

Flash: Introduction

Lesson 1: Introduction

Introduction to Flash 5.0

What exactly is Flash? Macromedia Flash is an industry leading tool that supplies its users with animations, presentations, and mind blowing websites, while doing this at a constant low bandwidth. This may get you to asking some questions.

1. Who says it is the industry leader?

Macromedia Flash player numbers indicate that it is used by more than 386 million people. This number translates to mean that if you have Flash in your website, over 97.4% of your online audience will be able to see it using the ([see http://www.macromedia.com/software/flashplayer/](http://www.macromedia.com/software/flashplayer/) for downloading information). Another reason why it is an industry leader is because it is included in all the most popular browsers, so anyone with a new version of Netscape or Internet Explorer is guaranteed to be able to view Flash movies on the Web.

2. Why do users love it so much?

Web users began to love how the net could start to jump out at them. Flash movies are very engaging because they download quickly and can be extremely interactive. Flash builds curiosity and gives the user more of an urge to view your site. Couple this with an educational value and Flash can be very advantageous to users and instructors.

Before learning how to use Flash it is important to see what is possible with this interactive tool. The following are a list of sites that really have a standout feel to them.

- <http://www.newgrounds.com>
This is an alternative site that gives surfers the opportunity to play Flash games and watch Flash movies. One of the great features about this site is that most of the Flash that is contained on the site is submitted by fans of the site.
- <http://www.egomedia.com>
This is a very impressive Flash site that really is indicative of the possibilities of Flash. It has been down lately though so I advise to keep checking with this site.
- <http://www.flashfactory.nl/>
This is a site that offers and displays E-learning, Multimedia presentation, and Internet Solutions done in Flash. The entire interface is done in flash and is very user friendly.
- <http://www.oceanflash.com/index2.html>

This is company that does Flash and HTML design. This interface is also done entirely in Flash.

- <http://iitclass.bloomu.edu/sprosl2/flash.html>

CHECK THIS SITE OUT!!!! If you really need a great idea for a Flash project then check out this site by IIT's own, Shawn Rosler. He used graphics, backgrounds, pictures, and music to tailor this simple but interesting site to his own personality.



How many interesting Flash sites can you find? Search the Internet for Flash driven sites that you find visably appealing and also search for sites were Flash was used but was not needed or is out of place.