

Exporting & Importing Dreamweaver Site Data with .STE Files

Web builders needing to transfer Web site management data (such as passwords, usernames, and file structure) may encounter frustrating problems. If passwords or usernames are lost or changed it can be extremely difficult to set up or repair FTP connections. In the case of an emergency, such as when a computer crashes, or when a new computer replaces an old one, the Web site data needs to be retrieved. Unless paper records are kept, finding and setting up the site again can be stressful.

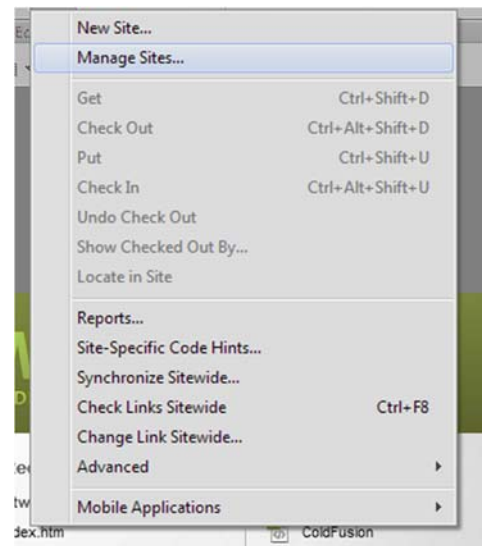
In addition, if it is necessary to give Web editing and access privileges to a new user the setup of that user's computer can be difficult and time consuming.

Dreamweaver has an export function that saves the Web site data to a special file. That file can then be kept as a backup to paper records and used to import the information for a new setup. This document explains how to export and import site data with this special Dreamweaver file.

In this tutorial we will use Dreamweaver CS5.5 set with the Classic user interface. The steps are procedures are very similar in Dreamweaver CS6. Older versions have the ability to import and export this same data, but the panels and screen may look significantly different.

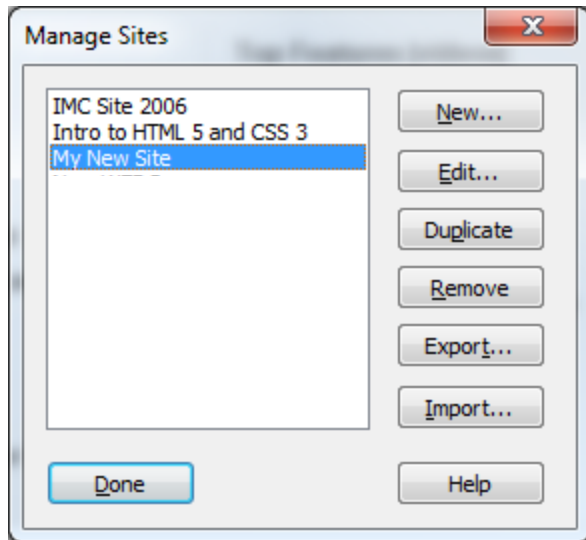
Exporting Site Data

Start Dreamweaver then click Site on the Menu bar. A drop down list will appear. It is illustrated on the right.



Click Manage Sites on the list. The Manage Sites panel, shown on the right, will be displayed.

Highlight the Web site for which you want to export information.

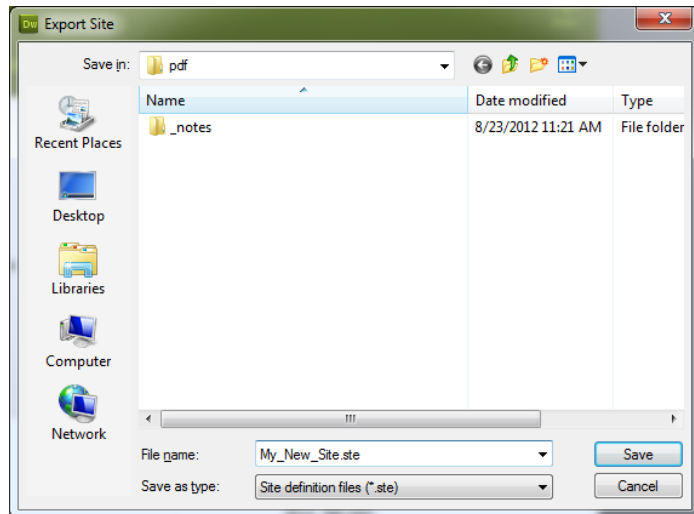


Click the Export button. The Export Site panel, illustrated on the right, will appear.

A suggested name will be displayed in the File Name space. If you wish, you may enter a better name.

Note that the file name extension is .ste. This is important to remember.

Navigate to where you want to save the file.



Click Save.

NOTE: Some people will safely store the .ste file on a thumb drive so that they can retrieve it in an emergency. But, do not save it in a place that is easily accessible by unauthorized persons. This is a very important file.

NOTE: In earlier versions of Dreamweaver you may be asked to choose between two versions of the .ste file. One version will include passwords, the other will not. The one with the passwords will be noted as a "backup." This so-called backup version is almost always the most useful.

Importing Site Data

The site data that is included in the .ste file lists the usernames, passwords, local root folder, server details, and other information that was used to set up the Web site in Dreamweaver. It is easy to use the .ste file to prepare the site on a new computer or to restore it in the case of an emergency, such as a hard drive crash.

Start Dreamweaver.

Click Site on the Menu bar.

Select Manage sites from the drop down list.

Click the Import button. The Import Site navigation panel opens.

Navigate to the location of the .ste file you wish to import.

Click Open.

Dreamweaver will import all the data for the site. This will include usernames, passwords, and site structure.

Check the Set Up

Dreamweaver will have imported the data for the site exactly as it was recorded in the .ste file. This may or may not pose some minor problems, so now you must check to make sure the information is correct.

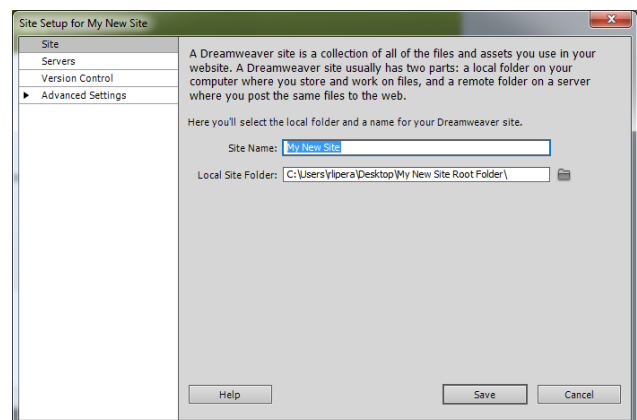
If the Manage Sites panel is not open, click Sites on the Menu bar.

Select your Web site in the Manage sites panel list.

Click the Edit button.

The Site Setup panel, illustrated on the right, will be displayed.

Check to make sure that the local site root folder is correct. For instance, in the original setup the local root folder may be named “My New Web Site” and be in the Documents folder of the computer. But in the new set up you may wish to put the root folder in a new place called “Web Projects.”



Whatever the case may be, make sure that the site root folder is in the proper place on the computer. If you have made changes, click Save.

Now you can download the site files from the host server using Dreamweaver's Get and Put FTP functions. You will have total control over the site in a manner identical to how it was previously.

For more information about Dreamweaver Get, Put, and FTP see our handout "*Setting Up Dreamweaver for FTP and Site Management.*"