



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

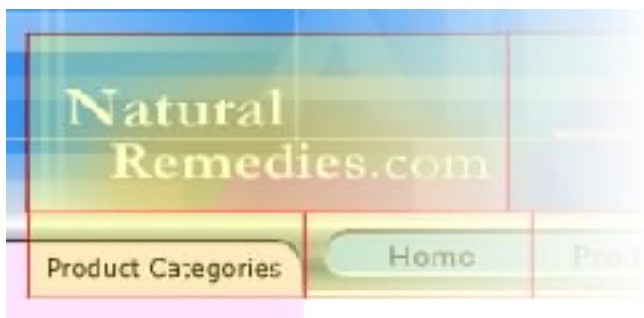
Canvas Tips and Techniques



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Advanced Web Slicing with Canvas 8



To ensure fast-appearing web pages, many web designers often turn to image slicing. Now Canvas 8 comes ready to perform this process for you. Find out how in this special tutorial.

Using Canvas 8's Web Slicing Tools

The last thing that any web site needs is slow-loading images. Web pages have to grab attention and grab it fast. Unfortunately, many graphics on the Internet are anything but fast and require long load times due large file sizes or complexity. Image slicing is one way of combating this particular issue in web design. By dividing a large image into smaller 'slices', web graphics appear to load faster since parts of the image begin to show before the whole is complete.

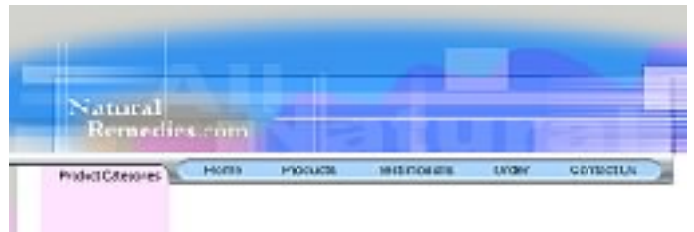
Another benefit of web slicing is that you can save each slice in a different format if need be. In order to preserve quality and minimize file size, vector-based files tend to work better as GIFs while bitmap images are usually best saved in the JPEG format. As a result, web slicing can positively effect download time since more than one type of file format can be used within the same image.

Canvas 8 comes equipped with web slicing features that bring more speed to web site graphics. Using these new tools, you can optimize images for web export and enhance the viewer's experience at your site. The slicing process is easy: Canvas lets you divide your images into slices using a series of simple steps and then creates the code that puts those same slices back together as an HTML table. You also have the option to assign URLs to your slices. The Slice Creator and Slice Selector tools in Canvas 8 control the creation and manipulation of slices, respectively. Each one of these tools has numerous options that address the various issues of web export.

Slices themselves are rectangular parts of an image that later become reassembled as cells within an HTML table. Once exported, the HTML table is viewable in all major browsers. You also have the option of opening your Canvas-created HTML tables in a third-party HTML editor for further manipulation. Advanced web designers, HTML developers, and other experienced users will find this especially beneficial as they can conveniently create all of their web graphics and intricate tables in Canvas and then do the final HTML coding in their HTML editor of choice.

Advanced Web Slicing with Canvas 8 (Continued)

In this tutorial, we will show you how to slice the navigation menu on the right for a fictitious website called Naturalremedies.com.



Step 1

First we will slice the Naturalremedies.com logo in the upper left-hand corner. Our goal is to create a smaller image for a quicker download and to create a link back to the home page.

The Slicing palette is located within the Tool palette as shown below.



Slice Creator Tool selected

Select the Slice Creator icon, which is symbolized by a pizza slicer. Once the Slice Creator is activated your cursor will become a small cross. Select the area of the image to be sliced by dragging the Slice Creator over the section that you want to slice. Sliced areas will appear as transparent yellow rectangles with red borders by default.



With the Slice Creator tool selected, drag your cursor across the area to be sliced



Your slice will look like this when completed

Advanced Web Slicing with Canvas 8 (Continued)

Step 2

Continue to slice the image using the Slice Creator tool. Slices may overlap each other.



Step 3

Now that the slices have been created using the Slice Creator, your next step is to assign the slice properties and URLs.

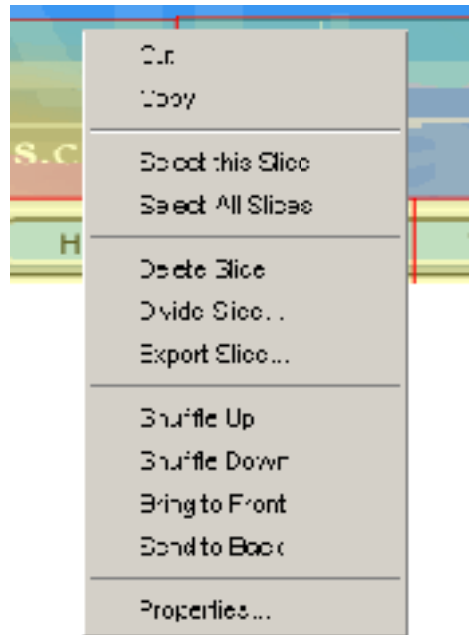
Activate the Slice Selector tool (see image below) by clicking on it. Using the Slice Selector tool, we will select the "Home" slice in the navigation bar as the first slice to work on.



Select a slice



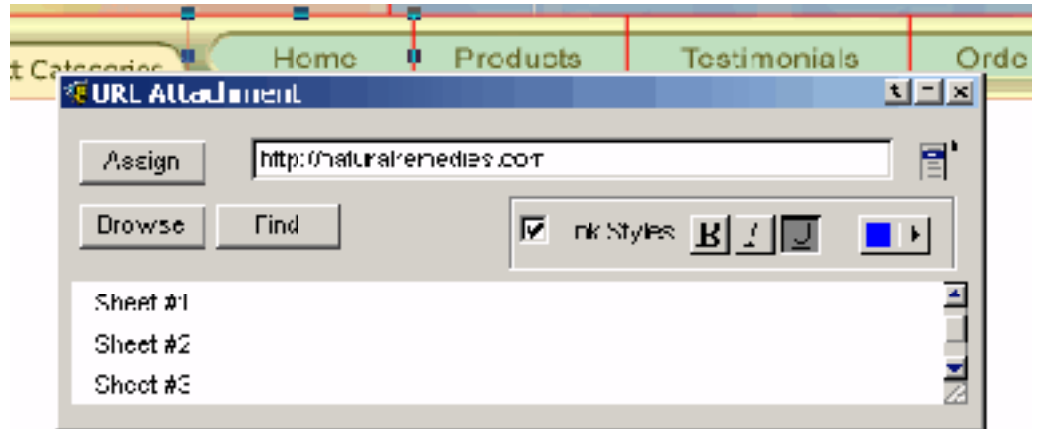
Right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac) to bring up the Slice Operations menu and then choose Select this Slice. At this point you have quite a few options for your slice which include moving, copying, dividing, and deleting. You can also arrange the position of your slice by sending it to the back or bringing it to the front of the page if you have overlapping slices.



Choose appropriate options from the Slice Operations Context menu

Advanced Web Slicing with Canvas 8 (Continued)

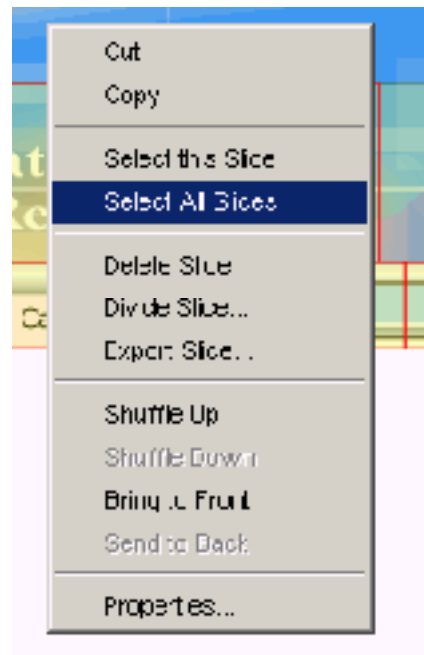
A URL can be attached to slices using the URL Attachment palette. With the slice still selected, choose Object > Options > URL Tag. Once the palette appears, type in the appropriate URL as shown in the example to the right and then select Assign.



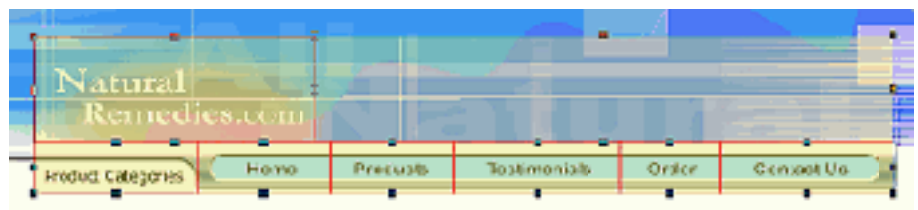
Add URL using the URL Attachment palette

Step 4

After you have assigned URLs to your slices, we are ready to prepare the slices for export into an HTML table. First right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac) on a slice to bring up the Slice Operations menu and then choose Select All Slices from the Slice Operations Context menu.



Choose Select All Slices from the Slice Operations menu



Your slices will look like this when they are all selected

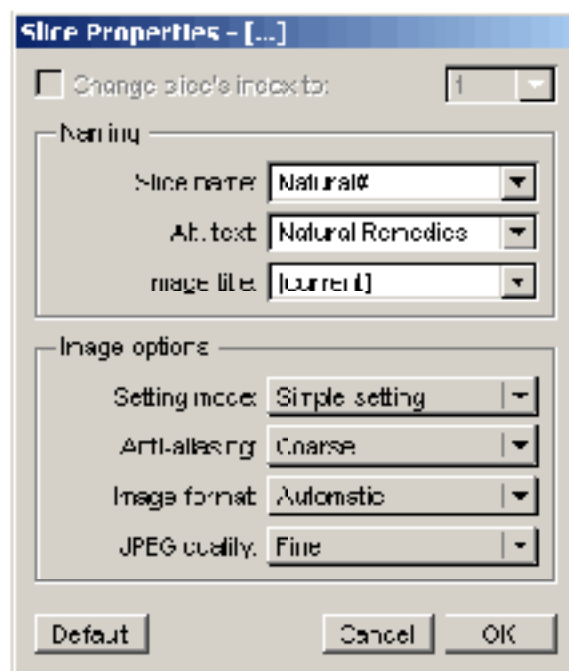
Advanced Web Slicing with Canvas 8 (Continued)

Step 5

With all the slices selected and the Slice Selector active, right-click (Windows) or Ctrl-click (Mac) over a slice to bring up the Slice Operations context menu again and then choose the Slice Properties dialog box.

In this step, you have a number of Naming options. Start off by choosing a naming scheme for your slices. The slice name will become the name of your image files. For this example, let's use 'Natural' as the main name and then let Canvas assign a number to follow for each slice (i.e. the first slice would be 'Natural1', the second slice would be 'Natural2', and so on). This is done by typing 'Natural#' in the Slice name field. Next, you have the option to add alternative text, which some browsers will display in place of an image while it is being loaded. Type in 'Natural Remedies' for this example. The third Naming option is Image title. By default, a browser will display the title as either a tool-tip or on the status bar when you move the cursor above the image.

After you have chosen your Naming options, the next step is to set the Image options. These options determine how a slice will be rendered before being exported. There are three Setting modes to choose from. If Default options is chosen, then the slices will share the Slicer's default setting. By using the Simple setting mode, you can choose the desired options for anti-aliasing, image format, and JPEG output quality. The last option is Optimized. When checked, you can set any combination of image parameters for GIF or JPEG files. For this tutorial, choose Simple setting options and set the Anti-aliasing to Coarse.



Slice Properties dialog box

Advanced Web Slicing with Canvas 8 (Continued)

Step 6

Once you have assigned the appropriate properties to your slices, it is time to export them. With the Slice Selector active and all your slices selected, right-click (Windows) or Ctrl-click (Mac) to bring up the Slice Operations context menu and then choose the Slicer Export Options dialog box.

First, check the Replace existing images option so that Canvas will automatically replace any existing images that have the same file name and location. If unchecked, a dialog box will warn you when a slice is about to be replaced.

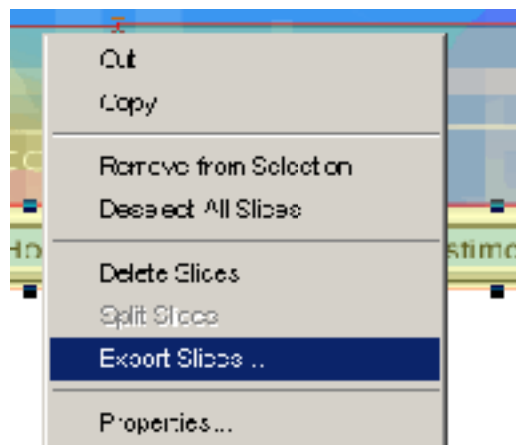
Next, check the HTML Export options. This option creates an HTML file that will contain the images to be exported. The file will contain one table that will group all of the images together. These settings affect how the HTML table will be designed.

Render empty slices is the third option. If checked, all empty spaces (within the rectangle that determines the boundary of all the selected slices) will be rendered. If not checked, the cell in the table will appear to be empty. For this example we will use the default: Render empty slices.

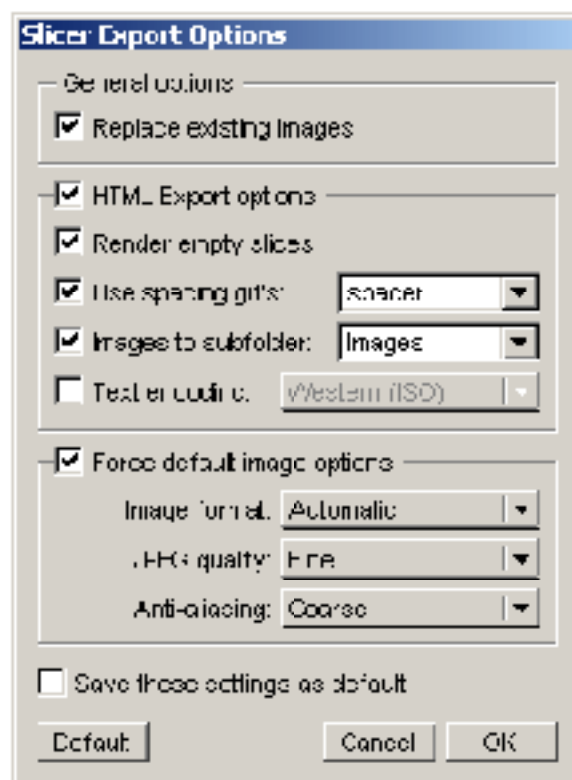
The Use spacing gif's option should be checked if there are empty spaces in a slice. When working with complex tables, it may become necessary to utilize a one-pixel wide transparent GIF images as a spacer to prevent HTML table cells from collapsing.

The Images to subfolder option lets you name a separate subfolder to which all images will exported.

The Text encoding option will encode all text using the specified encoding: Western (ISO) is the best choice for the western Latin alphabet while Unicode (UTF-8) is the best choice for other alphabets or mixed alphabets.



Choose the Export Slices option from the Slice Operations context menu



Slicer Export Options dialog box

Advanced Web Slicing with Canvas 8 (Continued)

Force default image options. If this option is turned on, then the individual image parameters will be overwritten by the Slicer's default options.

Once all of your parameters are set, select OK. You will now be presented with a "Save to HTML File" dialog box. Name the file and press Save.

Now you have a clean HTML table. Canvas 8 automatically creates all of the HTML code required to display your graphics on a web page. You also have the option to open your newly created HTML file in a third-party HTML editor for adding text and images or integrating into an existing web site.

We suggest that you preview your work in a web browser to ensure that your document displays correctly. Also, remember that some images will appear differently when viewed on other platforms.

Below is an example of the table generated by Canvas 8 in this tutorial. To examine the code generated by Canvas, select View>Source in your web browser.

[View Navigation Bar](#)

The following is an example of the same file after adding text and images in an HTML editor.

[View Completed Page](#)