



# XML Flash Slideshow v3

Usage Introduction Manual

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## Introduction

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Welcome to the XML Flash Slideshow v3. This guide is the Usage Introduction Manual. After going through this document, you will have created your first slideshow using the software. It is intended as a quick-start guide, and therefore only the basic options are covered. After going through this introductory manual, we recommend you then view the available screencast tutorials, which cover the more advanced features in detail. For more information, see the 'Where to go from here' section at the end of this document.

## Extension Installation

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Follow the link in your download instructions email to download the product ZIP file. Save the file to disk, and extract the files. You will see a zip file, with contents that look like this:



The ZIP file

To install the extension, you must have the Adobe Extension Manager 1.7 installed on your system. You can upgrade to the latest version for free by going to [http://www.adobe.com/go/em\\_download/](http://www.adobe.com/go/em_download/).

If you receive an error about 'File name is too long; extension will not be installed,' it is because your extension manager is not up to date. Update it to version 1.7 or higher, as shown above.

Double-click the FlashSlideshow\_v3.mxp file to install the extension. The Extension Manager will launch, and walk you through the installation procedure.

Now that the Dreamweaver extension has been installed, you need to restart (or open) Dreamweaver.

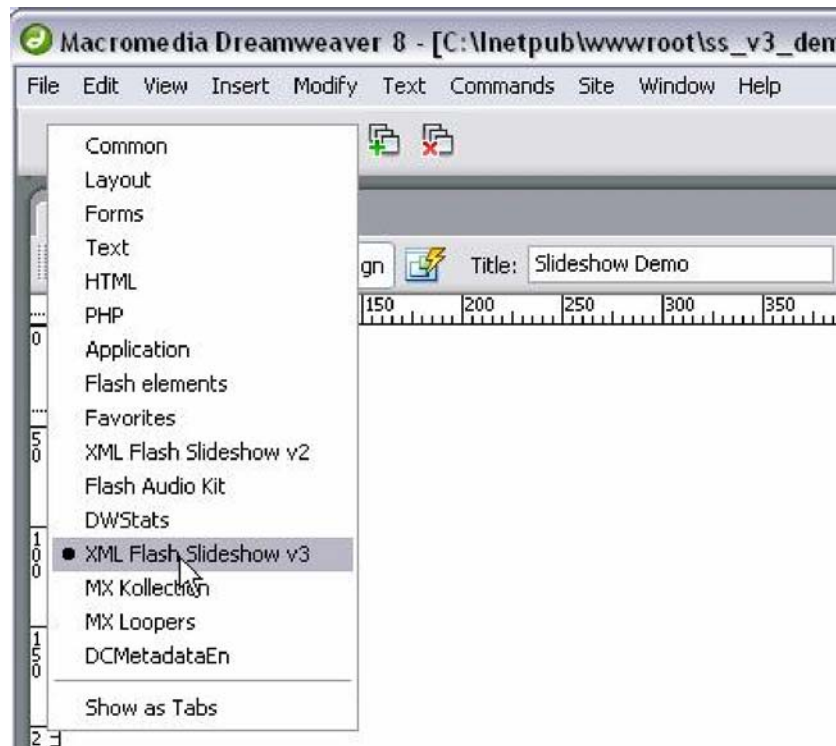
## Creating a Slideshow

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You should now be within the Dreamweaver interface. Before creating the slideshow, you must first define a Dreamweaver Site. If you are not familiar with doing this, you can learn about the process by viewing this tutorial on Adobe's website: <http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/ondemand/index.cfm?id=244&type=2> (note - you may need to allow the popup window to open).

## Accessing the Extension

Now, open or create an HTML, ASP, PHP, etc. page within the Dreamweaver Site you just created. To access the extension, first select the XML Flash Slideshow v3 section of the Insert Bar:



Select the XML Flash Slideshow v3 section of the Insert Bar

On this bar, you should see two buttons. The left one is the Insert Slideshow button. Click this button now.



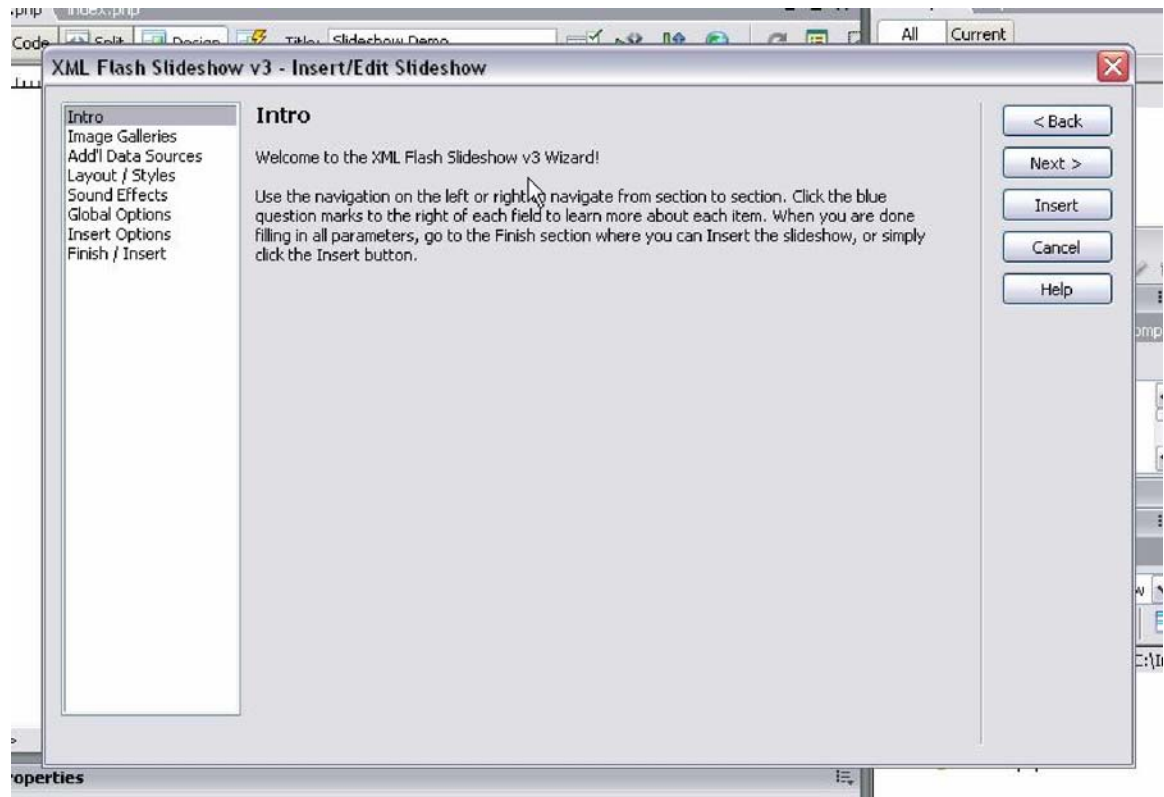
## The Site Installation Wizard

You will now see the Site Installation Wizard. The XFS v3 uses some supporting files, and these files must be copied into the Dreamweaver Site in order to create a slideshow. The Site Installation Wizard allows you to specify a location for these files. Generally, the default value is fine. The only requirement is that the path be within the web root of the site. Click the Install Necessary Files button to continue.



Site Installation Wizard

The Insert Slideshow wizard will now open. It will look like this:



Insert Wizard

The Insert Wizard can be navigated by clicking the Back and Next buttons. Throughout the Insert Wizard, you will see small blue question marks to the right of values. Click these to view contextual help about that option.



Help Boxes

## Image Galleries

To continue, click the Next button. You will now see the Image Galleries section:

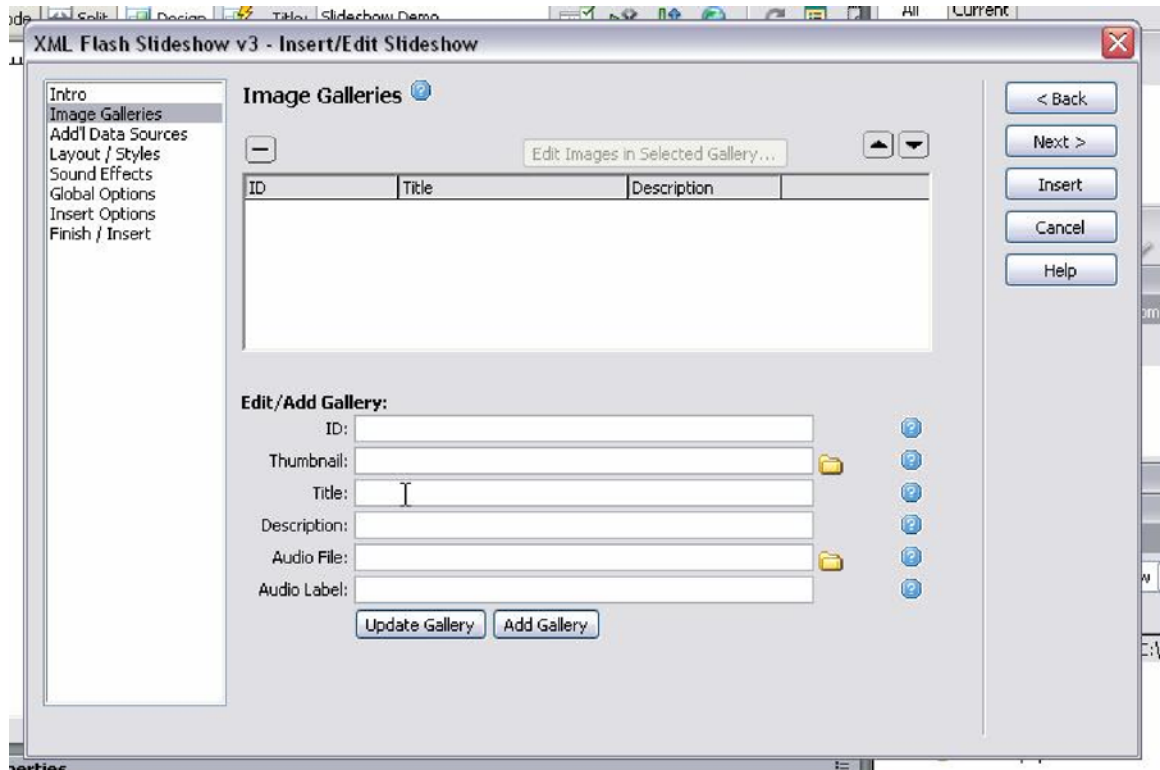
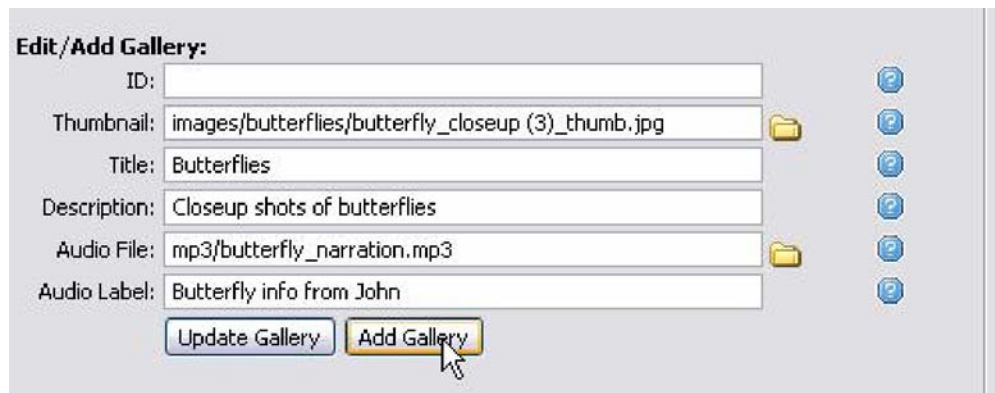


Image Galleries Section

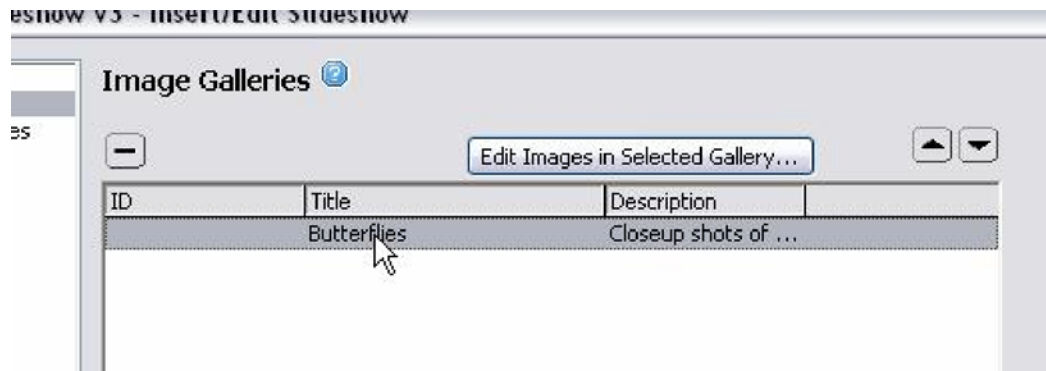
It is in this section where you will specify images to use in your slideshow. Slideshows are made up of groups or collections of images, called Galleries. A slideshow can have only one gallery, or many galleries. To specify images, you must first add a gallery. Do so by filling in the Add Gallery section. The only required field is the Title, but you may also want to specify a Description or Thumbnail image. You can learn more about each field by clicking the help button to the right. Once you have filled out the field, click the Add Gallery button:



Entering values to create a gallery

The gallery will now appear in the Gallery Grid at the top of the wizard page:





Gallery Grid

## Specifying Images in a Gallery

To add images to a gallery, select it in the grid by clicking it. Then, click the Edit Images in Selected Gallery... button, directly above the grid:



Preparing to add images to a gallery

The Image Wizard will now open:

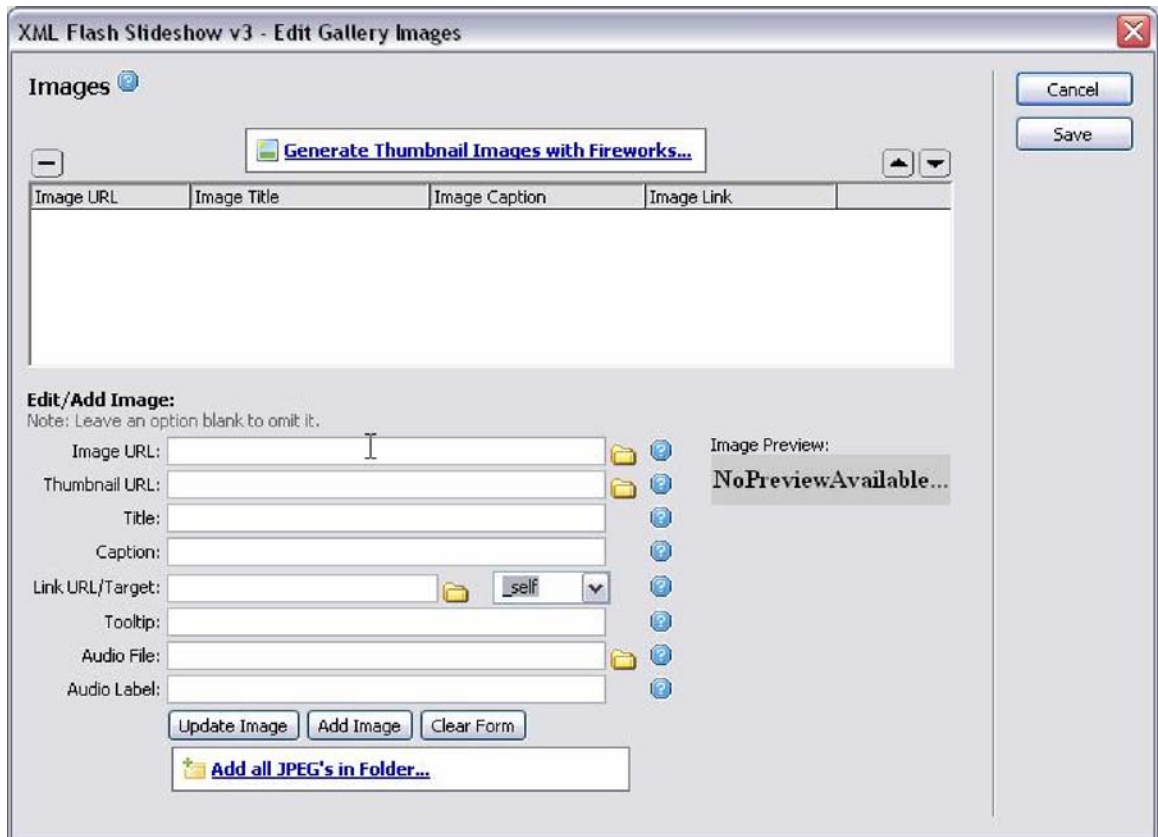


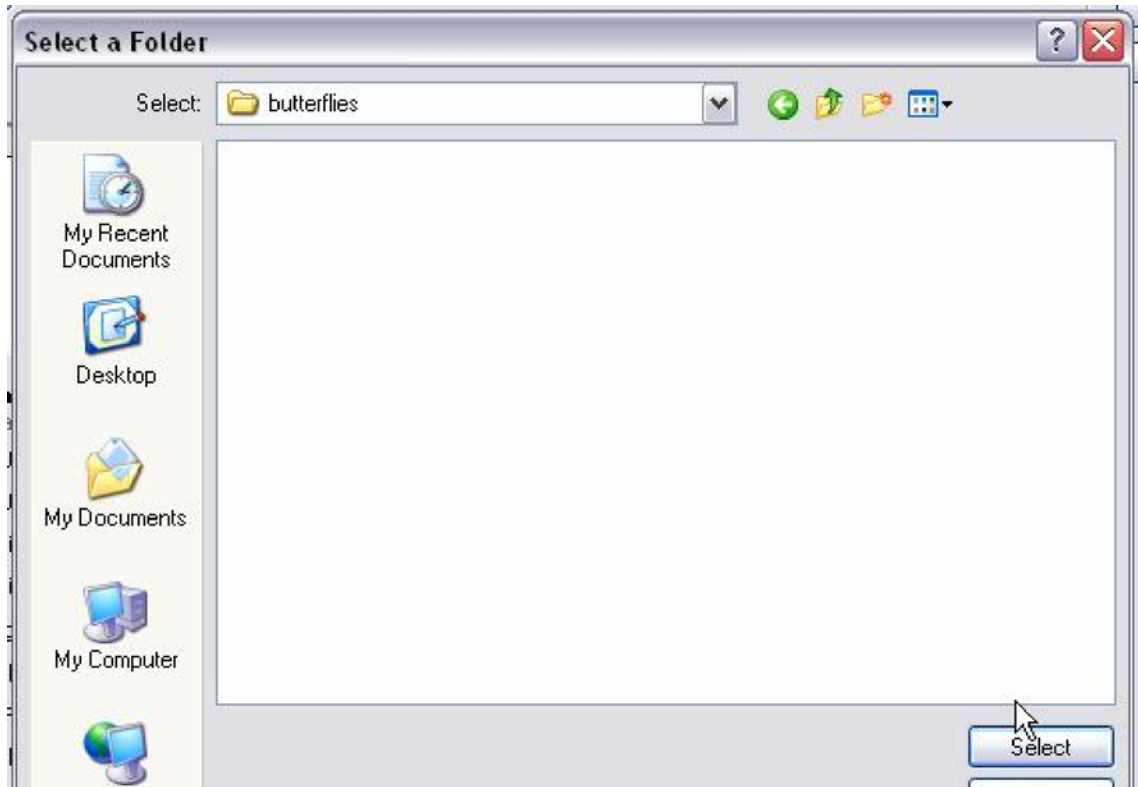
Image Wizard

There are three main sections:

- The Add all JPEG's in Folder button - allows you to add all JPEG images in a folder to the gallery
- The Edit/Add Image section - allows you to specify all of the standard and optional properties for an image
- The Generate Thumbnails with Fireworks button - [only available if you have Fireworks installed on your system] - allows you generate thumbnails automatically for all of the images you have added to the gallery

### The Add All JPEG's Folder Button

Once you click the button, you will see a dialog which allows you to select a folder. Select a folder, and click the Select button:



Choosing a folder

The JPEG images will be processed and added to the Image Grid. This may take several moments if there are lots of images in the folder.

Sometimes adding a folder of JPEG's will take several moments, and Dreamweaver may appear unresponsive. Be patient - the program will return to normal once the process is complete.

The extension will notify you when this process completes:



Notification of the process's completion

You can now select an image in the Image Grid. The Edit Image Section can then be used to make additions or changes to each image.

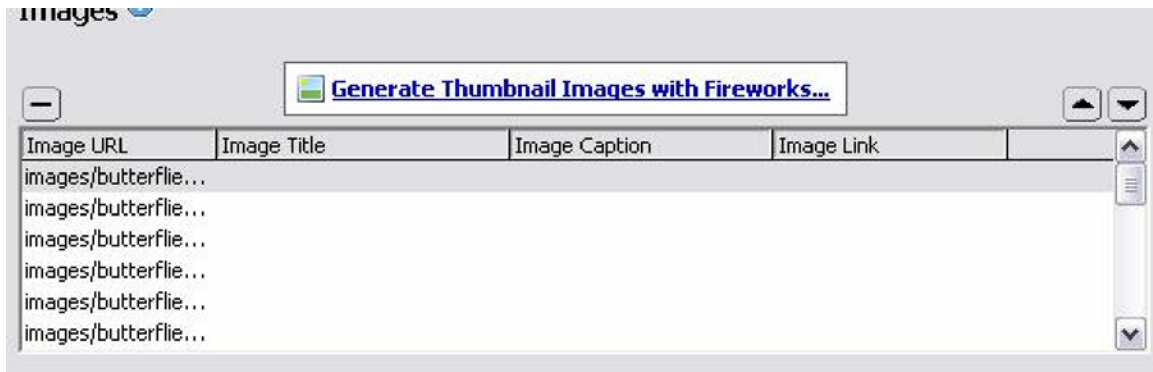


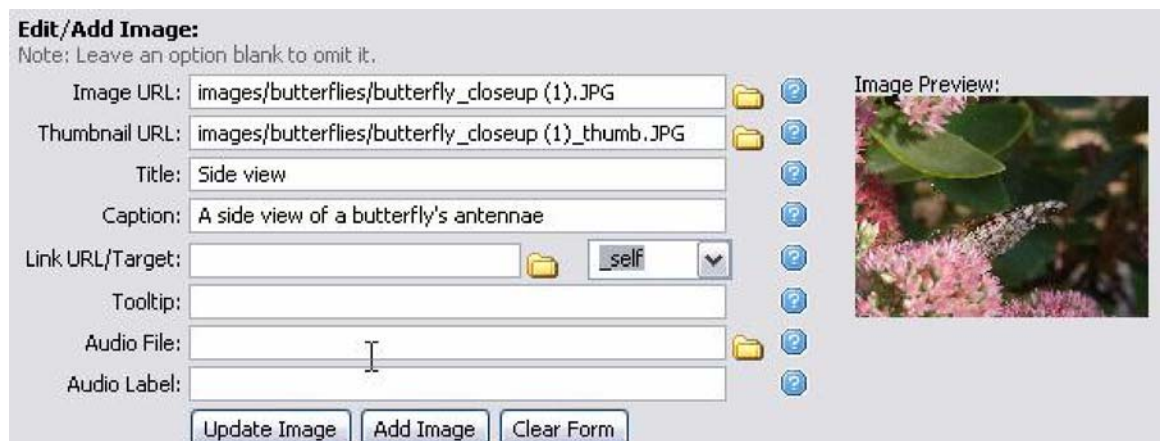
Image Grid

## The Edit/Add Image Section

To manually add or change an image, fill out the Edit/Add Image form. The only required field is the Image URL, but you can specify other values as well.

Note - you don't have to specify a unique thumbnail image. If you don't, the slideshow will automatically use the full size images as thumbnails.

After filling the form, click the Add Image or Update Image button.



Edit/Add Image form

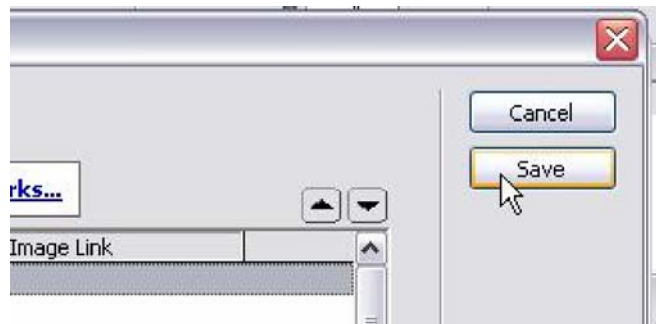
After clicking the Add Image button, the image will appear in the Image Grid above. If you click the Update Image button, any updates will be reflected in the Images Grid.

## The Generate Thumbnails with Fireworks Button

If you have Fireworks installed on your system, you can use this button to automatically generate smaller thumbnail versions of your images. The options are very straightforward - you can specify the thumbnail width, the thumbnail height, and whether you want to overwrite existing thumbnails.

## Saving Changes and Returning to the Main Wizard

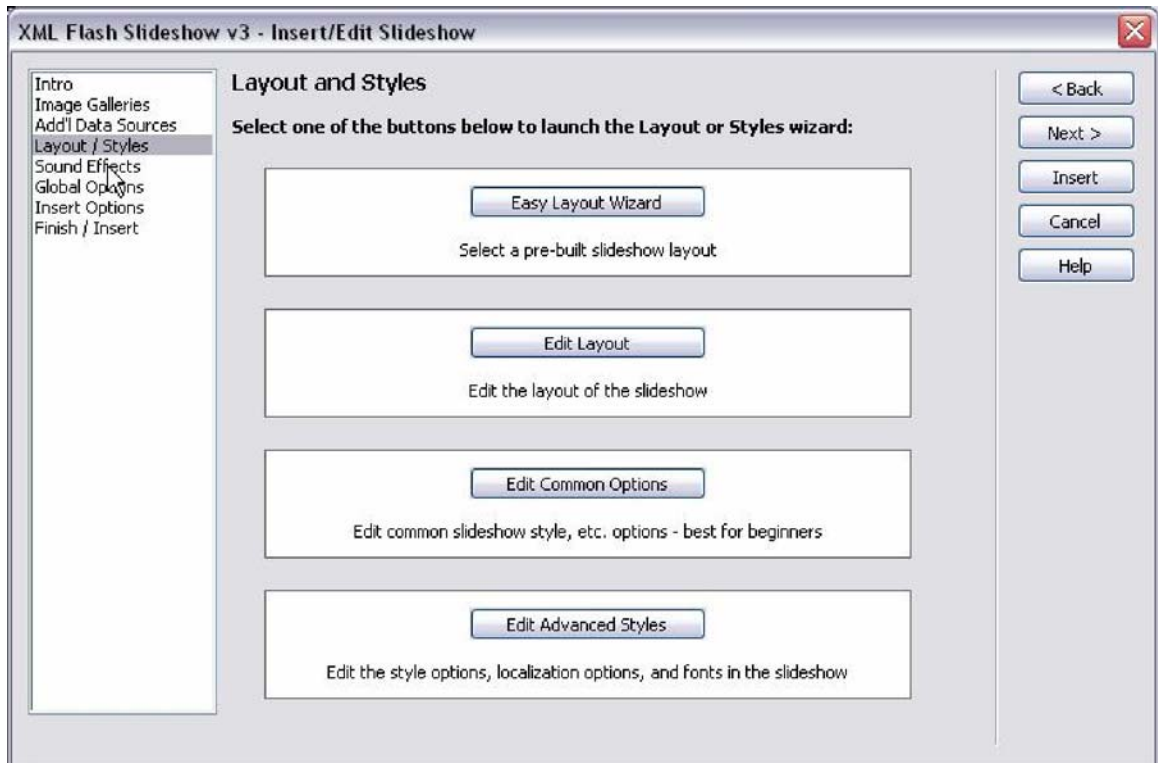
After you are done adding and/or editing images, click the Save button on the right. This will return you to the Insert Wizard.



The Save Button

## The Layout / Styles Section

To proceed, click the Next button twice, which will bring you to the Layout / Styles section. (You will have skipped the Additional Data Sources section; this section is only for more advanced users, and therefore isn't included in this introductory usage manual).

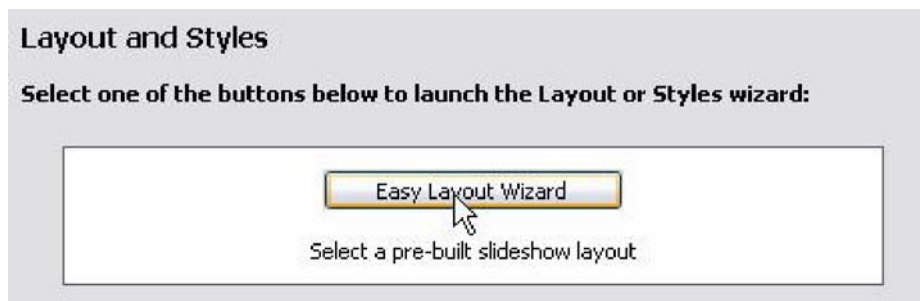


Layout and Styles Section

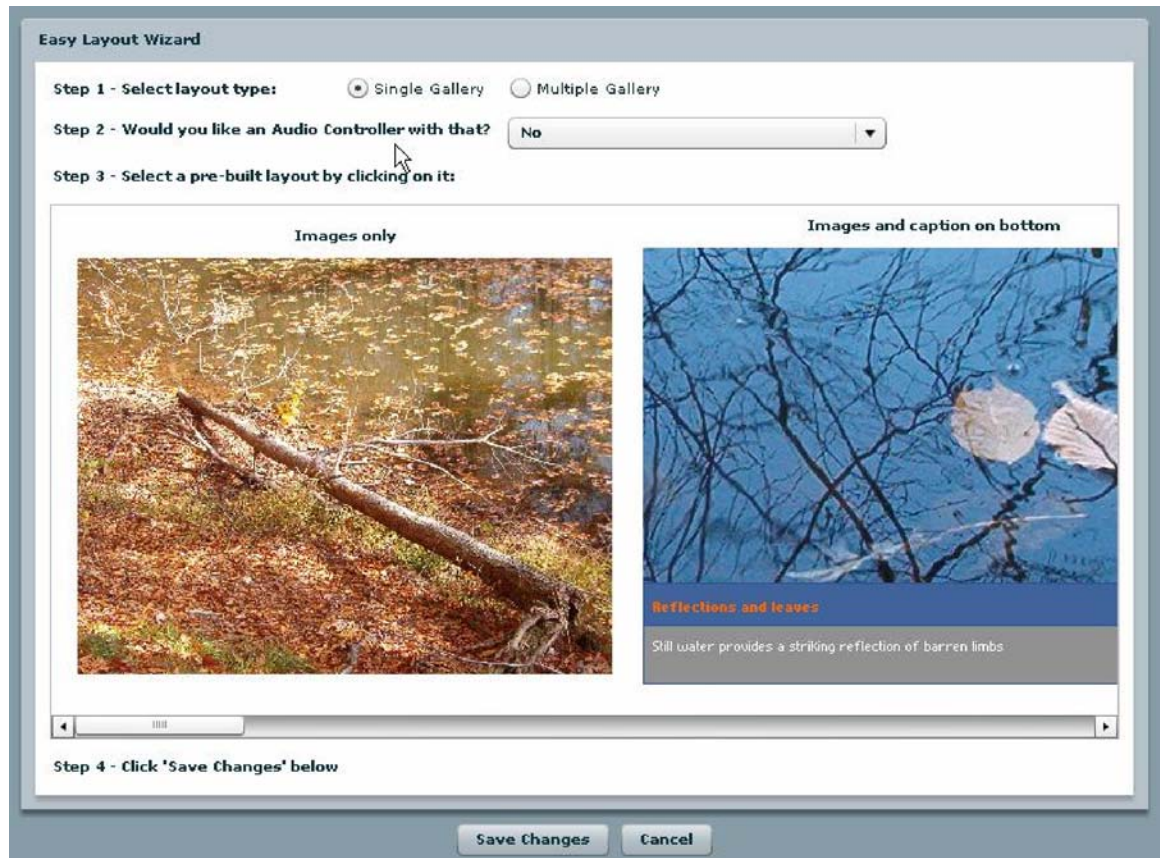
In this section you can first select a layout, and then make changes to common options.

### Selecting a Layout

To select a layout, click the Easy Layout Wizard button. This will launch the Easy Layout Wizard, allowing you to select a pre-built layout.



Launching the Easy Layout Wizard



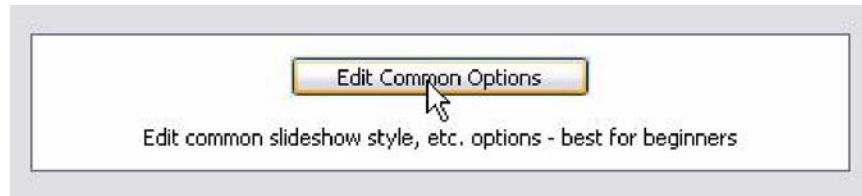
Easy Layout Wizard

There are four steps to selecting a pre-built layout.

1. First, specify whether your slideshow has only one gallery or multiple galleries. If you choose multiple galleries, then a gallery selection screen will be included in the slideshow.
2. Secondly, specify if you want an audio controller (only applicable if you are using audio with the slideshow)
3. Thirdly, click on a layout to choose it. You can use the scrollbar to view more available layouts.
4. Finally, click the Save Changes button at the bottom of the screen. This will return you to the Insert Wizard.

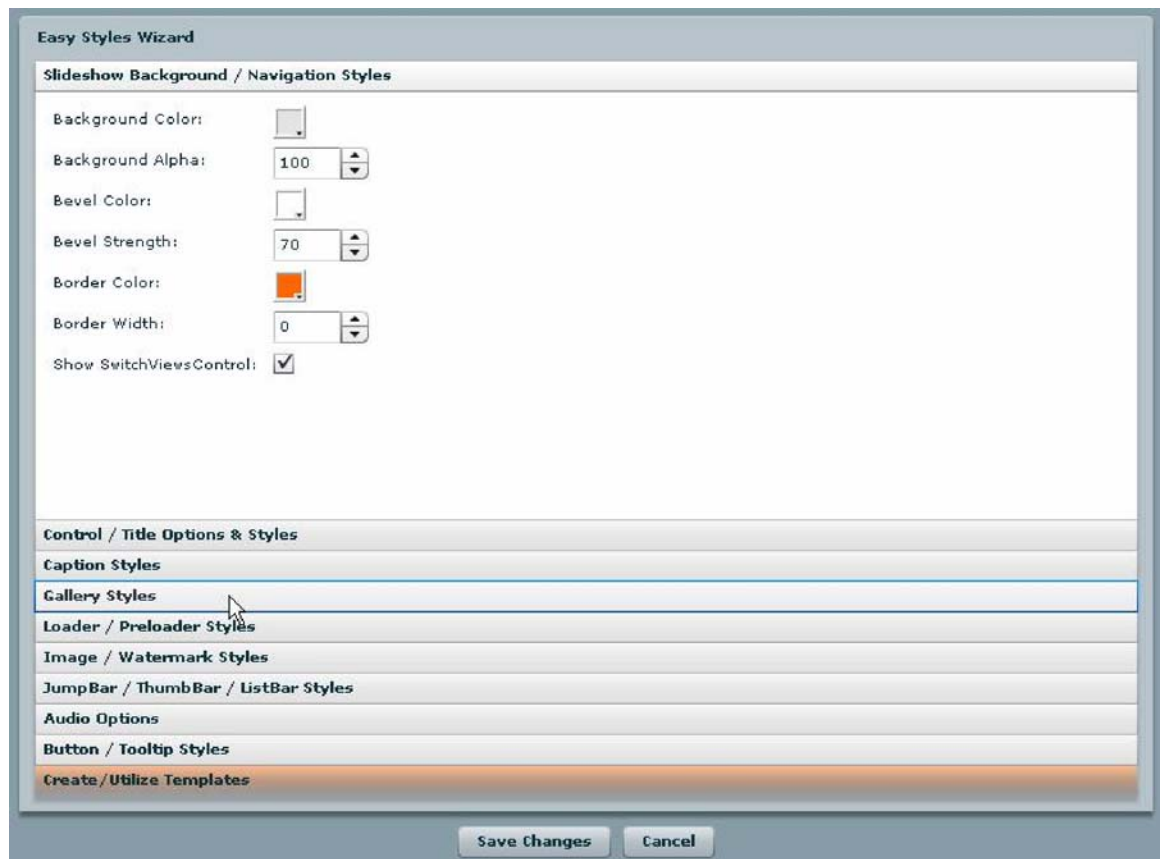
### Customizing Common Slideshow Options

To customize common slideshow options, click the Edit Common Options button. This will launch the Common Options Wizard, allowing you to make slideshow customizations.



Launching the Common Options Wizard

There are several sections in the Common Options Wizard (also known as the Easy Styles Wizard). They are accessed by clicking the accordion headers:



Common Options Wizard

Most options are self-explanatory. If you see an option labeled 'alpha,' this is a reference to the opacity of the property. There are some sections which deserve a special mention:

- The Slideshow Background section - allows you to specify the background color and background bevel on the slideshow
- The Caption Styles section - allows you to specify the text formatting of the caption and title fields



- The Loader / Preloader Styles section - allows you to change the types and colors of the preloaders used in the slideshow
- The Image / Watermark Styles section - [more detail is shown below for this section]
- The Button / Tooltip Styles section - allows you to change the colors of the control buttons (such as the Next Image button, Previous Image button, etc.) and the tooltips

## Exploring the Options in the Image / Watermark Styles Section

The Image / Watermark Styles section looks like this:

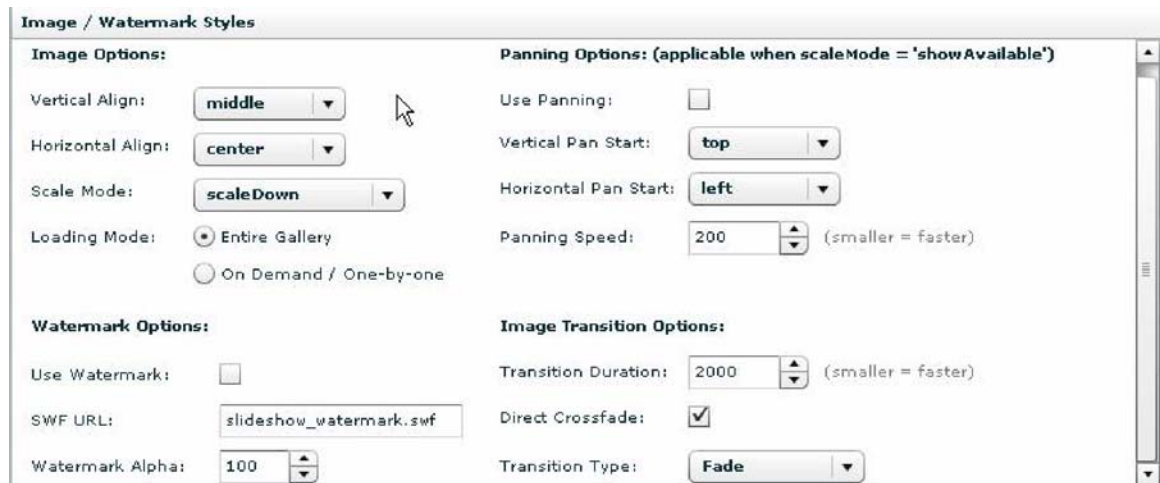


Image / Watermark Styles section

There are four subsections:

- Image Options
- Watermark Options
- Panning Options
- Image Transition Options

The Image Options allow you to select the alignment of the images, the scale mode, and the loading mode.



## Image Options Section

There are three different Scale Mode choices:



Scale Mode Options

If you select `scaleDown`, the images will only be resized if they are too large to fit the available area. If you select `scaleUpAndDown`, the images will be resized up *and* down, so that they always fill the available area. If `showAvailable` is selected then the images will not be resized at all, and will be shown at full size.

If you select 'Entire Gallery' as the Loading Mode, then all images in a gallery will be preloaded before the slideshow starts. Usually, you will want to select the other option - On Demand. This will load each individual image when the user actually requests it. This makes your users' loading time much shorter.



Loading Mode Options

In the Watermark Options section, you can enable/disable a watermark, specify a SWF file to use as a watermark, and specify the watermark alpha (opacity).



Watermark Options Section

To use panning, customize the options in the Panning Options section.

For panning to function, you must have first selected showAvailable as the Scale Mode in the Image Options section.

You can enable/disable panning, specify on which sides of the image the panning starts, as well as the speed of the pan.

**Panning Options: (applicable when scaleMode = 'show Available')**

Use Panning:

Vertical Pan Start: **top** ▼

Horizontal Pan Start: **left** ▼

Panning Speed: 200 ▲▼ (smaller = faster)

Panning Options Section

You can choose customized transition options in the Image Transition Options section. The duration is in milliseconds, and specifies how long the transition lasts. Direct Crossfade specifies if the first image fades out to nothing and then the second image fades in, or if the first image fades out at the same time as the second image fades in. The transition type allows you to specify which transition to use (or a random transition).

**Image Transition Options:**

Transition Duration: 2000 ▲▼ (smaller = faster)

Direct Crossfade:

Transition Type: **Fade** ▼

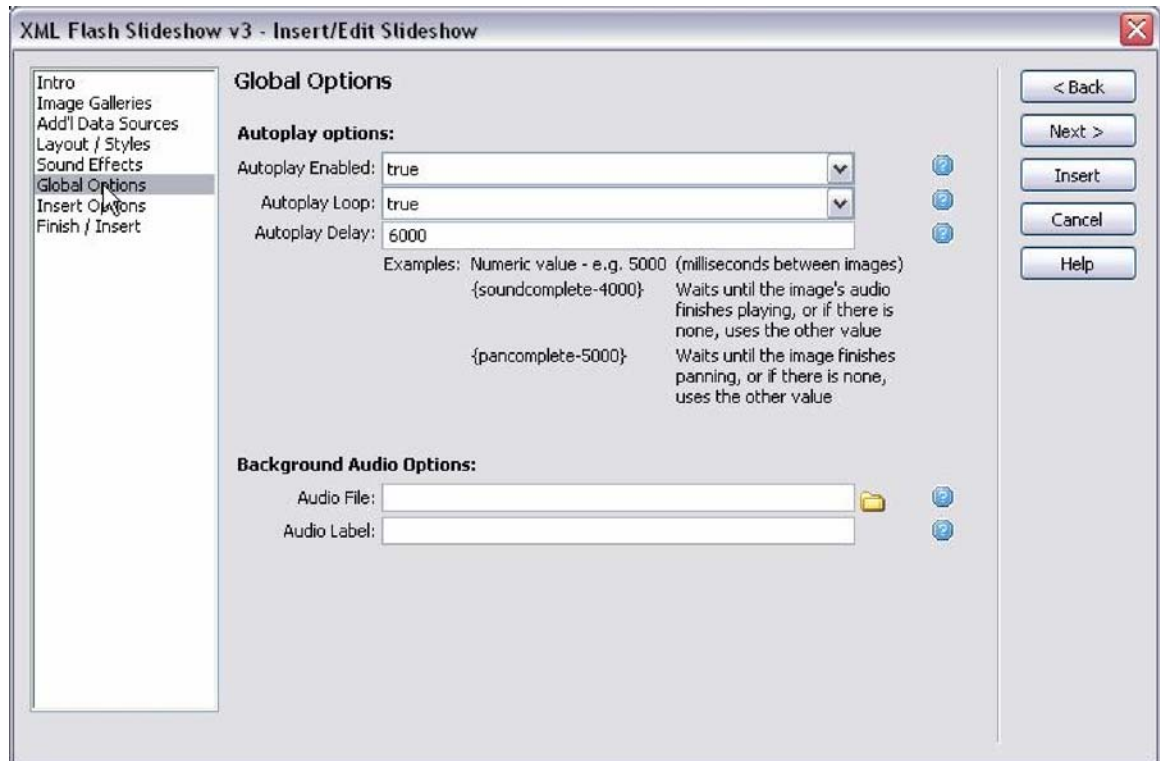
Image Transition Options Section

### Exiting the Common Options Wizard

When you are done making customizations in the Common Options Wizard, click the Save Changes to record your updates and return to the Insert Wizard.

### Specifying Global Slideshow Options

To continue, click the Next button twice, bringing you to the Global Options section. (You will have skipped the Sound Effects section; this section is only for more advanced users, and therefore isn't included in this introductory usage manual).

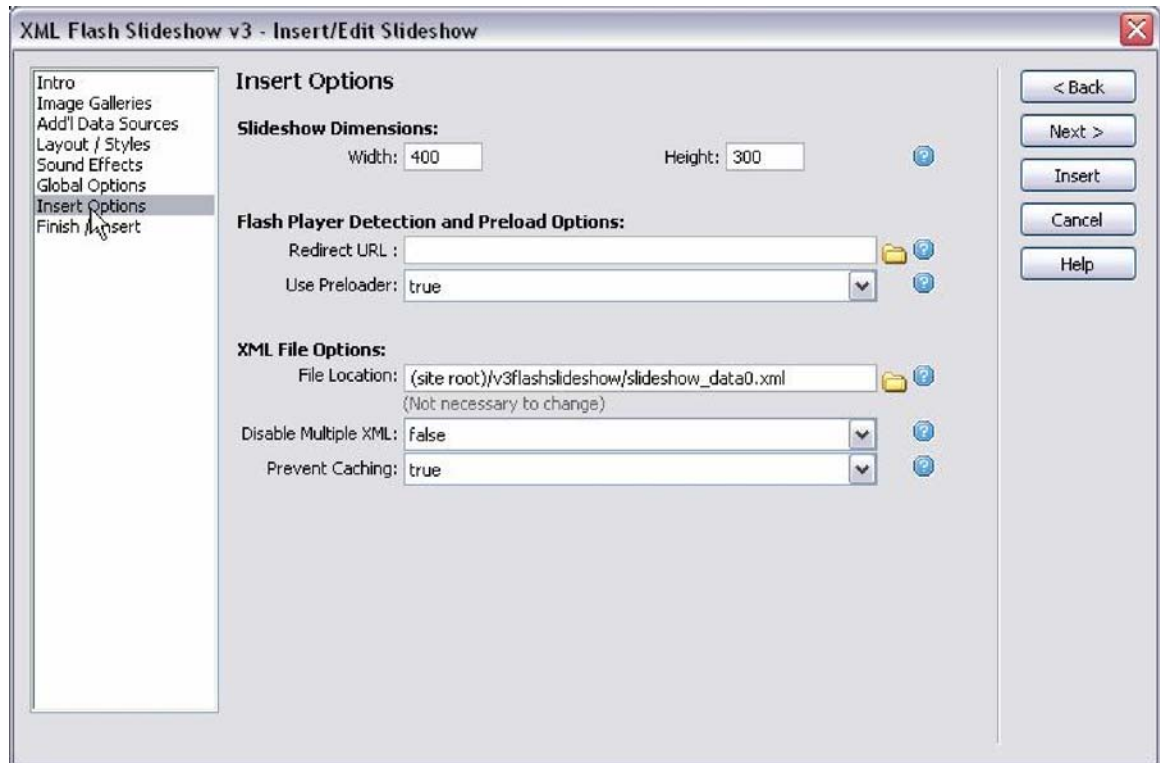


Global Options Section

In this section, you can specify autoplay options and background audio options. You can disable or enable autoplay as well as autoplay looping. You can also change the delay between images. The Background Audio File field allows you to specify an MP3 file which will play during the entire slideshow.

## Specifying Insert Options

To proceed, click the Next button, bringing you to the Insert Options section:



Insert Options Section

There are three different groups of options in this section:

- Slideshow Dimensions - this allows you to specify the width and height of the slideshow.
- Flash Player Detection and Preload options - this allows you to optionally specify where you want the user to be redirected to if they need to upgrade their Flash Player. You can also disable the preloader.
- XML File Options - this allows you to change the default location of the slideshow's XML configuration file.

## Inserting the Slideshow

Clicking next again, you will find yourself in the Finish / Insert section:



Finish / Insert Section

Here, you can specify whether you want the wizard to attempt to upload supporting files, and/or image files. If you haven't set up a remote site yet (or you only want to preview the slideshow locally), disable both checkboxes and save the selection.

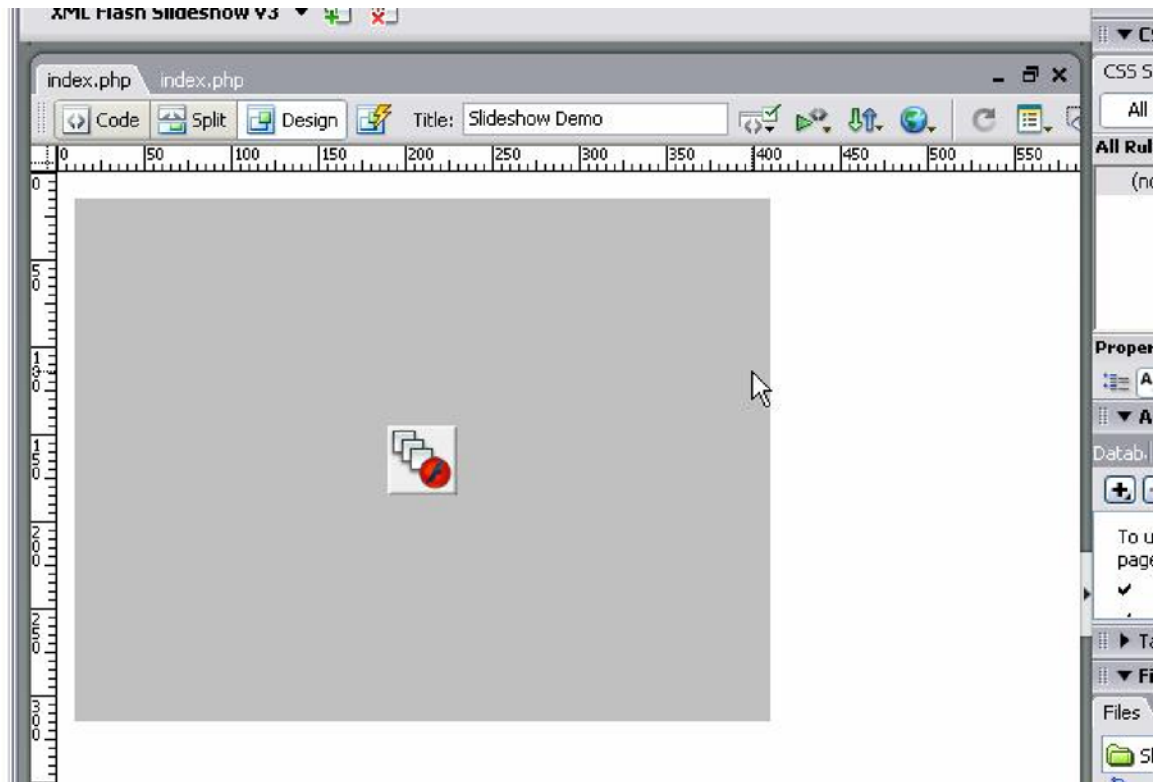
If you receive an error about 'Unable to Put the following files...', disable both auto-upload options and try again.

Finally, click the INSERT SLIDESHOW button.



Insert Slideshow Button

You will now see a slideshow element in your HTML page:



Slideshow Element in an HTML Page

You can now preview the page in your browser, and the slideshow should appear correctly.

## Common Problems

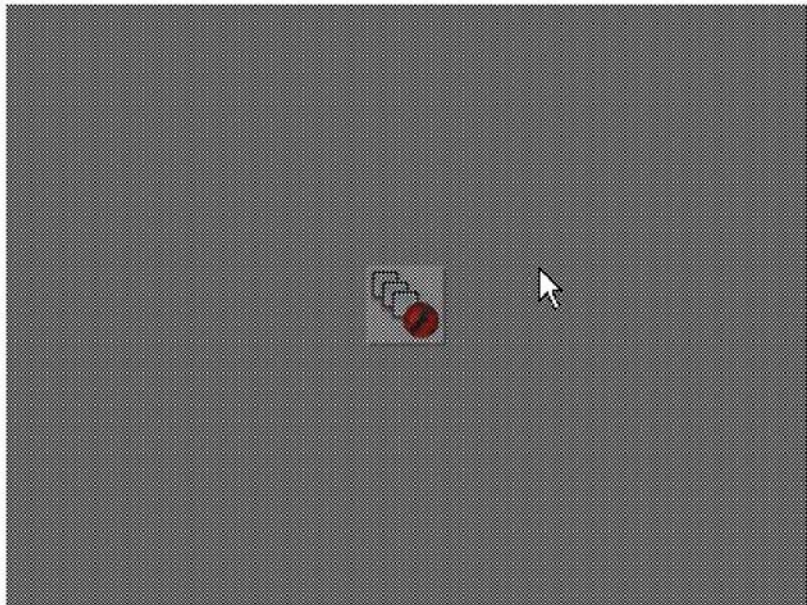
If you have problems viewing your slideshow, check these common issues:

- Problem - When previewing the slideshow locally, nothing shows up. Solution - Make sure that your browser security configuration allows for Javascript to be executed and ActiveX content to run from local URLs. You may need to preview in a different browser (Firefox is recommended).
- Problem - The slideshow appears as a blank/white hole in the page. Solution - Make sure that all of the supporting files (usually found in the (site root)/v3flashslideshow/ folder) have been uploaded.
- Problem - The slideshow has a black screen and says 'Fatal Application Error(s) - XML could not be loaded.' Solution - Make sure that all of the XML files in the supporting files folder (usually the (site root)/v3flashslideshow/ folder) have been uploaded.
- Problem - Images or thumbnails say 'Image Failed to Load'. Solution - Make sure that all of the images and/or thumbnails have been uploaded. Check this by typing the image URL(s) directly into your browser and making sure that they load.

- Problem - The images appear as a large red block. Solution - The Images have likely been uploaded in ASCII mode in your FTP program, instead of Binary mode. Re-upload the images in Binary mode.
- Problem - When using audio, the audio sounds like chipmunks (playing much faster than usual), or plays much slower than usual. Solution - This issue is caused by an unsupported sample rate in the MP3 file(s). SWF only supports 5500 Hz, 11025 Hz, 22050 Hz, and 44100 Hz (preferred setting). To address the issue, re-encode your MP3 file(s).

## Editing a Slideshow

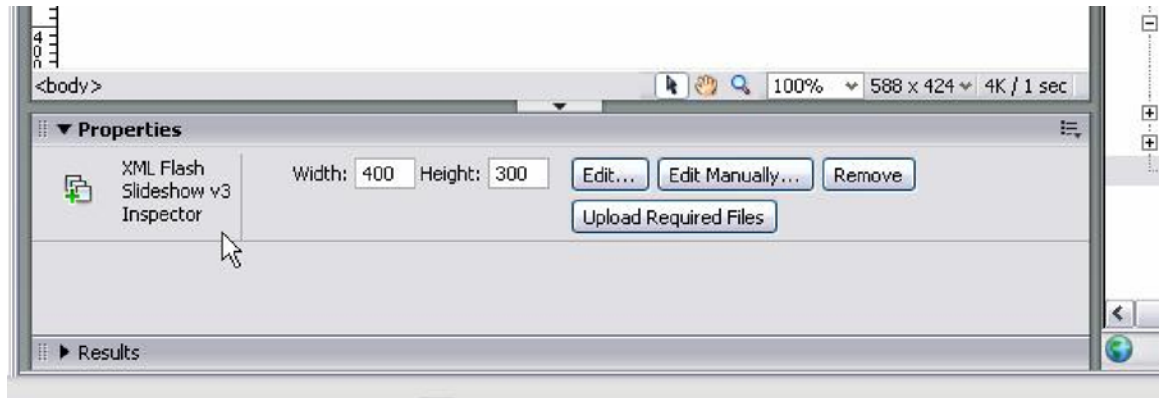
If you later want to make changes, click the slideshow element in your page to select it.



Selecting the Slideshow Element

Now, open the Property Inspector panel (if not visible, select Window > Properties). You should see the Slideshow Inspector:





XML Flash Slideshow v3 Inspector

To make any changes, simply click the Edit button. This will launch the Edit Wizard, which functions identically as the Insert Wizard.

## Applying Sample Templates to your Slideshow

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Like the look of a sample on our Samples page ( <http://www.dwuser.com/flashslideshow/v3/samples.php> ), and want to use it in your slideshow? The process is very simple:

- 1- Visit the Samples page ( <http://www.dwuser.com/flashslideshow/v3/samples.php> ).
- 2- Select/open the sample you want to use.
- 3- Directly above the slideshow, click the link labeled 'Apply this sample's template to your slideshow'.



Apply Sample Template Link

- 4- Follow the instructions on the page which opens.

## To Learn More: Where to go from Here

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Once you have created your first slideshow, you can begin exploring some of the more advanced customization options. By viewing the many screencasts that are available, you can learn in detail about each of these different aspects of advanced customization. The screencasts can be viewed by visiting <http://www.dwuser.com/flashslideshow/v3/support.php>. Shown below is a list of each of the screencasts, and a description of what feature(s) it covers:

### Extension Overview / Accessing & Navigating the Wizard

This screencast covers the basics of navigating the Insert / Edit Wizard.

### Image Management: Creating and Using Galleries

This screencast covers all of the features related to gallery and image management.

### Using Dynamic Data Sources & RSS Integration and Creating Dynamic Data Source Files

This screencast and PDF file covers how to create and utilize Dynamic Data Sources. This also explains how to use RSS feeds as a data source, allowing for integration with a Flickr feed. The PDF tutorial is a continuation of the screencast, and should be viewed after watching the screencast.

### Using the Layout Editor Wizards

This screencast describes in detail how to use the standard WYSIWYG Layout Wizard, showing how to create fully customized slideshow layouts.

### Using the Common Options / Easy Styles Wizard

This screencast covers usage of the Common Options wizard.

### Using the Advanced Styles Wizard: Styles, Localization, & Fonts

This screencast covers usage of the Advanced Styles Wizard, which allows experienced users to make further advanced customizations.

### Adding Sound Effects to a Slideshow

This screencast describes how to add sound effects to the slideshow, thus giving the user audio feedback as they navigate the slideshow's user interface.

## Making Changes: Accessing the Edit Wizard

This screencast shows how to access and utilize the Slideshow Inspector

## Using Audio and the Audio Controller in a Slideshow

This screencast details the process of adding all types of audio/narration/music to your slideshow, as well as giving the user control over this audio.

## Using Custom Button Images

This screencast covers the process of creating custom button images, which allows you to use your own images instead of the default control icons.

## Conclusion

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Thanks for going through this introductory usage manual. You should now be well on your way to creating powerful, highly customized slideshows. We look forward to seeing how you use the product!

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