

Adding JavaScript to a Web Page

Webmaster Mini-Lesson

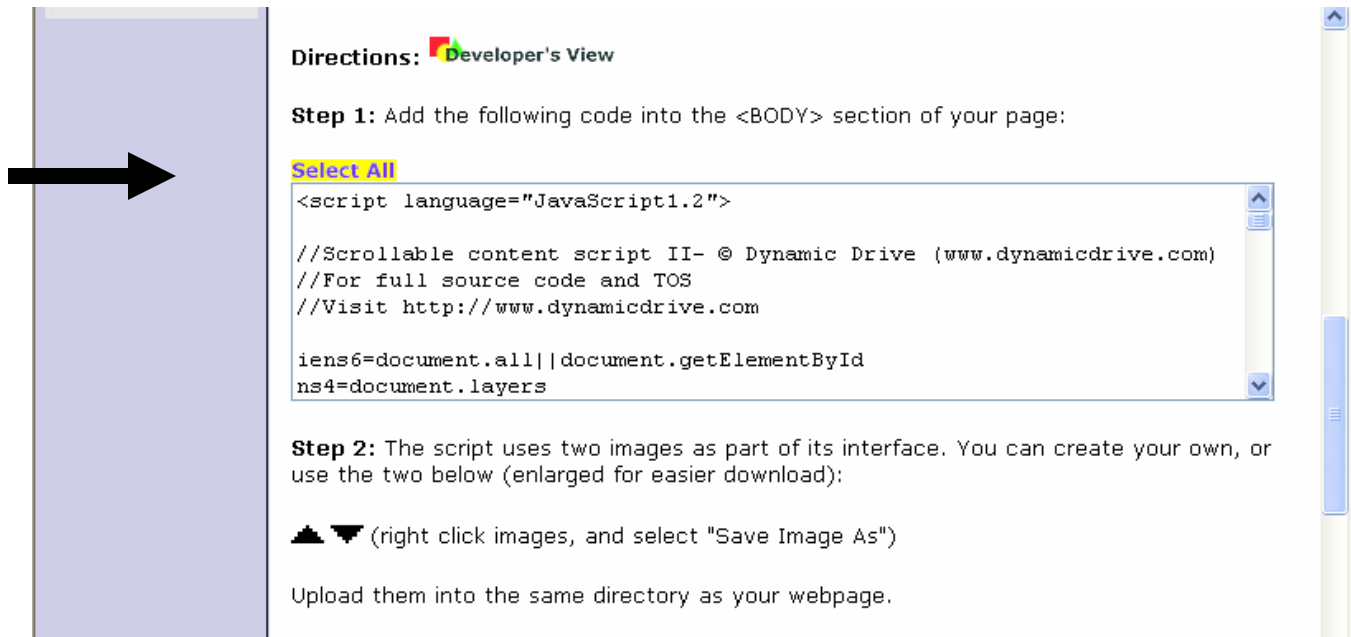
JavaScript is a scripting language developed by Netscape to enable Web authors to design interactive sites. Although it shares many of the features and structures of the full Java programming language, it was developed independently. JavaScript can interact with HTML source code, enabling Web authors to spice up their sites with dynamic content. JavaScript is endorsed by a number of software companies and is an open language that anyone can use without purchasing a license. It is supported by recent browsers from Netscape and Microsoft, though Internet Explorer supports only a subset, which Microsoft calls *Jscript*.

You can easily find JavaScript online or in books that **the author of the script gives you permission to use**. All you need to do is highlight the text, copy it and paste it into the Code View of Dreamweaver. This is sometimes a two-step process, since some scripts have a component that belongs in the HEAD section and a component that belongs in the BODY section. Most scripts can easily be customized to meet your needs. Two excellent sites that offer free scripts are **DynamicDrive** (www.dynamicdrive.com), **JavaFile** (www.javafile.com), The JavaScript Source (<http://javascript.internet.com>) and **HTML Goodies** (www.htmlgoodies.com).

ACTIVITY ONE (Interactive Scrollbox):

1. Create a folder on your desktop in which to save your work.
2. Launch Dreamweaver (or any web editor) and switch to **Code View**.
3. Launch your web browser and go to <http://www.dynamicdrive.com/dynamicindex11/scrollc2.htm> .

4. Click the yellow-highlighted **Select All** (under *Directions, Step 1*). Press **Ctrl – C** to copy this code to the Windows Clipboard.



The screenshot shows a web page in a browser window. The page title is "Directions: Developer's View". Under "Step 1", there is a text area containing JavaScript code. The text "Select All" is highlighted in yellow above the code. A black arrow points from the left edge of the page to the highlighted text. The code in the text area is as follows:

```
<script language="JavaScript1.2">

//Scrollable content script II- © Dynamic Drive (www.dynamicdrive.com)
//For full source code and TOS
//Visit http://www.dynamicdrive.com

iens6=document.all||document.getElementById
ns4=document.layers
```

Below the code, "Step 2" explains that the script uses two images as part of its interface. It includes two small images: an upward-pointing arrowhead and a downward-pointing arrowhead. The text says: "(right click images, and select 'Save Image As')". Below this, it says "Upload them into the same directory as your webpage."

5. Switch to your Dreamweaver page. Position your cursor in the BODY section, then press **Ctrl- V** to paste the code.
6. **Save** the page in your desktop folder.
7. Switch back to the Dynamic Drive code page and complete **Step 2** (saving the little “up” and “down” arrowhead images in your folder).
8. Switch back to your Dreamweaver page and press **F12** to preview the page. The only thing left to do is to change the message inside the box!
9. In your Dreamweaver page, find the section of code that states **<!--INSERT CONTENT HERE-->**. Overtyping the appropriate text (**in black in Dreamweaver**) in this section and tell all the news of the day!

NOTE: You can insert this “dynamic scroller” anywhere on your page by first creating a table or layer, and then pasting the code inside.

ACTIVITY TWO (Status Bar Scrolling Text):

1. Create a new page in Dreamweaver and save it in your desktop folder.
2. Go to <http://javascript.internet.com/scrolls/classic.html#source> on the Web.
3. Follow the web page directions to create a scrolling message on the Status Bar. (This is one of those scripts that requires some code in the HEAD and some code in the BODY.)

ACTIVITY THREE:

Visit the DynamicDrive site (www.dynamicdrive.com) and preview some of the scripts in the **IMAGES** categories.