

Program:	AceHTML 5 Pro
Publisher:	Visicom Media (http://www.visicommedia.com)
Price:	Available only on-line: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$49.95 (download program from site) • \$54.95 + \$5.00 s&h for CD-ROM
Reviewed by:	Donna M. Rule
Summary:	I've been looking for an HTML editor to replace Microsoft FrontPage for quite awhile – something low in cost and rich in features. AceHTML 5 Pro is just such a program. AceHTML 5 Pro is a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) HTML editor that provides many of the same features of FrontPage without the overhead. AceHTML 5 Pro has been rated very highly by cNET, Tucows, and WUGNet for ease of use and capabilities offered to the user.
System Requirements:	Windows XP, NT4 (SP3 or +), ME, 2000, 98 or 95. No other special requirements were listed other than operating system. During evaluation, this program was run on a K62-450 with 196M of memory. The disk space taken was approximately 25M.
Installation:	Installing AceHTML 5 Pro is easy. Simply click the executable and the InstallShield wizard will take you through the steps necessary to install the program files on the hard drive and directory of your choice. The only unusual occurrence happened when loading AceHTML 5 Pro the first time after installation. AceHTML 5 Pro uses a script to set the program options, which causes an alert from both Norton and McAfee virus scanner packages (if you have the script blocker running). AceHTML 5 Pro mentions that this message can be safely ignored – I've had no repercussions from McAfee after allowing this script access. An uninstaller is also provided should you wish to remove the program from your system.
Features:	<p>One of the ways AceHTML 5 Pro assists the web builder is by color-coding code statements (such as HTML and CSS). This feature allows the web builder to glance at the screen and see immediately whether code is incomplete, missing punctuation, etc. The interface is completely customizable with dockable windows that display a Code Inspector, file listing, browser preview and more. Automation of such tasks as building forms, tables, and frames is also available. Templates are also included that will assist you in creating new HTML, CSS, and other types of documents from scratch.</p> <p>One of the most useful features is the Code Inspector, which allows you to view and set attributes and properties for HTML tags without having to rely on memory! But, if you do need to know what a particular attribute or property means, AceHTML 5 Pro provides a set of comprehensive references for HTML, CSS, SSI, and Javascript. Very handy! The Code Inspector also notes which attributes are compatible with which browsers – a “must” if you're developing a website for the general public.</p>

For the serious web developer, AceHTML 5 Pro provides an internal browser to preview the code, but also has the option to add in the most commonly used browsers (Explorer and Netscape) as well as two additional user-definable browsers. The designed page can be viewed in each of these browsers to ensure the code is compliant across all platforms.

AceHTML 5 Pro also has quality assurance features, such as spell checking (requires Microsoft Word), checking for broken hyperlinks, and analyzing your pages for those pesky syntax errors.

I've saved the best for last – there are lots of goodies that come free when you purchase the package. You get complete templates for personal and business sites, additional downloadable interfaces and theme templates (some of these are truly stunning!) from the Visicom Media's website, and access to more than 20,000 graphic images. Also included are libraries of extremely useful Javascript and DHTML code for you to use. The goodies are worth the price of the package alone!

Documentation: AceHTML 5 Pro offers complete documentation on HTML, CSS, SSI, and Javascript as well as on the program itself. The documentation is accessed from within AceHTML 5 Pro and covers configuring the programs, using various features of the program (forms, tables, scripting, etc.), and document management. Hard-copy documentation is not provided with this program.

Product Support: During evaluation of this program, I found the help files detailed enough not to require contacting Visicom Media for any additional help. But support is available! Product support is offered via the Visicom Media website and Visicom Media forums. Registered members are entitled to free technical support via a form on the website. I was not able to find a phone number to talk to a real person if I had a problem; however, the company name, business address, and business phone number were listed in the "Contact" section of the website. Purchasing this program also entitles you to free program updates for all versions 5.xx

Comments: I found this program a terrific, cost-effective alternative to FrontPage and have been using it extensively to build websites over the last few weeks. The additional themes, templates, and scripts make it well worth the price. However, I would recommend this program to those who have at least a passing familiarity with HTML coding, since AceHTML 5 Pro is geared more towards those who prefer to hand-code instead of "paint" their site as is typically done in FrontPage. That being said, a new user can certainly come up to speed rather quickly by referring to the reference files and using the Code Inspector to set properties and attributes as they go. This program is a real deal!