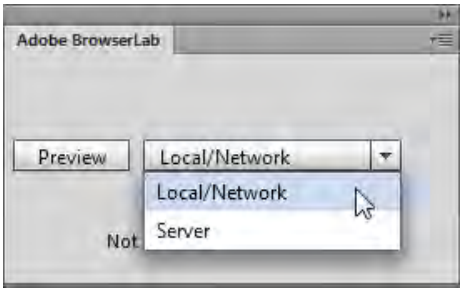

Figure 2 BrowserLab panel

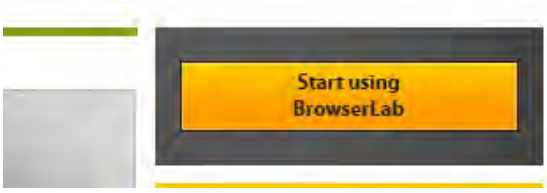

Figure 3 Start Using BrowserLab button

Figure 4 BrowserLab Sign In page

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