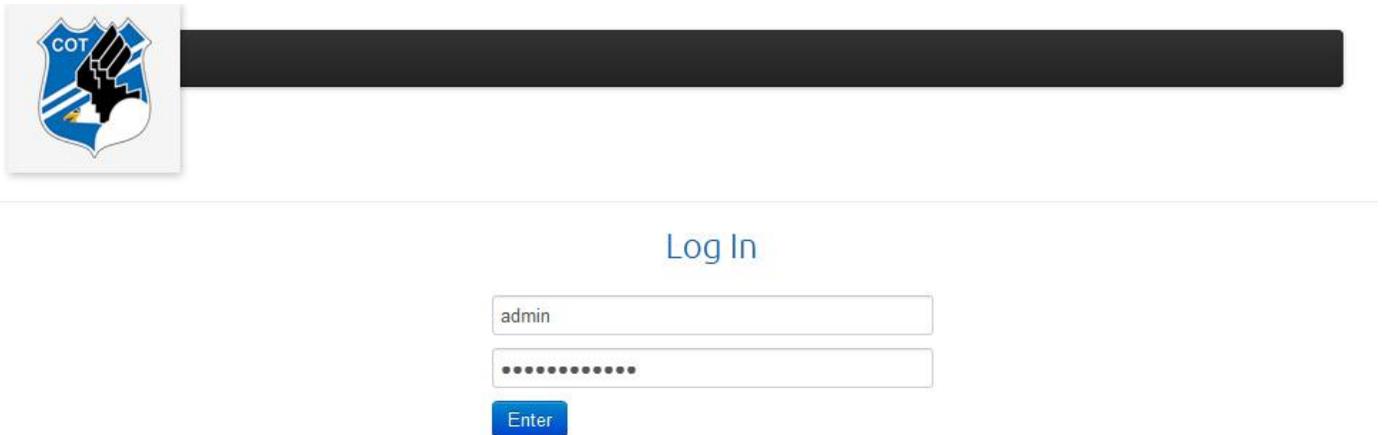


## Content Management Systems (CMS) Basics

Content Management Systems allow someone with no computer programming skills and no website design experience to be able to add/edit content on a website.

A website that has been created without a content management system (CMS) is a static website. A static website is one that doesn't change. Once the look and content of the site is created, the site is "done." If at a later time the website owner does want to do changes to the site, making those changes can be time-consuming. The content needs to be manually edited and the site owner needs to make sure that any changes don't negatively affect the layout or the look of the site.

The purpose of a content management system is to make the initial creation of a website easy, and to make future changes and additions to it easy as well. The CMS consists of an administration area where the website owner can add, edit or remove text, images, videos or any other file types that serve as the content for the rest of the website. The website owner access the administration area using a specific username and password (so that no one else can make changes to the website – see *Figure 1*), then he chooses a website page to work on – see *Figure 2*.



The image shows a login interface for a CMS. On the left, there is a logo for 'COT' (Columbian Olympic Team) featuring a shield with a fist. To the right of the logo is a large black horizontal bar. Below this bar, the text 'Log In' is centered. Underneath 'Log In' are two input fields: the first contains the username 'admin', and the second contains a masked password represented by ten dots. Below the password field is a blue button labeled 'Enter'.

Figure 1



Page	Content	Options
About us	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam sed sapien in nibh porttitor dapibus.	<a href="#">Edit Page Content</a>
Pricing	Suspendisse fermentum eros ut purus tempus mollis. Mauris malesuada fringilla auctor. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.	<a href="#">Edit Page Content</a>
Services	Fusce sed sapien massa, at ultricies eros. Fusce ac elit eget diam tincidunt interdum. Proin mollis velit in dui adipiscing viverra.	<a href="#">Edit Page Content</a>
Contact us	Pellentesque bibendum lorem quis dui feugiat vel sodales nunc sollicitudin. Sed aliquam tristique velit, et condimentum tellus scelerisque nec.	<a href="#">Edit Page Content</a>

**Figure 2**

For any website owner the CMS appears to be a simple thing — the pages of the website are the administration area. There is, one other very important and complex component to the CMS — the database. In general, a database is something that stores data or/and information. In computer terms, a database is a collection of related information (records – see Figure 3) that are stored electronically. A database allows storage, retrieval, and updating of the information that it holds.

id	PageTitle	PageContent
1	About us	<p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nam at odio enim, at mattis nisi...
2	Pricing	<p>Praesent lectus tortor, facilisis nec aliquet nec, tincidunt vitae urna. Aliquam id felis qu...
3	Services	<p>Cras dui purus, facilisis eget sodales id, pharetra ut orci. Nulla tincidunt tincidunt est e...
4	Contact us	Nulla tincidunt tincidunt est eget consectetur.

**Figure 3 - a database table view**

A CMS stores the website's content — text, images, videos etc. displayed by the pages of the website — in a database. Every time a visitor on the website visits a page, the visitor's web browser retrieves the content for that page from the database, and displays that content on the page. If the website owner uses the CMS administration area to make a change to a page, the change is being stored into the database. Every time a visitor opens the page, the page information comes from the database and any visitor on it will see the newly changed content.

This is where the **Advanced HTML Editor 3** does its best - Creating beautiful and rich content, editing of live text, images, tables and other content without any HTML knowledge, visually like in Microsoft Word - see Figure 6.

You can build a simple CMS using the Standard Dreamweaver Insert Record Behavior see Figure 4– for creating new content and Update Record Behavior see Figure 5 – for editing existing content and integrate **Advanced HTML Editor 3** with them.



**Figure 4 - Insert Record Behavior**

Learn how to use **Advanced HTML Editor 3** with Insert Record Behavior: <http://www.dmxzone.com/go?18475>



**Figure 5 - Update Record Behavior**

Learn how to use **Advanced HTML Editor 3** with Update Record Behavior:  
<http://www.dmxzone.com/go?18476>

If you are new to dynamic websites please check the following article by David Powers: **Building your first dynamic website** [http://www.adobe.com/devnet/dreamweaver/articles/first\\_dynamic\\_site\\_pt1.html](http://www.adobe.com/devnet/dreamweaver/articles/first_dynamic_site_pt1.html)

The screenshot displays a CMS interface. At the top left is a logo with 'COT' and a fist icon. A navigation bar contains 'Pages', 'News', 'Careers', and 'LOG OUT'. Below this, the 'Page Title' field is set to 'About us'. The main 'Page Content' area is a rich text editor with a toolbar showing various formatting options. The editor contains two paragraphs of Lorem Ipsum text. A 'Save Changes' button is located at the bottom left of the editor area.

Figure 6