

SCUM Software Review – GoLive CS

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Confessions Of A Novice Webmaster

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I clearly remember the day when I finally bit the bullet and decided to give up my dusty copy of Adobe PageMill. Adobe had decided that they would no longer support that product and I could see the handwriting on the wall. Besides, PageMill was the last—I repeat last—application that I used that required OS 9. I was eager to move on with my Mac life and put 9 behind me.

I jumped into GoLive 6 with the requisite amount of fear and trepidation. I admit that I am one of those users who loathe the process of sitting down and learning a new software package or product from the manual. (I know that there *may* be one or two of you out there who share this shameful flaw.) After a minimal amount of “book learning” I was able to recreate my PageMill-level competence in GoLive, and I even learned to like some of the new features. Once again I sank into relative comfort until—oh-oh!—along came GoLive CS with the shimmering promises of even more delicious features. And, oh, damn, some new ways of doing things.

Getting Started

It is not surprising that Adobe made it easy to open my previous website in new world of CS. You had only to open the site in CS and the files are automatically updated. So far, so good.

What I Liked

Once I got over the initial shock of “Oh my God, they moved everything around!” I began to get used to seeing my objects palette appear to the left of my document window. Grudgingly I began to realize that it actually worked better that way. The same held true for the newly configured Inspector window.

The task of importing photo files seemed a bit clumsy in the past, so I found that the new and simpler way of bringing files to the site was a pleasant surprise. I also soon discovered that using smart objects allowed me to quickly and easily import pictures from Photoshop Elements 3. No more “save for the web” steps for me.

Uploading files to my server was another task that seemed much easier with GoLive CS. I quickly got used to the arrow symbols for uploading and downloading files.

Adding the PDF view to the tool bar made my life a whole lot easier. In the past I was frustrated when I wanted to keep a file copy of my latest update or prepare a home page copy as a promotional piece. In the past I had to do screen captures of the site on a browser and then print them. They never looked very realistic and the quality was not really acceptable. With CS, doing a PDF of a page and printing it was simple and effective.

What I Didn't Like

I wish I could have found a way to increase the size of my toolbar items and palette icons. They are a little tiny for my taste. For example, I never seemed to be able to locate the “refresh view” button even though it has not changed significantly in terms of its position in the toolbar. My best guess it has to do with the overall complexity of the work area. (I know some wise guy out there is going to suggest that I just change my display resolution, but I don't seem to have an issue with the way other applications appear.)

Bottom Line

Even though my current webmaster duties don't really require me to utilize all of the power of GoLive and truly appreciate the depth of its capabilities, I am happy I made the switch. It was well worth the trip.

Pricing & Availability

You can buy GoLive CS new for \$399 or pay\$169 if you want the upgrade from Golive 6.

If you want more information, you can get it direct from Adobe at:<http://www.adobe.com/products/golive/overview.html>