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The newest kids on the search block reveal all in the latest Behind the Scenes



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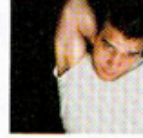
Steve Jenkins builds a website with this brand new CMS platform and Dreamweaver extension



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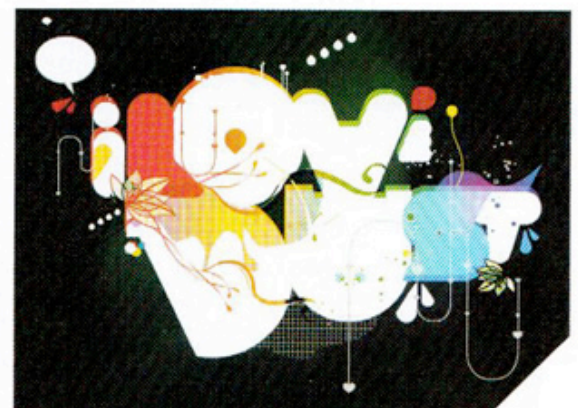
Bring web movies to your blog in this intermediate guide to WordPress publishing



web designer industry

The business of web design

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78 Practical Flash techniques and inspiration for assorted online design in another Tech Tips session

Welcome



Touching down in LA for Adobe MAX was exciting in itself, but did the show live up to the hype? Thankfully the answer is yes... just!

ADOBE KNOWS how to put on a show and its strength is certainly in focusing on what it does best – not straying too far from the formula. This was certainly evident at MAX 2009, which we were lucky enough to attend last month, and encapsulates why it continues to innovate web publishing in the way that it does. For us the biggest news was Flash Player 10.1 hitting smartphones, but in truth there was something for everybody and the previews of technologies we hope to see soon were most inspiring. If you weren't able to make the event in person then we offer up a pretty thorough analysis of what went on from page 40. We'll obviously print all my sightseeing shots around Hollywood next month!

In the meantime we have a special cover focus on WordPress plug-ins to enjoy, featuring our favourite 20 add-ons for powering up your blog. This has to be one

of the coolest things about WordPress, that ability to extend it and enhance the page templates you publish with it. It just shows that rapid blog and site design need not be so limiting and those hoping to get in on the latest trends or offer genuine power can still mix it with the best. In Behind the Scenes this month we have visual search engine maverick Spezify revealing all about its intriguing new service, while tutorials for full Flash sites, real-time banners, Dreamweaver layouts and Mozilla Jetpack ensure a varied selection for all tastes.

Never mind Adobe MAX, there's something for everybody right here – and we hope you will enjoy everything until next time...

Mark Billen
Editor

Contact Us Web Designer can also be found online, offering a number of ways to get involved in the magazine, communicate with us and enjoy a host of additional services.



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Editor's picks

Issue 164 keeps the good stuff coming with this little lot to enjoy...



26 Behind the Scenes with Spezify

Visual search is the name of the game and guest this month Spezify is leading the charge



78 Tech Tips for Flash and general web

Find inspiration and technical tips for your web design and Flash development needs right here!



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Adrian Bridgwater travels to Mauritius to look at how the web trade is finding exotic new homes

THE experts

LINING UP THE FINEST MINDS IN WEB DESIGN FOR YOUR ONLINE EDUCATION



Lubos Buracinsky

TIME-BASED WEB BANNERS WITH DAY AND NIGHT EFFECTS

Lubos follows up his flipclock preloader in issue 162 with another time-inspired Flash effort. This month he shows you how to create cute day and night banners that actually react over 24 hours. Add some sunshine by heading over to page 54 now!



Steve Jenkins

QUICK, CUSTOMISABLE CONTENT WITH KONDUCTOR

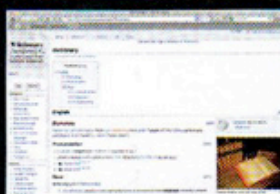
Want to be able to make changes to your website from multiple locations on the fly? Well, Steve shows you how with the Konductor CMS system and Dreamweaver plug-in, creating great templates that can be updated anywhere. Check it out on page 62!



Mark Shufflebottom

BUILDING ENTIRE WEBSITES WITH FLASH (PART TWO)

Most would steer clear of building 100 per cent Flash websites, but not our Mark. He's back with the final part of his latest project and Flash-haters might well avert their eyes! We've added part one to the disc so all can follow, and it starts from page 50.



Sam Hampton-Smith

SUPERCHARGING FIREFOX WITH THE JETPACK API

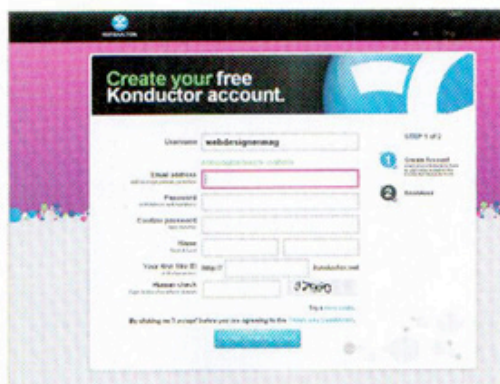
As web designers we tend to be preoccupied with what goes on inside the browser, but Mozilla aims to change that. With the new Jetpack API we can extend Firefox and write add-ons with technologies we already know. Sam explains all from page 66.



YOUR EXPERT

Steve Jenkins is a keen designer and developer, who started creating websites after attending Bournemouth University and loves tackling the most testing of Dreamweaver problems. To see a sample of Steve's work, take a visit to www.thesouthend.co.uk.

Create a custom template for Konductor CMS



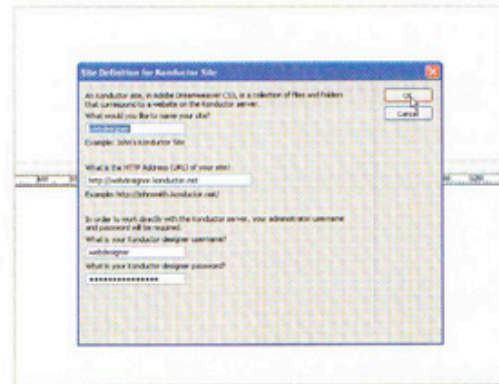
01 Register

The very first step is to head on over to <http://www.konductor.net/register> and register for a Konductor account. Fill out the registration form, pay attention to Your first site ID as this is the name that will be used to reach a konductor site. To finish up click the 'I accept. Create my account' button.



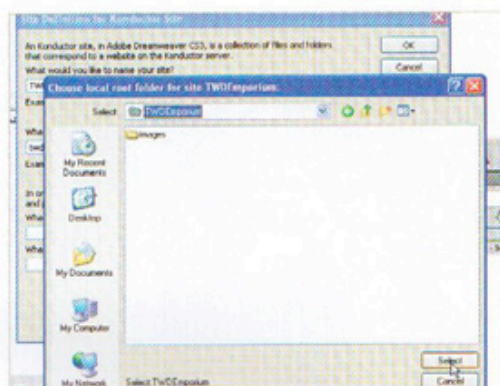
02 Download

Konductor offers two ways to download its Dreamweaver extension and AIR application. These can be downloaded immediately after creating an account. Alternatively, following Konductor email instructions log in and click on the Downloads tab and download both. Double-click the .mxd file to install the Dreamweaver extension.



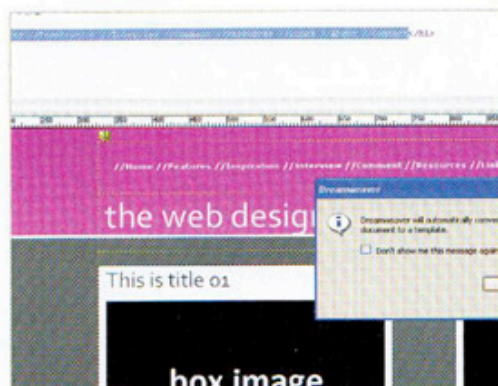
03 Konductor site definition

Once the extension has been installed a new Konductor addition appears in the Site menu. Select Site>New Konductor Site to open the Site Definition dialog window. Now enter the name of the site created in the registration process, the URL, ie <http://webdesignermag.konductor.net> and the username and password created previously.



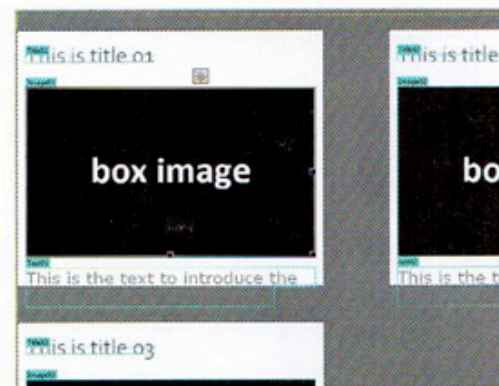
04 Open HTML page

After entering Konductor details press OK and choose the local root folder to place the Konductor website files. If a new folder is to be used, create it before opening the Konductor extension. Now press Select and open the file to be used as the template for the site. Alternatively, create a site from scratch.



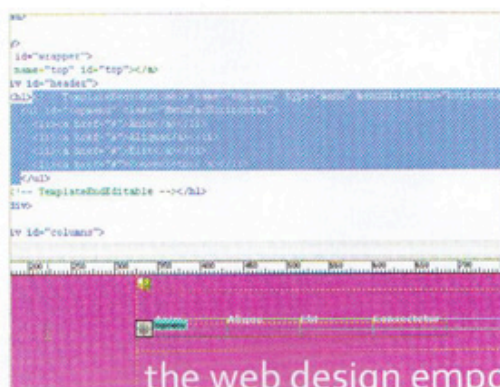
05 Template-ify

The basic HTML file needs to be turned into a Dreamweaver template, so the first step is to add editable regions. First select the element that needs to be editable, ie text, and head to the Insert menu. Now select Template Objects>Editable Region, which will display 'Dreamweaver will automatically convert...', press OK to continue.



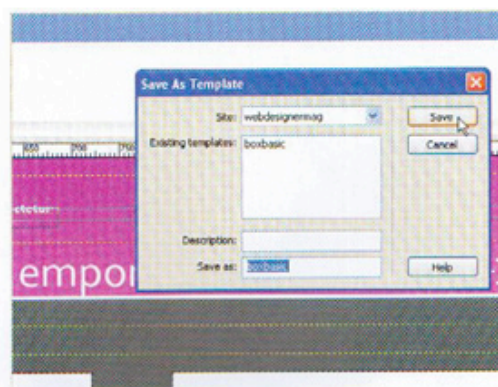
06 Edit region

By default, Dreamweaver will name the New Editable Region EditRegion1. Change the name to a more relevant and recognisable title and press OK. Now repeat the process for all the elements that need to be editable within the template. And again give all elements a relevant and recognisable name.



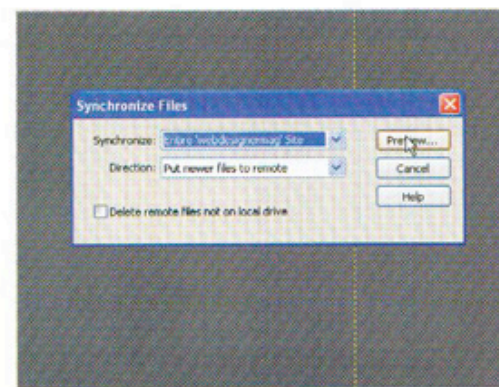
07 Smart regions

Each editable region can be further modified by first clicking in the associated tab. For example, the top menu region we created can be modified by selecting Menu Region. This will then overwrite any existing code. Select menu, a menu direction, menu depth and the new CSS will be added.



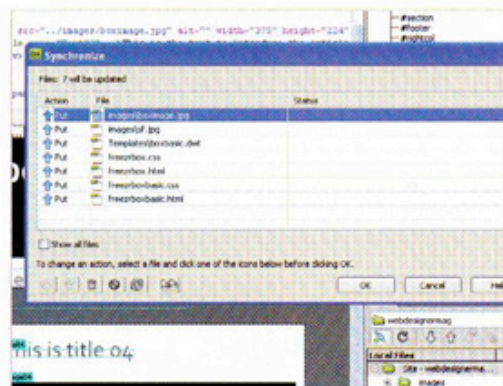
08 Save template

Now select the keyboard shortcut Ctrl/Cmd+S to save the file and activate the Save As Template dialog window. The Site drop-down box will have the name of the Konductor site displayed and the name of the template in the Save as field. Rename and add a description if desired and press Save.



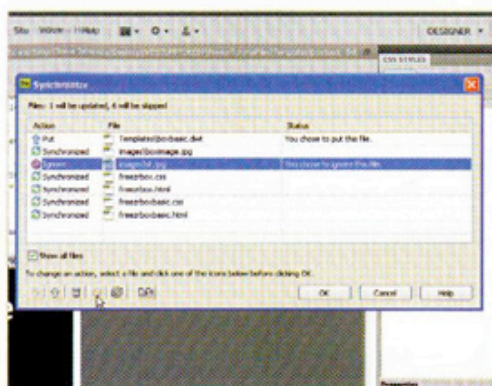
09 Synchronize Sitewide

To connect with Konductor and upload any files, first go to Site>Synchronize Sitewide to open the Synchronize Files window. For first-time users select Entire... from the Synchronize drop-down list and Put newer files to remote... from the Direction drop-down list and press Preview to continue.



10 Start Synchronize

Dreamweaver will now go through the connection process and present a list of the files currently within the site definition. As this is the first time, all the files need to be uploaded. Press OK and the Background File Activity window will display the progress of the files being uploaded until complete.



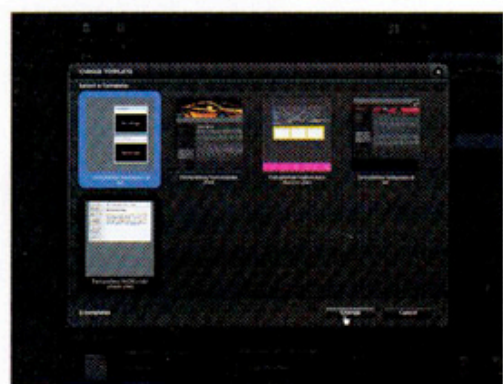
11 Synchronize options

The initial sync process will send all files to the server. Subsequent synchronisation will act slightly differently. Repeat the previous step and only updated files will appear in the list. Click Show all files to view all files. To change a file's status use the buttons in the bottom-left corner, ie Ignore to stop file being synchronised.



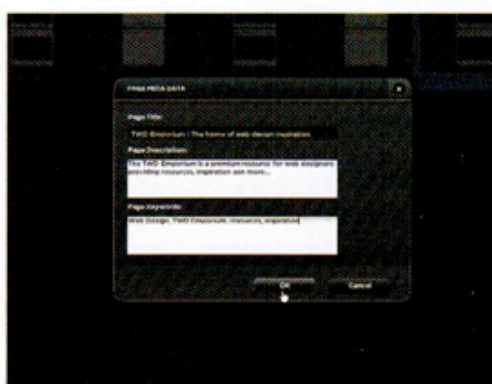
12 Konductor login

All the files within the defined site will now have been uploaded and placed in the appropriate Konductor folder. Now open the Konductor AIR app icon, there should be a shortcut on the desktop. Add the Site Name, Username, Password and press Login to enter the Konductor app and view the home screen.



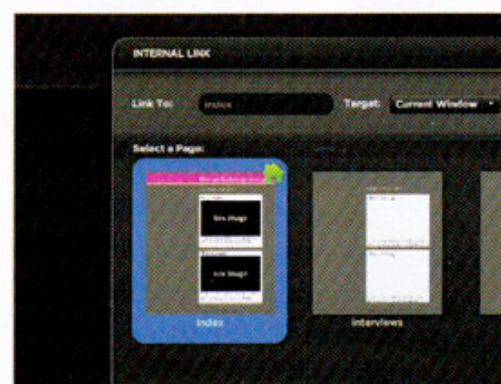
13 Change template

By default, Konductor will be displaying the default templates. Select Homepage and the page properties will appear in the bottom of the screen. To change the template press Change Template, select the appropriate template and press Change. Apply to all pages. To preview the new-look homepage, hit the Preview icon.



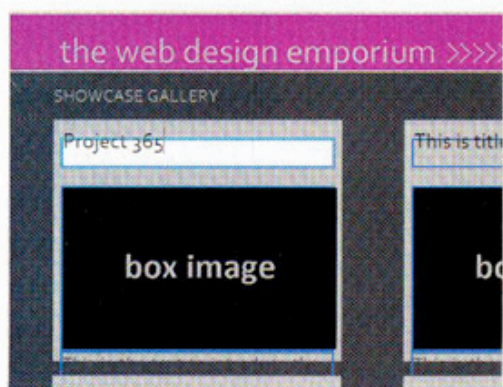
14 Homepage

The homepage can be modified to suit your individual wishes; first select the page name, change to index and press Apply. Now click Page Meta Data, add a page title, page description, page keywords and press OK. Now click the Edit icon in the bottom-right corner to start editing the template.



15 Edit menu text

At the top of the template file is the menu text ready to be edited. Select the text of the first link and the Properties window will display all the various options. Click Internal to display all the pages currently available with the Konductor site. Select a page and press Apply. Repeat this process for the links in the menu.



16 Changing text

All the editable regions will be outlined in blue to indicate what is available to edit. To edit an element click the appropriate box and the Properties window will appear at the bottom of the screen. If the editable region is text, simply type in the replacement text. Now click Save And Preview followed by Preview in Browser to view changes.



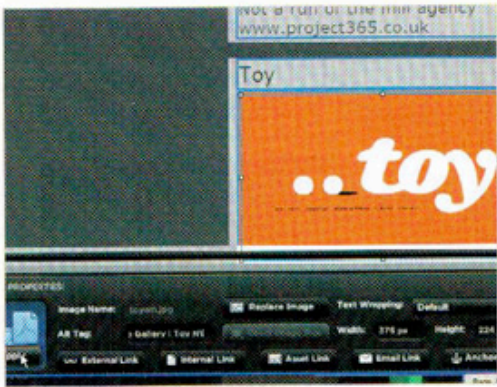
17 Upload assets

Before changing the default image to the actual image, the image needs to be uploaded to the Assets section of Konductor. Close the Edit window and click the Assets button on the main window. Now click the Upload Asset icon, locate the desired asset, select and press Open. The asset is then uploaded to the Assets section ready to use.



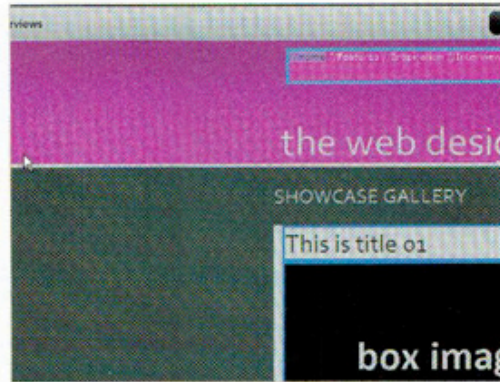
18 Replace image

Now click All Pages, select the index file and double-click or press Edit in the bottom-right corner to open the edit window. Select an image to activate Image Properties. Click Replace Image and the Asset Library will appear, select the desired asset and press Insert to add the new image. Now press Save changes to save the page.



19 Image properties

After an image has been put in place, Konductor allows users to perform modifications. Add an Alt tag for better accessibility, click External Link to add a link to an external URL and call up Text Wrapping if text needs to be aligned next to an image. If an image has been resized, click Reset Image size to go back to the original dimensions.



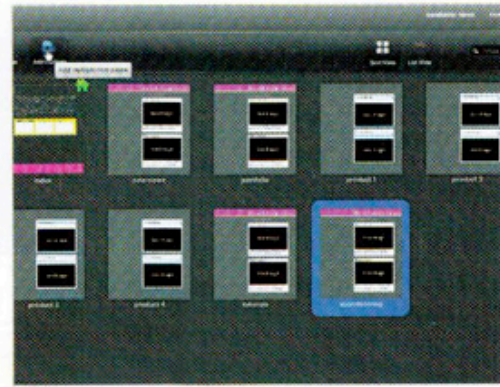
20 Existing pages

By default, Konductor adds a number of existing pages. These should have the new template applied. If this is the case then some work may be needed, eg in step 15 the menu text was edited with links added. However, this will only apply to one page, all existing pages will need updating. Select, click Edit and add links as before.



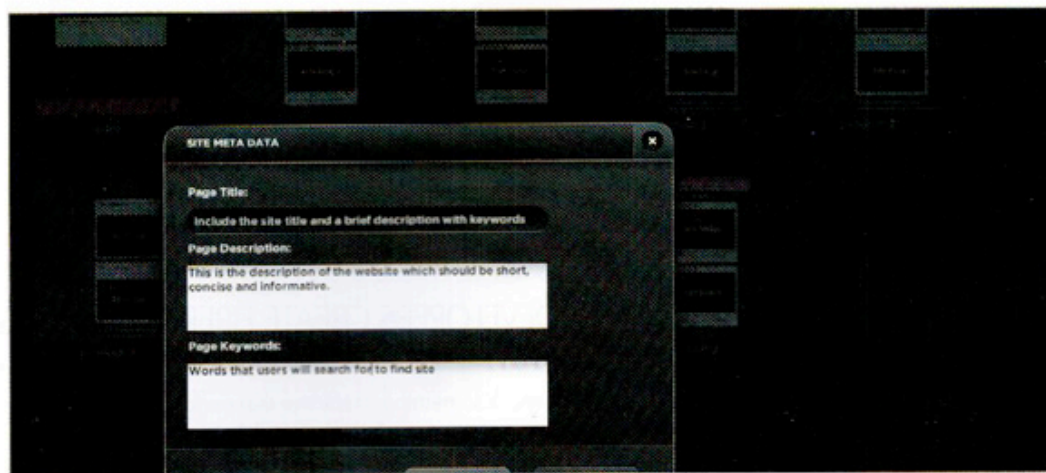
21 Add new pages

By definition the additional pages may not be enough for all the pages needed in a bespoke site. To add a single new page, select All Pages and click the Add Page icon. Select the desired template from the Add Page dialog window, give it a new page name and press Add to add to the current collection.



22 Add multiple pages

Adding multiple pages is very similar to adding a single page. First, click the Add Multiple icon to open the related window. Now use the up and down arrows to choose the desired number of pages. Give the pages a name, ie product, select the desired template and press Add. The pages will be added and named eg, product 1, product 2.



23 Save and Preview

Now populate the new pages by selecting and clicking Edit. Once the text and images have been modified press Save Changes, wait and press Preview in Browser to see the finished page. Finally, close down, select All Pages and add Site Meta Data to make the site more search-engine friendly.

IN DETAIL

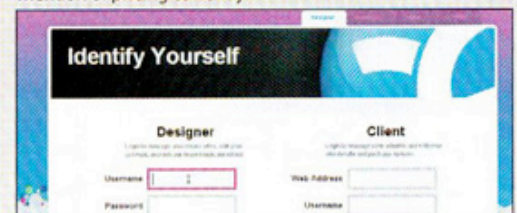
Managing Konductor sites more effectively

The Konductor content management platform has many faces. Here we look at how to set up and manage Design and Client accounts

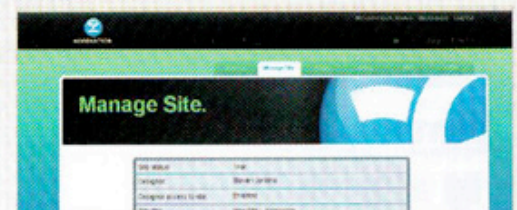
THE KONDUCTOR CONTENT management platform is a multi-talented beast and provides a lot more than we have touched on in the tutorial. Principally the platform was built for designers to create templates that can be edited by multiple online users. The current Dreamweaver extension effectively provides the upload link between the local files and the online Konductor app. The Adobe AIR application is where the fun really begins. This allows users to take control of content without destroying the beautifully created Dreamweaver templates. Users can simply keep adding new templates to create a fully customised bespoke web solution.

However, it is away from the two design components that there is greater control over Konductor. Once a Konductor account has been created users can log in as a Designer or Client. The Designer login allows users to manage current sites, create new ones and edit account details. Once logged in users see a list of sites which give direct access to the URL, webdesigner.konductor.net and its status. Users can send access information directly via email to other users. There is an Edit button that also allows account holders to change details. In addition to the listing there is a Create a New Site button. Click this and users can add a new title and add details of the Master Administrator, this will need to be someone with a Konductor account. This will create a new site with the new prefix and Konductor domain, ie mynewsite.konductor.net. The new site will currently be empty as no Dreamweaver templates have been initiated. So, users need to head back to Dreamweaver to create a New Konductor Site with the appropriate details. Then it's a matter of creating the appropriate templates and synchronising with Konductor. Users can then log in and start adding pages.

The Client login is the administrators account area. Here administrators can edit profiles, check history and delete accounts. There is the option to Create a New Admin directly from within the account area. Manage Site allows for the Site Title to be modified and the option to Set Google Analytics Script. Plus, this is where all billing information will appear when the website is fully active. Unfortunately, there is no mention of pricing currently.



Log in as a Designer to get access to manage current sites and create new sites



Use the Client account to manage administrators and site details