

For most people that have been on the Internet for any length of time, saving a file is like blinking. It is done so easily, you do not even think about it. You just click, click, save. Now if you want that file to be a webpage that browsers will be able to read, then there are a couple of standards you need to be aware of. This video will demonstrate the ways to save your file as a webpage. For a basic webpage, the file extension needs to be either .htm or .html. They are looked at in the eyes of the browsers. It is pretty much the same thing. So you can use either one. But for the sake of consistency, pick one and stick with it. I am going to be using .html, mainly because it has been around longer. So if nothing else, out of respect for the elder.

Okay, we have the extension part of the naming figured out. But what about the actual filename itself? You can name it really whatever you want, like MyFirstWebpage.html or any other descriptive type name. But remember to leave zero spaces and no funky characters. Purists say that only lowercase letters should be used, but as far as the browsers are concerned, they do not care if it is a big letter or a little letter. So letters, numbers, underscores and hyphens, and anything else should not be used. So now you know that you can name the file pretty much anything you want within the naming guidelines I just mentioned.

But here is why you will want to consider just naming it index.html. A web address tells the browser where to look for all the coding of a particular webpage so that it will show all the goodies. You know, the images, the text and formatting. For example, <http://cxi2.com/test> tells the browsers to head on over to this folder in this domain and show me all the webpage goodness. But in that folder named test, there needs to be an HTML file. That HTML file can only be named index.html for the browser to automatically pick it up out of the folder without some additional help. Now let us say for example that filename you wanted to see was not index.html. Then the browser is blind to it. It just simply cannot see it. And we are going to need to tell the browser the exact name in order for it to be seen.

I have already logged into my server through FileZilla and I am at the test directory in my domain name. So now all I need to do is drag my index.html file over to the test directory. Or you can right-click and left click on upload. That or just left click whole and drag on over there. Either way, it is going to end up in the same location and this is the URL now. And with this being named index.htm or index.html, the browser will automatically pick this up without it actually having to be declared in the URL. So let us go ahead and test this. I am going to just copy this. Come on into the browser, paste it up here and go. And there is our webpage. Now if we were to actually declare that filename that being index.html, then it will be the exact same thing. It is not necessary. The browsers automatically look for index file names in the directories. As you see, the exact same thing. Refresh, the exact same thing.

Let us try this with a different name for the exact same file. Let us go into our folder here on my desktop. Just going to right-click, copy, right-click, paste. And just rename this anything you want. Name it one of your descriptive names. My MyFirstWebpage.html. I am just going to copy that, so I am going to need that in a second. Copy that on my

clipboard, come on back to our FileZilla. Refresh this so that file shows up. There you go. Now let us go ahead and delete this one from our server. So this one is no longer there. Come on back to our browser, refresh, and there we go. This gives the contents of that directory, and right now it is empty, just as it shows in our FTP client. So now, let us upload our same exact file only with a different name, the descriptive name. Left click whole and drag it on on over. Now if we come on back to our directory here and refresh, unlike with the index.html file, the browser does not recognize it automatically. It sees it is there in the directory, but it is not pulling it up unless we specifically declare it in the URL, like this. And there it is, the exact same webpage, but if you do not save that HTML file as index.htm or index.html, then the browser will not automatically pick it up. You have to specify that name in the URL. So to recap, you need to use the extension .html or .htm and if you want the browser to auto find the homepage, then it needs to be named index.html or index.htm. Otherwise, you need to provide the exact filename within the web address. That is going to bring us to the end of this video on Saving your HTML Files.