

Microsoft Personal Web Server

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Microsoft's Personal Web Server is a piece of software that allows your PC to function as a Web Server. This means that it allows your computer to interpret and "serve up" HTML file requests from browsers like Internet Explorer and Netscape.

Personal Web Server is ideal for web development on an Intranet, or for people who don't have access to a web directory on a Unix server. It also provides a way to test out HTML files and their associated links, programming scripts, and database connectivity before uploading the files to a "production" server. Further, its graphical interface makes it more friendly to use and easier to administer than mastering the commands necessary for a Unix based web server.

Currently, Personal Web Server is available free of charge from Microsoft's website for both Windows 95 and Macintosh platforms. Point your browser to:
<http://www.microsoft.com/ie/pws/>

There are two versions available for Win95- PWS 1.0 and PWS 4.0. PWS 1.0 is the version that is currently shipped with Front Page 98 and until recently was available from Microsoft's website. The executable file is relatively small (759KB) and will easily fit on a floppy disk. There are advantages and disadvantages to using either version.

	PROS	CONS
PWS 1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small file size • has web server and ftp server (greater functionality) • can access web and ftp servers remotely • compatible with any browser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no built in wizards • interface not as intuitive as 4.0 • components for database connectivity must be downloaded separately • probably will be phased out
PWS 4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • built in wizards for web page creation • friendly GUI (Graphical User Interface) interface • components for database connectivity are part of download 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • huge files to download • no FTP server • local use only • Internet Explorer 4.01 is REQUIRED to install this version

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