**Working with Images on WIX**

Adapted from University of Washington, *Web Design and Development.*

Today we’ll work on importing graphics into your web sites. You can use either digital cameras or the Internet to acquire images (remember that images on the web are protected by copyright law and cannot be used unless written permission is given by the owner of the copyright, or if the image is in the public domain).

FYI: When scanning images or setting the quality settings on your digital camera, remember to think about the total number of pixels you are capturing and what final size you want the image to appear on the web page. It is a good idea to capture an image that has more pixels than you need, since a graphics program can be used to make the image smaller, but can't make the image larger without lowering the quality.

WIX, again, has made things TOO easy for you and takes a lot of guessing out of the game. Nonetheless, like with all things web site, we will do some reading to better understand what goes on behind the scenes.

First, choose three images you might use or want to work with. **Upload them in your *images* subfolder in WIX**. We’ll practice with these by placing them on your home page with a picture size of 450 x 450 pixels, and then smaller thumbnail versions.

#### **Practice resizing an image**

Before placing images on your web page, you should first resize them to the exact number of pixels in which they will appear on the page.

1. Skim/read the introduction to resizing images in the online document [Resizing a Digital Image](http://www.digicamhelp.com/processing-photos/basic-editing/resizing/). Our computers in DHC002 have MSPaint as well as Adobe Products, but use whatever program you have. The process is largely transferable. (but let me know here if you run into problems).
2. Resize one of your images to create a 450 pixel wide viewable image (make sure that the “Maintain aspect ratio” button is clicked).
3. Now try again, but this time resize the image to a 72 pixel wide thumbnail image (most screens display 72 pixels per inch).

#### **Practice cropping an image**

While the resize image function is a useful function, sometimes you will want more control over how the size of the image is reduced. The crop function allows you to cut out a portion of the image or change the image dimensions without distorting the image.

1. Skim/ read the introduction to cropping images in the online document “[Image Cropping 101](https://www.techsmith.com/blog/image-cropping-101-basics/).” There’s a more artsy article that takes a more “every picture tells a story” kind of angle, at the [FStoppers](https://fstoppers.com/originals/two-great-reasons-every-photographer-should-crop-their-photos-227448/) site.
2. Using the same original image from the previous activity, use the crop function along with the resize function to create a thumbnail image that is 72 x 72 pixels in size and a viewable image that is 450 x 450 pixels in size. Experiment with cropping the image in different ways to create a different look.

#### **Saving an image**

Now that you have cropped and resized your image, save it in a suitable web format. Images with gradations in color or many different colors, such as photographs, are best saved in jpeg format.

1. Skim/read an article on WIX’s own blog site to learn about how to streamline websites for easy loading (“[10 Best Tips for Website Speed Optimization](https://www.wix.com/blog/2019/04/website-speed-optimization/)”) . Save the image you cropped and resized in the previous activity as a jpeg. Experiment with different quality settings and then observe the resulting file sizes and image quality. Try and determine what compression setting will achieve the lowest file size while still producing an image of adequate quality.

WIX, by the way, will take care of compressing photos to the best possible options, but you should still save photos in the size you want.

If you haven’t yet, create copies of the images to save. Then do the following:

1. First, crop and resize each of the three original images once more to create viewable images that are 450 x 450 pixels in size.
2. Next, crop and resize each of the three images to create thumbnail images that are about 150 or so pixels wide, and ones that are the standard 72 pixels wide. You’ll want to play with this sizing—WIX will seem to make pictures all the same size in your images folder, but when they are uploaded, they are different sizes.
3. Export these in jpeg file format. Once you are done, you will have 9 images.

## **Adding Images to Your Web Page**

Once you’ve got your site open, go to a page to add images—or start a new one to give yourself more room to play around with. Add the images to see how they load. You’ll see a WIX panel allowing you to change sizes and positions of images, so experiment here too.

* **Q:** What happens (that you might not want to happen) if you shrink or try to enlarge the photo directly in WIX?
* **Q:** What are some drawbacks of working with images in the WIX platform?
* **Q:** What size works best for uploading images?

**Thumbnails**

Once you have added the images in the size you want (which for me was NOT the 72!), the next step is to create a link from each smaller image to the larger, viewable image…again WIX makes this easy: with the image open, click on “Settings,” then the arrow for “When an Image is Clicked.” You can choose to make it a pop-up, which means your image will appear on a new page on a black background.

* **Q:** What size do you find works best for smaller “thumbnail” images?
* **Q:** Can you offer advice to the class about doing something more/else with images? How else or where else can you link images? Play around with some WIX features!