

Dynamic Content in Flash

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Presentation 2
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Introduction

- Web pages should separate content and design.
 - Dynamic content + interactive design.
- Content can be stored in databases or flat files.
- Our solution: Flash ActionScript 2 with PHP/MySQL backend.

Published Flash Content

- Exported as “Flash Movie”
- Text boxes can contain...
 - Static Text
 - Dynamic Text
 - Input Text
- Static content is inefficient and time consuming
- Websites need to use dynamic content

Basic ActionScript (AS) Syntax

- Properties
 - *i.e.*, `entry_txt.text = “This is text.”;`
- Methods
 - *i.e.*, `stop();`
- Events
 - *i.e.*, `on(release)`
- Functions
 - *i.e.*, `function showImage(){
 // code here...
}`

AS Predefined Functions

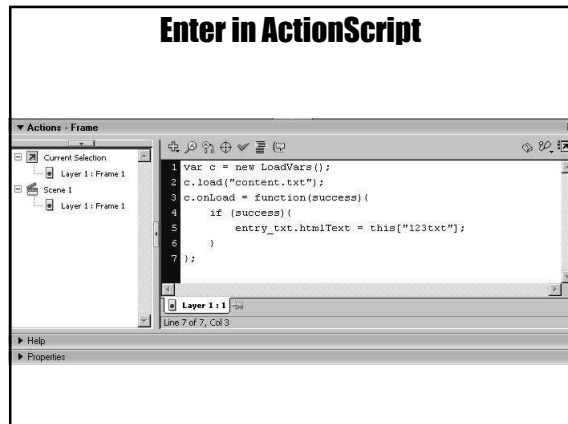
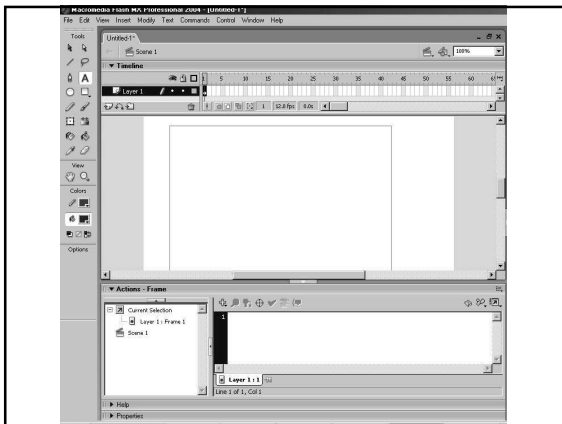
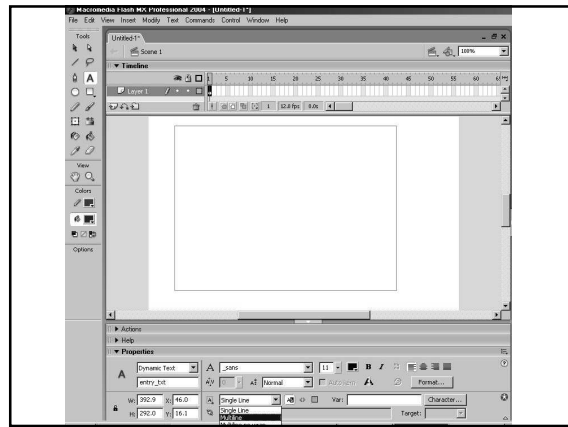
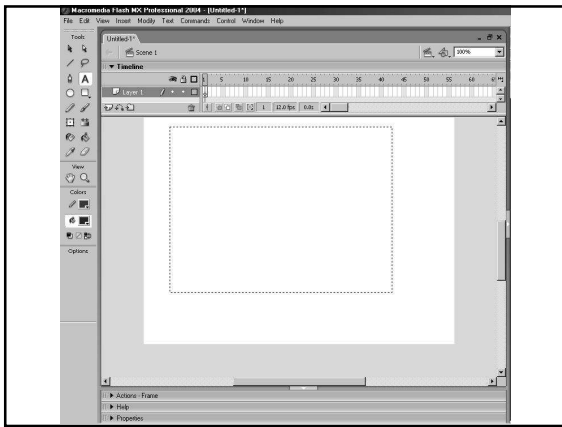
- `onLoad`
 - Loads data when flash is loaded
- `load(url)`
 - Gets data from content at url
- `LoadVars()`
 - Class that needs to be initialized for data transfer

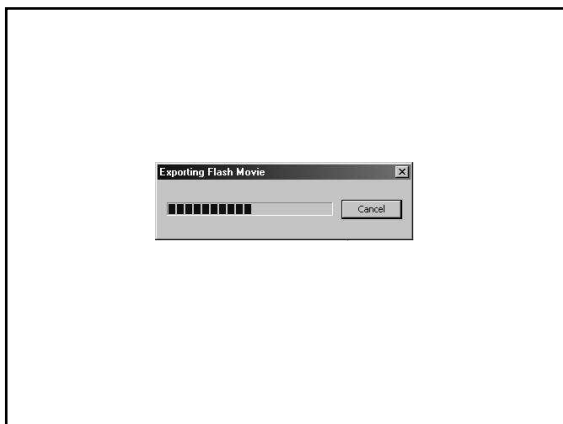
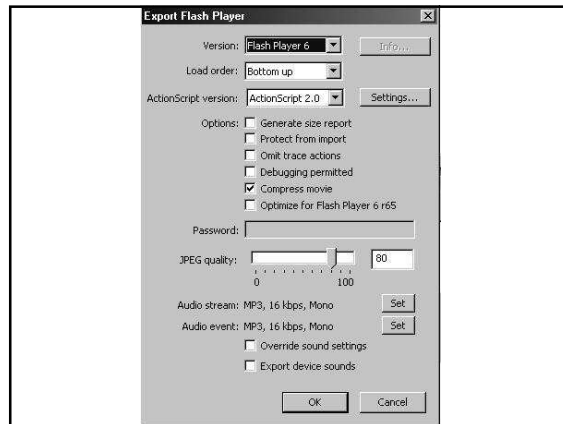
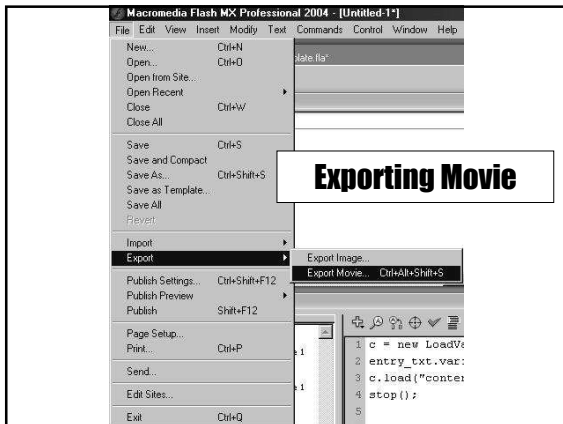
Flat File Example

Demonstration 1

Steps to take

1. Create a textbox and set properties
2. Enter in Actionscript
3. Create text file and save
4. Export movie

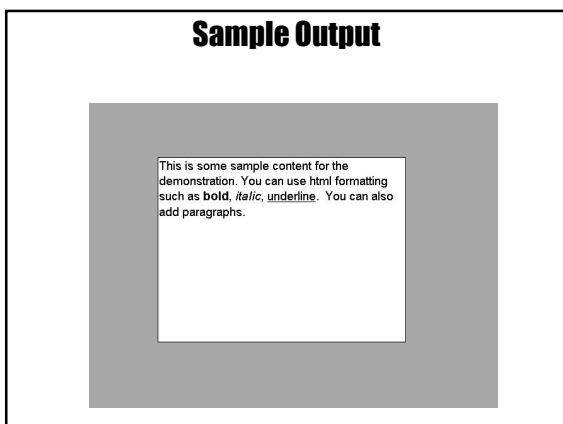




Text File

&123txt=This is some sample content for the demonstration. You can use html formatting such as **bold**, *italic*, underline.

You can also add paragraphs.



Connecting to Databases

- Can use any scripting language (PHP, ASP, JSP, etc.)
- Can use any database (MySQL, PostGreSQL, SQL Server, Coldfusion, etc.)
- Using "POST" method
 - i.e.,

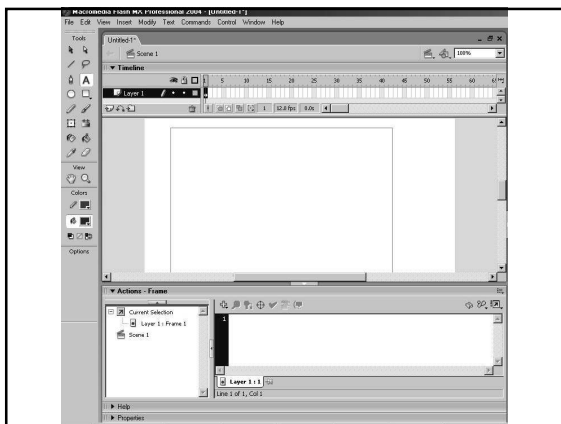
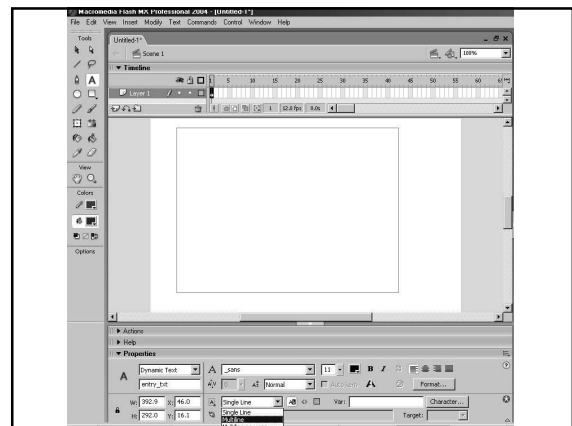

```
&myText=<span class="maintext">
Textarea with External Text and
CSS</span><br /><br />
```

Dynamic Content stored in databases

Demonstration 2

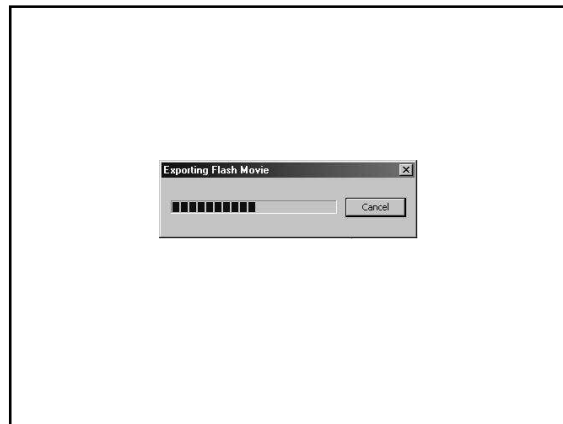
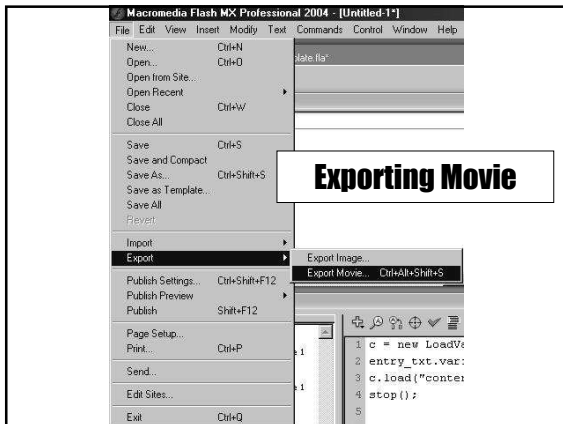
Steps (similar to demo 1)

1. Create a textbox and set properties
2. Enter in Actionscript
3. Create table(s), enter data
4. Create script (PHP file) so that displayed content is same as the text file
5. Export movie



Enter in ActionScript

```
function showContent() {
    var i;
    entry_txt.htmlText = "";
    for (i=0; i < this.n; i++) {
        entry_txt.htmlText += "<b>" + this["name"+i] + "...";
    }
    var c = new LoadVars();
    c.onLoad = showContent;
    c.sendAndLoad("cdb_teachers.php",c,"POST");
    stop();
}
```



PHP File

```

<?php //Connect to Database
// start output string with number of
entries
$rows = mysql_num_rows(mysql_query(..));
$rString = "n=".$rows;

for ($i=0; $i < $rows; $i++) {
    $row =
    mysql_fetch_array(mysql_query(..));
    $rString .=
    "&name".$i."=".$row['Name']."&bio".$i
    ....
echo $rString;
?>

```

Output from PHP file

n=3&name0=Jane Doe&bio0=This is a test of add/updating to the table. This is just a test.
 &photo0=one.jpg&name1=Rita&bio1=Here is another sample to test updating bios. Here is another sample to test this component.

- ### Recap
- Separate design elements from content.
 - Dynamic Content
 - Text, Images, RSS feeds, Videos, StyleSheets
 - Possible Use Cases
 - Photo album
 - Guestbook
 - Blog

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Suggestions?

The image shows a diamond-shaped road sign with the word 'END' written on it. The sign is positioned in front of a road with a striped barrier. The background shows a cloudy sky.