

Biography

Starting out in 1998 as an 11 year old in 6th grade, I began to learn basic HTML myself, since the school I was attending didn't offer those types of classes. Yet that did not sway my determination to continue this newfound hobby. Visiting the bookstore, I browsed through the web development section, until I came across Visual Quick Start Guide HTML 4 for the WWW 4th edition. Doing exactly what its name implied, it gave me the most straightforward, easy to follow and fun guide to the basics of html. It also gave as a bonus, a small intro to JavaScript (JS). My enthusiasm was so great that I stayed up late at night reading over and over the HTML book. After practically memorizing it, I hardly had to refer back to it at all, although that was very helpful when needed.

Working in raw HTML and a small amount of JS for the next two years, I became very proficient. My HTML skills were developing greatly, however I was limited to the well identifiable newbie styles of blue backgrounds and yellow text. Nevertheless, I did grasp the major concepts of design layout. As my enthusiasm continued to develop, and grow, I dug deeper and deeper into all that I could get my hands on. I soon moved on to another book: Teach Yourself JavaScript 1.3 in 24 Hours. Unfortunately, it was hardly helpful. The lessons were confusing, and had hardly any structure to it. Fortunately, I had obtained a copy of Adobe GoLive 4.0. This did all the basic JS for me, and was very customizable. With this new tool, I flew ahead of my own expected schedule.

At about age 13 I was convinced I was good enough to start a business. I was wrong of course, and my feeble attempt didn't get very far, but it was still fun. It wasn't that I wasn't good enough, but it was that I had no real world experience, plus, I was much too young. My real work began when I started doing the major work for my mothers site at chillywinds.com. It was a good place to begin, try things out, and get that helpful criticism. It was in effect, a door to the real world. "Welcome to the World Wide Web Work Way". I continued to pick up customers that had some previous connection to me.

My freshmen year in High School, I met a fellow very similar to me in the strangest way. Not only did we look so alike that teachers got us confused along with other kids, but he was both a Web master and a Macintosh fan. Both being new to the public school system we began to build a friendship, and soon became good friends. 9th grade we began to develop many plans to start businesses relating to web design. During 10th grade I picked up PHP using the Visual Quick Start Guide version which had been such a hit in HTML. I finished the book and moved on to the Advanced book, along with a MySQL book, and the information of which I burnt into my sponge like brain. Our business plans never took off, but by the 10th grade, a new activity was initiated, which sparked our already bountiful kindling.

FIRST "For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology", is a non-profit organization, which offers schools a program where teens join together, and spend 6 weeks building a robot to compete in that years game designed by FIRST staff. Chris and I both eagerly joined this new program for our school. Both being on the strategy subgroup of our team, there was minimal work we had to do. Nearing the end of the 6 weeks, we noticed they offered a web site design award. Again, we eagerly jumped on this opportunity and worked tireless nights and days until we got a professional site that would cream everyone out of the way.

The 6 weeks soon came to a close, we shipped our robot off to the Manchester Regional competitions, and then for 3 days we competed against the other teams. During that time, we made a PowerPoint Presentation of the site for other teams to see due to the lack of an Internet connection at the Verizon wireless arena (kind of ironic). Then to further our advertisement, we passed out a brochure with a description and a picture of the site. Next, we sent out small

business cards with the web site address on the back of them.

The last day, Saturday, after the finals, they proceeded to announce the awards. Dean Kamen, the founder of FIRST gave a longer than expected speech, and then it was onto the awards. Saying something along the lines of "our first award is the Web Site Design Award, This award is given to the team whose web site is clean efficient and made entirely by the students. The judges have decided to award this to team 1073..." we jumped up and cheered on the top of our lungs. And there you have it. A web site designed by us, was awarded the Web Site Design Award by a national program. Now, Chris and I are going to continue to provide the world with our work through this web site. If you are interested in our services and or just curious to talk, you can reach us on the contact page.