

Chapter 17: Animations and Text FX

Animations are made with stationary GIF images that simulate motion. The effect is achieved by repeating several slightly altered images to give the appearance of motion. These images look stationary while you are working on the page. The images become animated when viewed in *Preview* or on the internet. Web Studio's *Ani-maker* command in the *Create* tab allows you to create animated signs, banner ads, presentations, and more.

The *Text FX* command creates text that spins, zooms, and fades on or across the page.

Creating Animations

When you create animations, you first prepare the objects that you will use in the animation and then set the timing in the *Animations Studio* dialog. The timing is calibrated in tenths of a second. So 1 is one tenth, 10 is one second, and 100 is ten seconds. The range of timing is from 1 tenth to 20 seconds.

You cannot add sound to animations because sound will stop the animation from working in browsers.

Too many animations will slow down the loading time of your site.

Prepare objects for animation

Regardless of their appearance, all graphics on the web are rectangles. For instance, a cartoon is an image on a colored rectangle background. When the background is the same color as the page background, you only see the cartoon image on the internet.

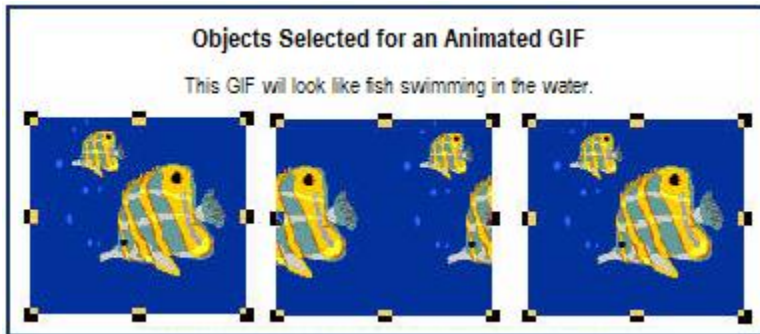
To keep the animation looking smooth and proportionate, the *Ani-Maker* makes all of the graphic objects the same size when it creates the animation. It uses the size of the first selected object to resize the others in the group. Therefore, make sure your objects are the same size or at least the same size ratio or they will appear distorted in the final animation. Crop images or resize them and then resample them to adjust sizes. Also keep in mind that depending on your page background, you may see the rectangle backgrounds of the images.



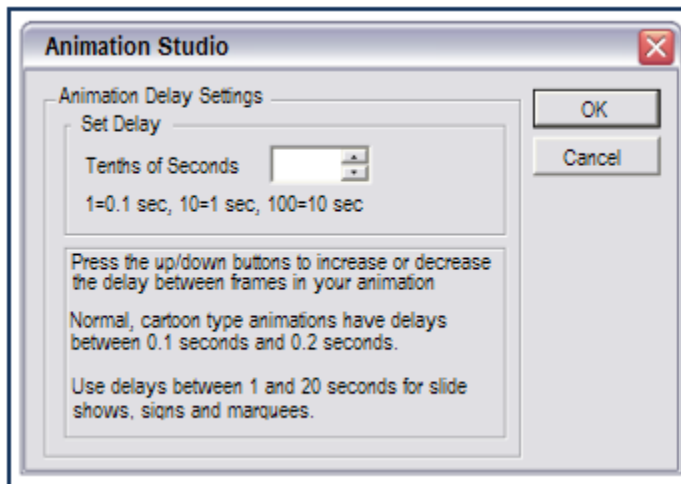
If you use photos as the objects for animation, the animation will have the look of a continual slide show on the page. See the *Slide Show* chapter for the different slide shows that you can create with Web Studio.

Make an animated GIF

- Put the objects for the animation on the page.
- Resize the objects to make them the same size or size ratio.
- *Select* the objects in the order that you want them to appear. Remember to hold the *shift* key down while you *select* them.



- Click on *Create > Animations > Ani-Maker*. The *Animation Studio* dialog comes up.



- Fill in the *Set Delay* value. The dialog contains suggested delay times.
- Click *OK*.
- To see the animation in action, click on *Home > Preview > Preview Page* or any other *Preview Page* command.

Insert animations from a file

- Click on *Insert > Media > Flash*. The *Windows Open* dialog appears.
- Choose the animated GIF file that you want to add and *click Open*.
- The animation is added to the page.
- Click on the *Preview Page* command to see the animation in action.

Editing Animations

Change the images in the animation

The *Take Apart Object* command allows you to add, subtract, and reorder the graphics of an animation that you make in Web Studio.

- *Right-click* over the animation.
- Choose *Take Object Apart* from the *Selected Object Menu*.
- Add, delete, or reorder the graphics.
- *Select* them in the order that you want them to appear and then *click* on the *Ani-Maker* command to put the animation back together.
- Fill in the *Set Delay* value.
- *Click OK*.
- *Click* on the *Preview Page* command to see the animation in action.

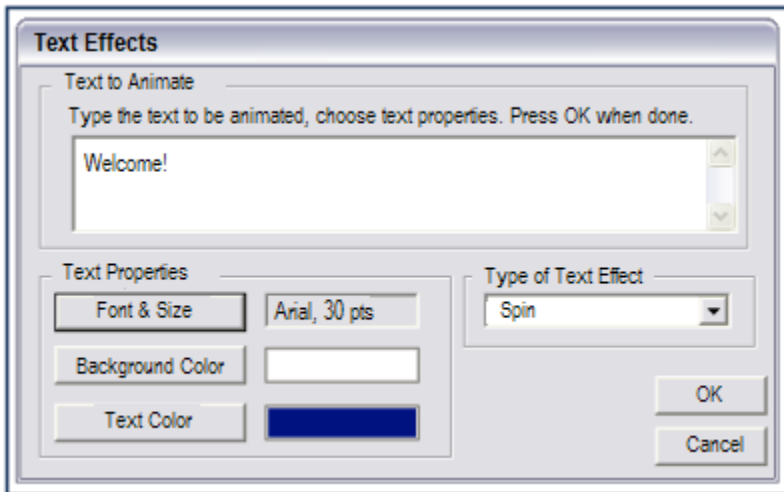
Change animation delay

- *Double-click* to bring up the *Animation Studio* dialog.
- Enter a new *Set Delay* value and *click OK*.

Creating Text FX

The *Text FX* command in the *Create* tab enables you to apply animation effects to text such as fade, zoom, and spin. The text that you want to animate is entered into the *Text Effects* dialog instead of a text object. The effects are displayed when a visitor opens the webpage.

- Click on *Create > Text Effects > Text FX*. This opens the *Text Effects* dialog.



- Type in the text that you want to animate.
- Choose the *Font & Size*, *Background Color* and *Text Color*.
- Click on the arrow to display the *Type of Text Effects* available. Choose the effect.
- Click *OK* when you are done. This places a *Flash* object on the page.



- To see the effect in action, click on *Home > Preview > Page* or any other *Preview Page* command.