

WEB PUBLISHING SOFTWARE

# Advancing to the leading edge with WYSIWYG Cascading Style Sheets and easy-to-use Dynamic HTML

## GoLive CyberStudio 3.1 Professional Edition

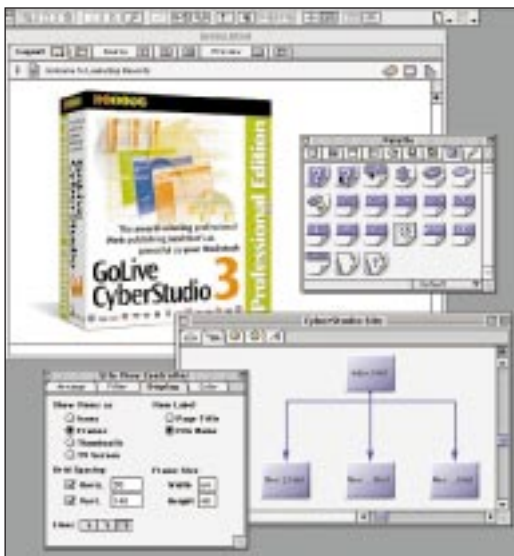
BY PETER DUDAR

IT'S NOT EASY TO STAY ON THE LEADING EDGE IN WYSIWYG Web publishing — the Macintosh application *CyberStudio*, which was introduced just a year ago, has since been upgraded three times. GoLive *CyberStudio 3.1 Professional Edition* now supports dynamic HTML and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), catching up with Macromedia *Dreamweaver* and NetObjects *Fusion 3* for Windows.

### SOURCE EDITOR

*Dreamweaver's* “roundtrip” HTML enables you to use a visual window and text editor simultaneously. *Fusion's* pages have to be converted to HTML after the fact. *CyberStudio's* approach is near-simultaneous — you click back and forth from Layout Editor to Source Editor, using tabs in

from top:  
 Toolbar;  
 Cyberstudio 3's  
 Main Window,  
 Layout tab selected;  
 Palette, WebObjects  
 tab selected;  
 re-designed Site  
 Window, Site tab  
 selected;  
 new Site View  
 Controller, Display  
 tab selected;



the Main Window. Also, *CyberStudio* has appropriated *Dreamweaver's* selection tracking technique. With selection tracking, items remain highlighted when switching from layout to source and vice versa. *CyberStudio* has a more sophisticated internal source editor than *Dreamweaver*.

Source code aside, *CyberStudio* wants to be the *QuarkXPress* of the Web — to be used by visually attuned art directors and designers. In layout view, *CyberStudio* provides pixel-precise control with an ease that surpasses *Dreamweaver* and is near-comparable to *Fusion*. Users can group, align and distribute objects in this latest upgrade — and finally, the application has rulers.

Version 3's DHTML component scheme enables storage

and re-use of repetitive content, somewhat like *Fusion's* MasterBorders and *Dreamweaver's* Libraries. Unlike *Fusion* though, *CyberStudio* still has no draw tools for rendering shapes internally. And unlike *Dreamweaver*, you still can't work on the content of a frame within a frameset display.

*CyberStudio 3.1* exploits integrated Apple technologies like ColorSync, AppleScript, WebObjects and QuickTime. You can assign ColorSync ICC profiles for JPEG images, view embedded profiles and link to external ColorSync profiles. (Viewers need ColorSync calibrated monitors to appreciate this.) The application allows you to edit Quicktime 3.0 HREF tracks and assign video effects to existing movies.

Multiple sites can be open at a time. And *CyberStudio* now provides extensive undo commands.

### SITE WINDOW

Palettes seemed to multiply onscreen exponentially in earlier versions of *CyberStudio*. GoLive has now dealt with this by redesigning and streamlining its site management tool. The tabbed Site Window integrates transparently with the Finder, so you manipulate physical files instead of aliases. When you add, move or rename files in the Site window, the same happens in the Finder. All page links are updated automatically throughout the site. After moving files in the Finder, you click an Update button in the Toolbar, and the Site window is then appropriately revised. *CyberStudio* flags errors that originate in the Finder and lets you update the files using the Site Window's integrated Link Inspector. Also, you can conduct a site-wide search-and-replace, using colors and font sets in your criteria.

Elements can be dragged onto your pages directly from the Finder. *CyberStudio* then adds them to the Site Window, with relevant images, plug-in media, addresses, URLs, colors, and font sets. You can use GoLive's Point & Shoot technology for referencing. To restore an image link, for instance, you just command-click the placeholder on the page and drag your cursor to the image file in the Site Window.

In top-down, you map your site with page icons before generating content (an approach premiered by *Fusion*). *CyberStudio 3's* version, integrated with the Site Window, is more sophisticated and customizable. You can create a 'snapshot' of your site with thumbnail page icons. The new Site View Controller provides display and filter options. The Site Navigator, a miniaturized site view, helps you find your way through complex sites.

You can now connect to your Web server via FTP from a split-screen view within the Site Window. You can drag-drop files to and from your server; and directly edit individual pages on the server. Also, *CyberStudio* incrementally uploads and downloads only those files changed in your site.

Conveniently, the Palette, Inspector and Color Palette windows can be shrunk to icons by dragging them to the edge of the screen.

## WYSIWYG CASCADING STYLE SHEETS

To deal with the fact that HTML layouts are re-interpreted by different browsers and operating systems, *CyberStudio 3*'s new Layout View Controller emulates *Explorer 4*, plus versions 3 and 4 of *Navigator*. Better still, it can interpret them in Windows mode — for instance, it scales up fonts appropriately.

The primary palettes in *CyberStudio*'s CSS1 interface are the Stylesheet Window (where you can also link to external style sheets), plus the CSS Selector Inspector where you customize typography and text positioning. Supported CSS variants include reformatted standard HTML tags (tag selectors), word processor type styles (classes), and styles that you embed into unique elements (IDs). You can create effects that otherwise require images — with negative leading, for example, one line of type can artfully overlap another.

You can also overlap elements with Floating Layer Boxes that reside above the normal flow of HTML. Type can be input directly in the boxes and all other normal HTML content, including, tags, images, tables, multimedia elements and layout grids, can be added with drag-n-drop. You precisely position and overlap layers in a layout by simply dragging layer icons from *CyberStudio*'s Palette to your page. A small icon called a floating box marker (similar to *Dreamweaver*'s) indicates the insertion point. You input properties such as absolute position and stacking order with the contextual Floating Box Inspector.

## DYNAMIC HTML ANIMATION

Although *CyberStudio 3*'s DHTML tools rely heavily on CSS and JavaScript, animation scripting is either automatic or provided as script-based actions. As in *Dreamweaver*, *CyberStudio* lets you animate layers with a Timeline Editor. You define the duration and intermediate positions of a layer by inserting keyframes on time tracks, selecting a keyframe, then dragging your layer to a new position in your layout. *CyberStudio* does the in-betweening. You can record a freehand path by simply dragging a layer in the layout. When you get into multiple layer animation, a Floating Box Controller lets you temporarily show, hide, lock and unlock layers, as well as bring a layer to the foreground. By manipulating the stacking order of layers, you can simulate complex relative motion — for example, by having one box revolve around another.

## JAVASCRIPT ACTIONS

Basic DHTML objects, including date and time stamps, mouse rollover button images, components for repetitive content, URL popups, and user-selectable action items, can be dragged-n-dropped from the Palette.

To create a mouse rollover button, for instance, you Point & Shoot from the tabbed Button Inspector to your source files, identifying “main,” “over” and “click” images;

use Point & Shoot to link to a page or anchor; then select a trigger event, such as a “mouse click,” plus a response action. Similarly, you can set up a graphic that changes when a cursor passes over it, initiate an animation sequence, open specified windows, reveal something on the page, or automatically direct a client to pages optimized for his browser. *CyberStudio 3.1*'s fully-documented Actions Development Kit lets you organize its fully editable Actions into customized, hierarchical submenus. Three action types are included: conditional actions, container actions and standard actions. The timeout conditional action, for instance, will run a subsequent action at a certain timed interval. Using container actions, you can assign more than one action to trigger simultaneously based on particular conditions. (Note that no current WYSIWYG application outputs 100% reliable CSS and DHTML.)

GoLive's current manual totals a staggering 709 pages (the accompanying WebObjects manual is 135 pages). It needs a more accurate and comprehensive index. And if terms like “Master Components” are used repeatedly on the product box and in promotional material, then they should be in the manual. Online help can be done well — *Dreamweaver* has shown that. But *CyberStudio* has none.

## WHY CYBERSTUDIO?

Net Objects *Fusion 3* for Windows, Macromedia *Dreamweaver 1.2* and GoLive *CyberStudio 3.1* can all legitimately claim to be leading edge. *Fusion* is the easiest to use. Because of the way it implements HTML, it's been considered a great comping tool, but dicey online. But *Fusion* (and *FrontPage*) supports database integration, a trend in business-oriented sites, and integrates with *FileMaker* in its upcoming Mac release. WYSIWYG code generated by *Fusion* and *CyberStudio* is table-based and consequently not the cleanest — for absolutely efficient code you have to deal directly with HTML. If you're up to speed and want to be able to work with a near-WYSIWYG window and HTML editor open simultaneously, *Dreamweaver* is worth serious consideration. For Mac users, *GoLive CyberStudio 3.1 Professional Edition* delivers the most sophisticated, comprehensive and current set of features overall. It's the most highly customizable application, and accommodates users with widely differing levels of expertise. And GoLive is committed to the MacOS, exploiting its technologies in depth.

## UPGRADES AND PURCHASES

Purchasers of *CyberStudio 2* after January 1, can upgrade at [www.golive.com](http://www.golive.com) for free. Prior purchasers can upgrade for \$99. The introductory price for GoLive *CyberStudio 3.1 Professional Edition* is \$299 (US) (list price \$549.00 US). GoLive has introduced a *CyberStudio Personal Edition* for \$99 (US), and provides an upgrade path to the *Professional Edition*. GoLive Systems can be reached at 800-554-6638. \*