

Microsoft Expression Web

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About the Tutorial

Microsoft Expression Web is a full-featured professional tool for designing, developing, and publishing feature-rich websites that conform to web standards. Expression Web uses its own standard rendering engine, which is different from Internet Explorer's Trident engine.

In the following chapters of this tutorial, we will look closely at Microsoft Expression Web and learn how it works.

Audience

This tutorial has been prepared for aspiring web designers to familiarize them with the interface and features of Microsoft Expression Web.

After completing this tutorial, you will gain sufficient knowledge on Microsoft Expression Web from where you can take yourself to the next level.

Prerequisites

It is quite a simple tutorial written in a very user-friendly manner. You can make the most of it with a very basic knowledge of web designing and web development.

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1. Expression Web – Overview

Microsoft Expression Web is a full-featured professional tool for designing, developing, and publishing feature-rich websites that conform to web standards. You can use Expression Web to create web pages and sites that let you transfer files between your computer and your hosting account.

Expression Web can design and develop web pages using HTML5, CSS 3, ASP.NET, PHP, JavaScript, XML+XSLT and XHTML.

Expression Web 4 requires .NET Framework 4.0 and Silverlight 4.0 to install and run.

Microsoft Expression Web – History

Microsoft released the first Community Technology Preview (CTP) version of Expression Web on May 14, 2006.

Microsoft Expression Web 4 was released on June 7, 2010.

- It added the option of HTML add-ins and access to a web-based functionality for testing pages on browsers that cannot be installed on the user's system, such as Mac OS X or Linux browsers.
- It also provides an SEO Checker using which you can analyze already created websites against the best practices for getting the highest possible search engine rankings.

Expression Web Service Packs

Expression Web 4 Service Pack 1 was released in March 2011 and added support for IntelliSense for HTML5 and CSS.

Expression Web 4 Service Pack 2 was released in July 2011. It fixed a number of issues and introduced new features such as

- jQuery IntelliSense support
- a panel for managing snippets
- Interactive Snapshot Panel
- comment/uncomment functionality in Code View, and
- workspace and toolbar customization.

In December 2012, Microsoft announced that Expression Studio will no longer be a stand-alone product. **Expression Blend** is being integrated into Visual Studio, while **Expression Web** and **Expression Design** will now be free products.

System Requirements

To create a website using Microsoft Expression Web, your computer should meet the following requirements:

- You should have at least Windows XP with Service Pack 3 or the latest operating systems.
- You should have a PC with 1 GHz or faster processor.
- Your PC should have 1 GB of RAM or more.
- Your PC should have 2 GB or more of available hard disk space.
- You should have .NET Framework 4.0 and Silverlight 4.0.
- Your PC should support Microsoft DirectX® 9.0 graphics.
- You should have DVD compatible drive.
- You should have 1024 x 768 or higher resolution monitor with 24-bit color.
- Some product features require Firefox 3.0 or later, Internet Explorer 8. So you should have the same version.

Actual requirements and product functionality may vary based on your system configuration and operating system.

2. Expression Web – Environment Setup

Microsoft provides a free version of Microsoft Expression Web which can be downloaded from <https://www.microsoft.com/en-pk/download/details.aspx?id=36179>.

Installation

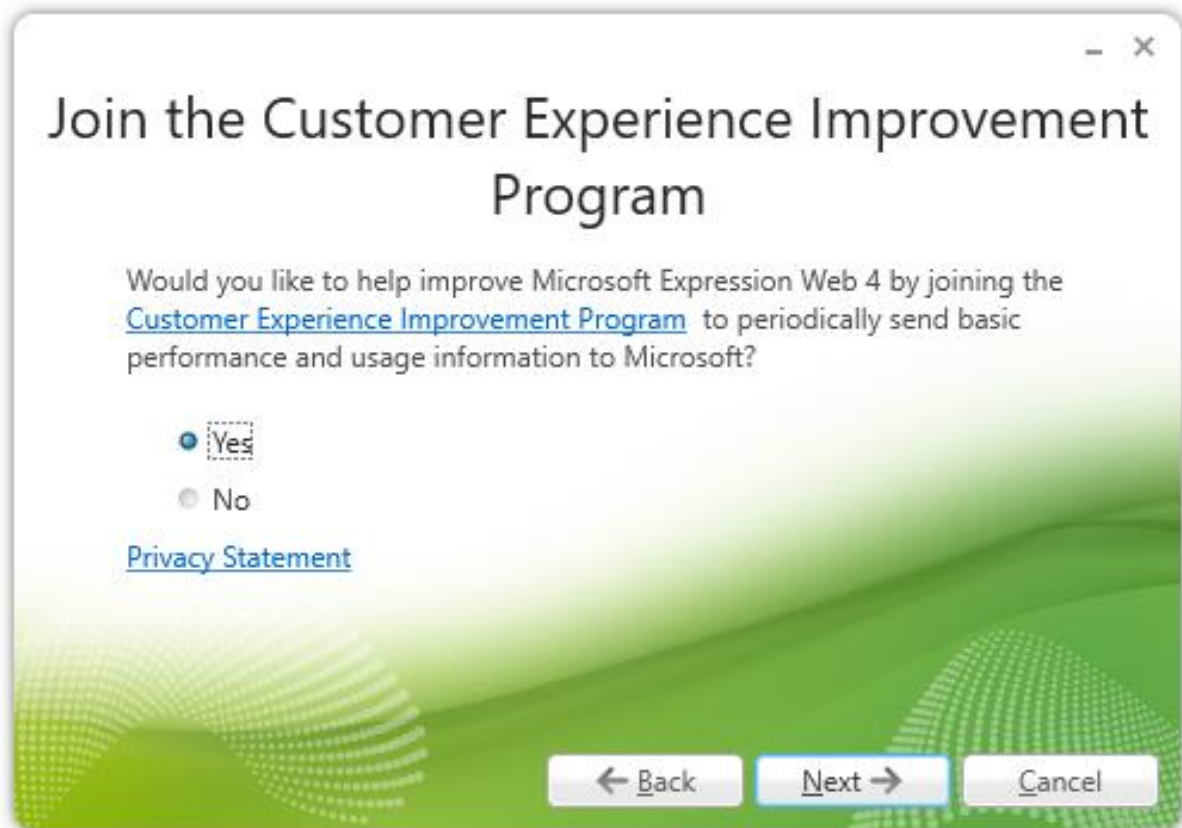
Step 1: Before you can install Expression Web, you will need to have .NET Framework 4.0 installed.

Step 2: Once downloading is complete, run the installer. The following dialog will be displayed.

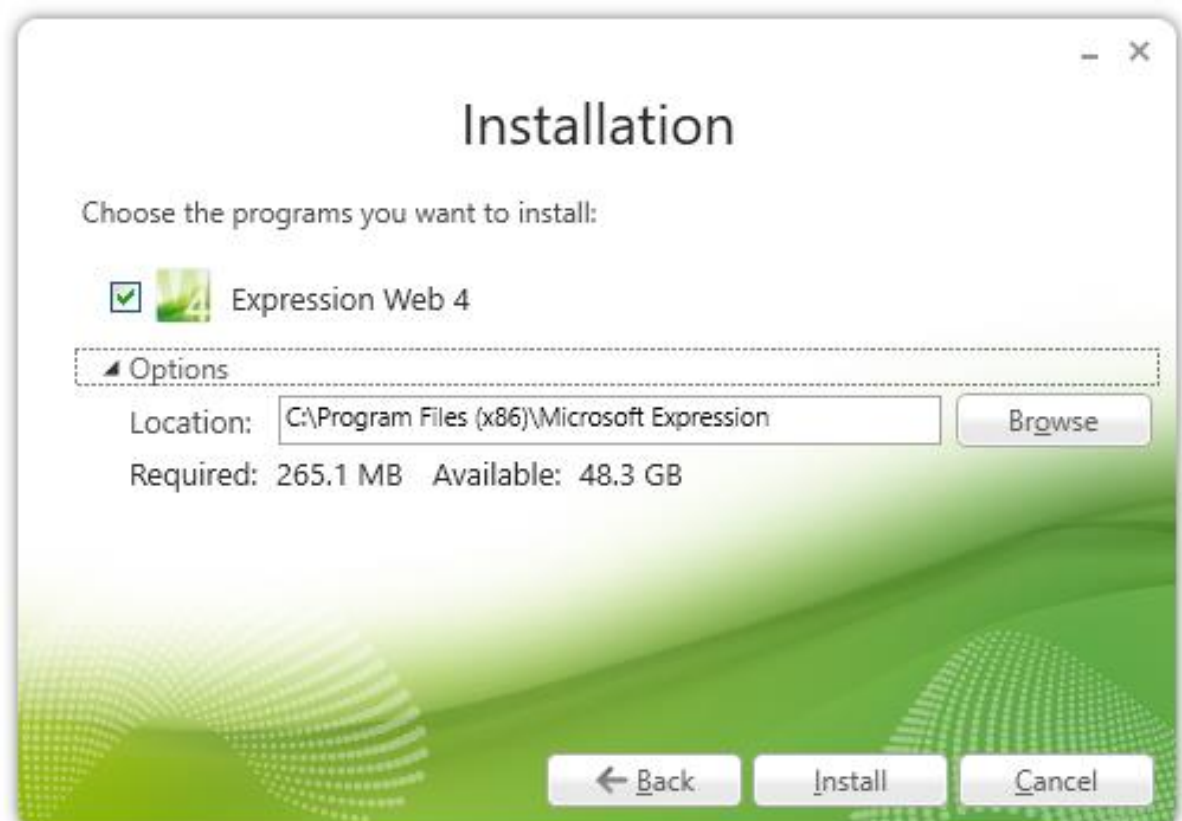


Step 3: Click the Accept button.

Step 4: Select the Yes radio button and then click Next.



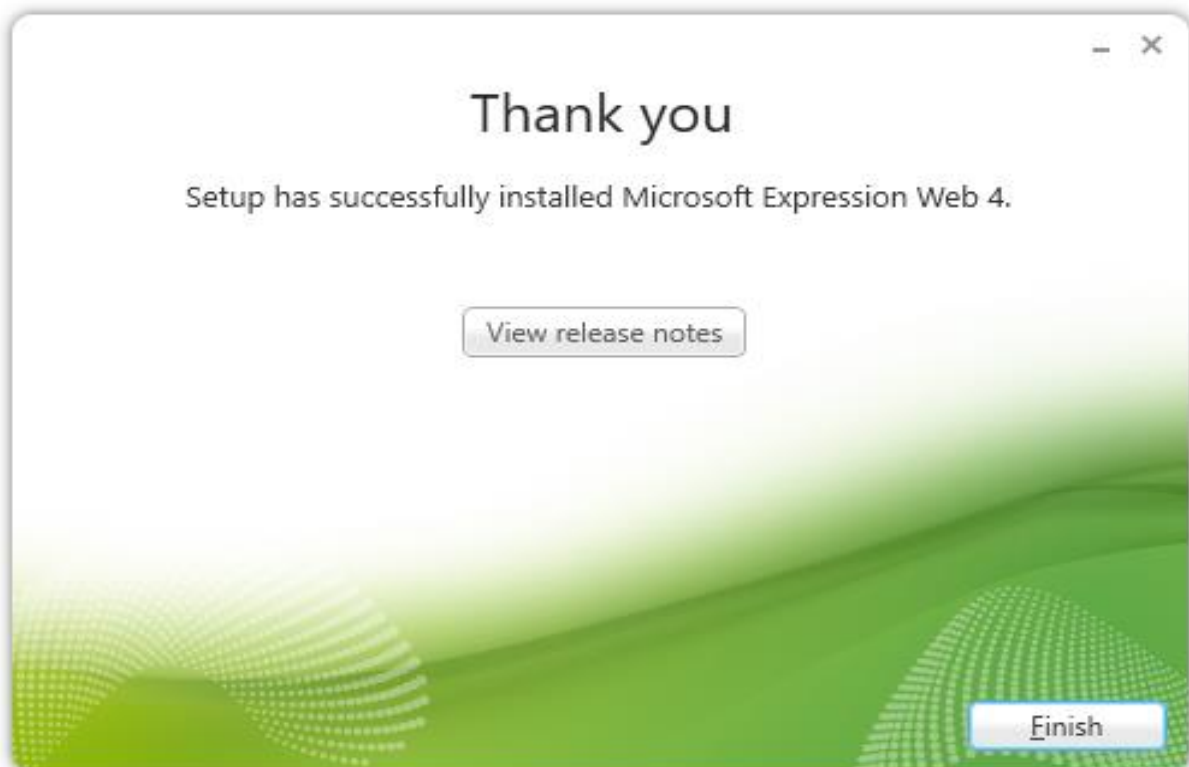
Step 5: You can choose other location as well for installation. Select the location and click the Install button.



The installation process starts.



Once the installation is complete, you will see the following dialog.



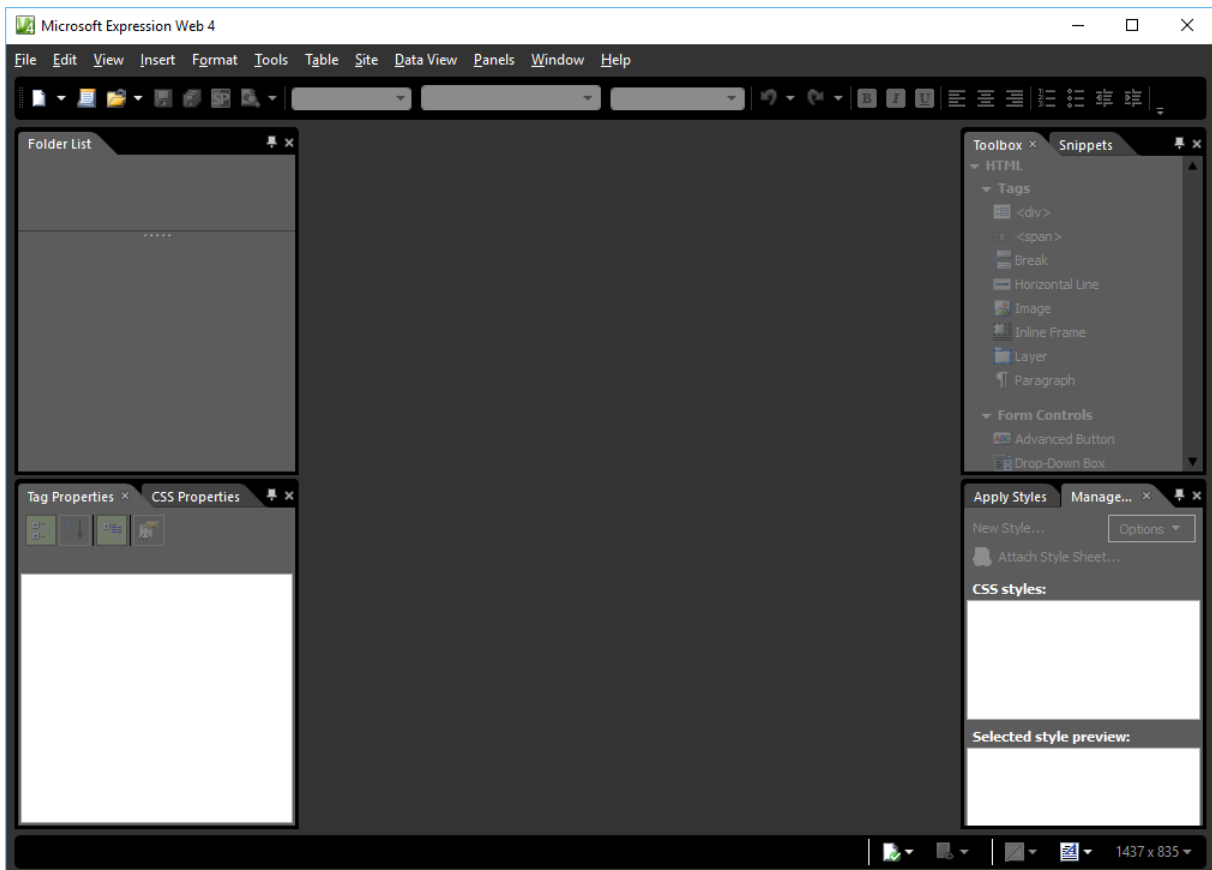
Step 6: Click Finish to continue.

3. Expression Web – New Website

In the previous chapter, we have installed Microsoft Expression Web and now we are ready to start working on it. In this chapter, we will learn how to create a new website from scratch.

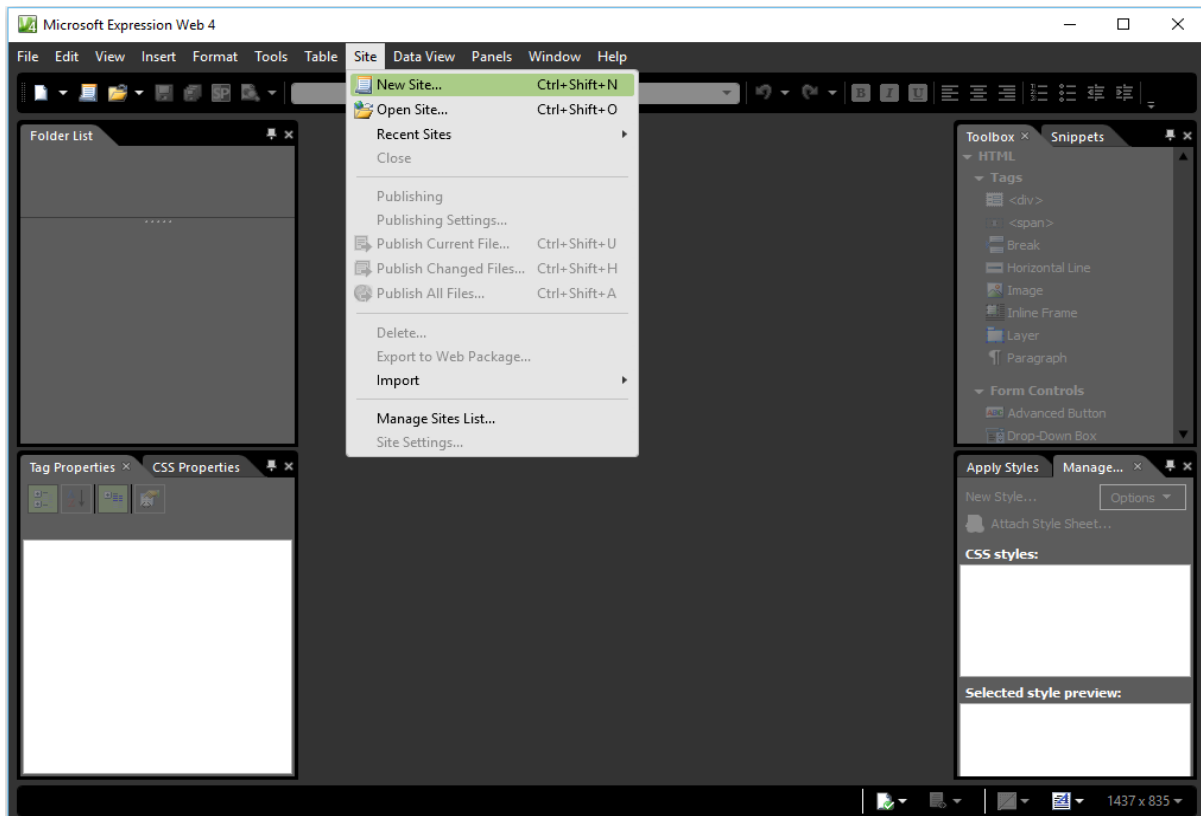
Create a Website

To create a new website, let's open Microsoft Expression Web.

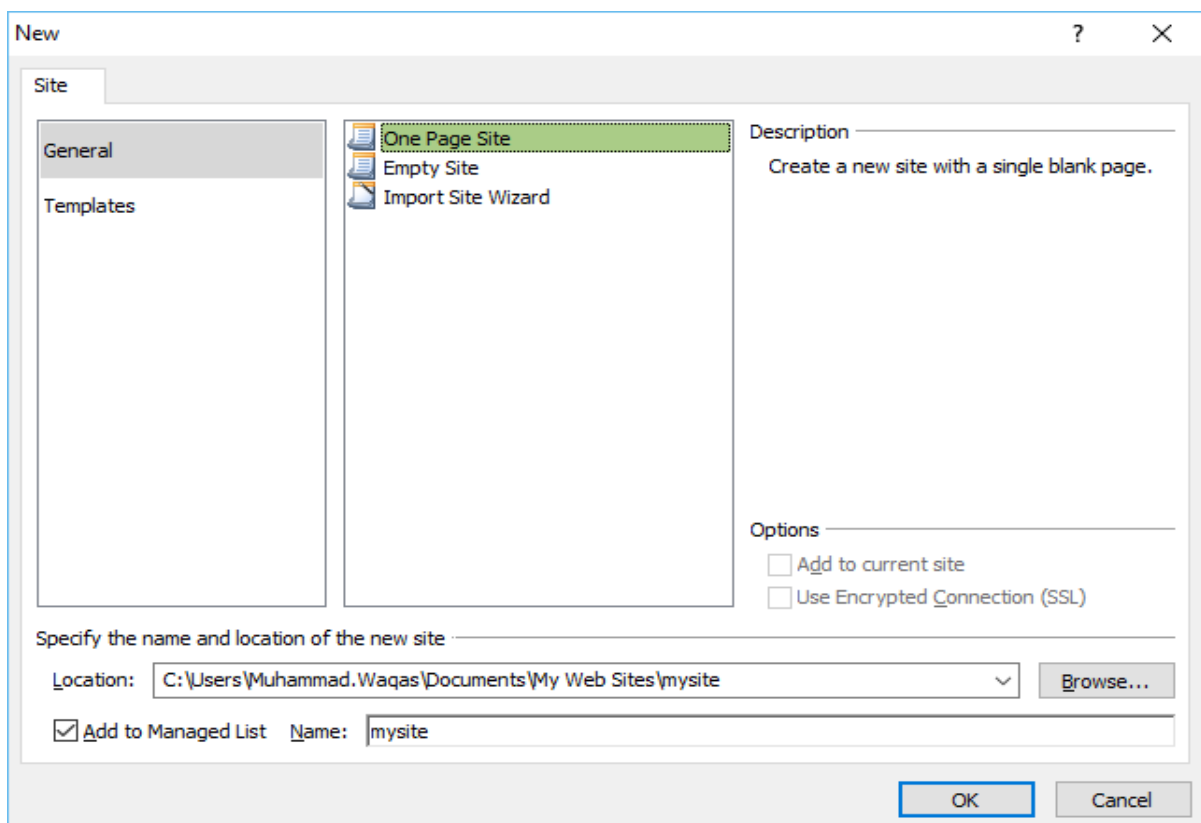


Next, you need to follow the steps given below.

Step 1: Select **Site -> New Site...** menu option.

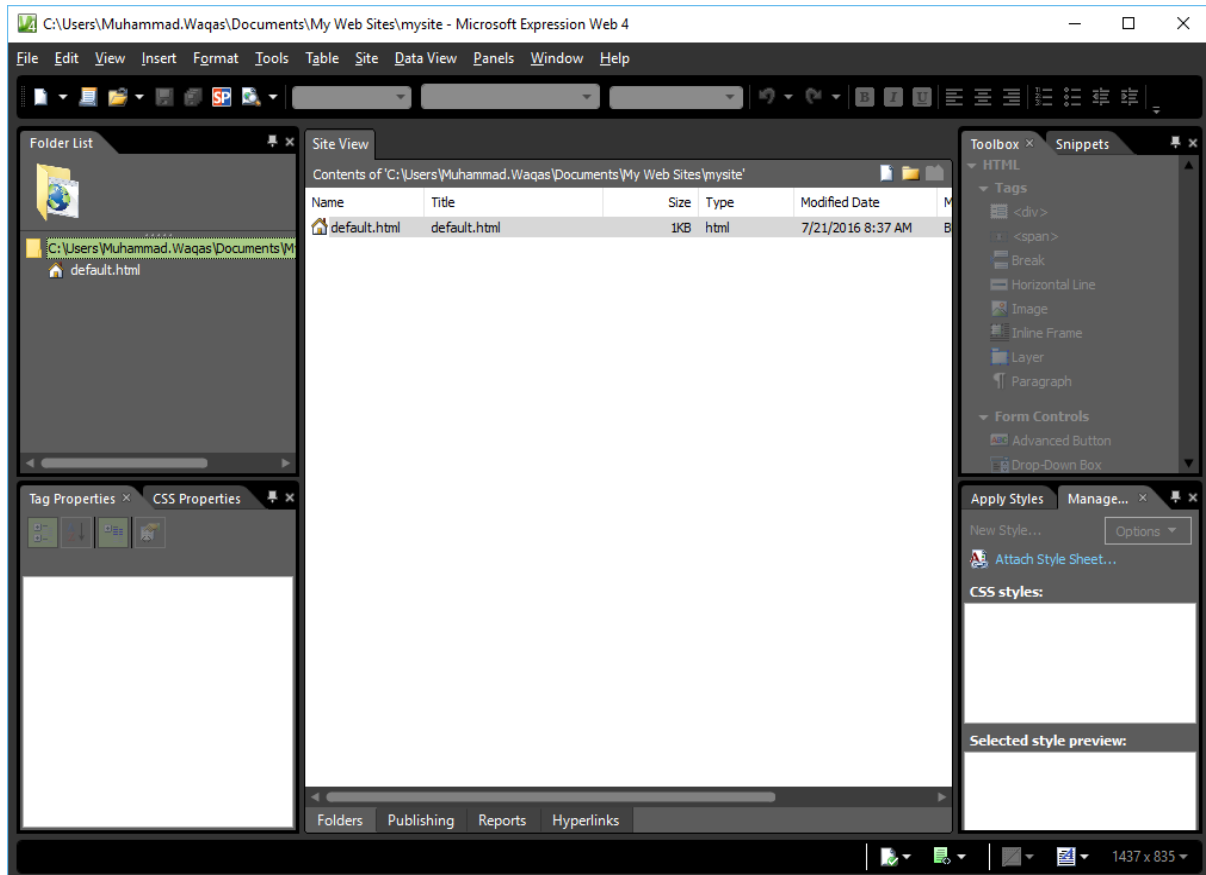


Step 2: It will open the following dialog from which you can create or import different types of website.

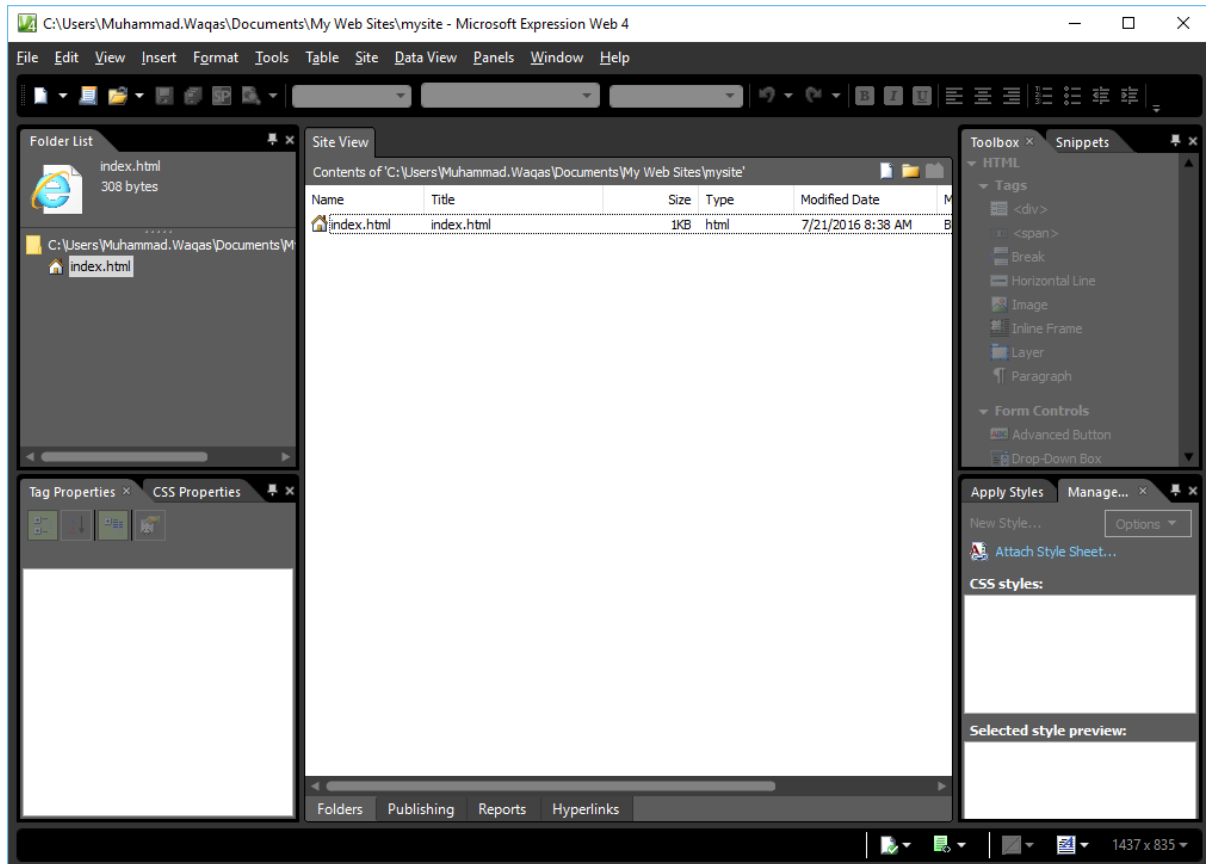


Step 3: For simplicity let's select **General -> One Page Site**.

- Specify the location or you can browse to the location where you want the new website to be created.
- Type in the name of your web in the name field and click OK.



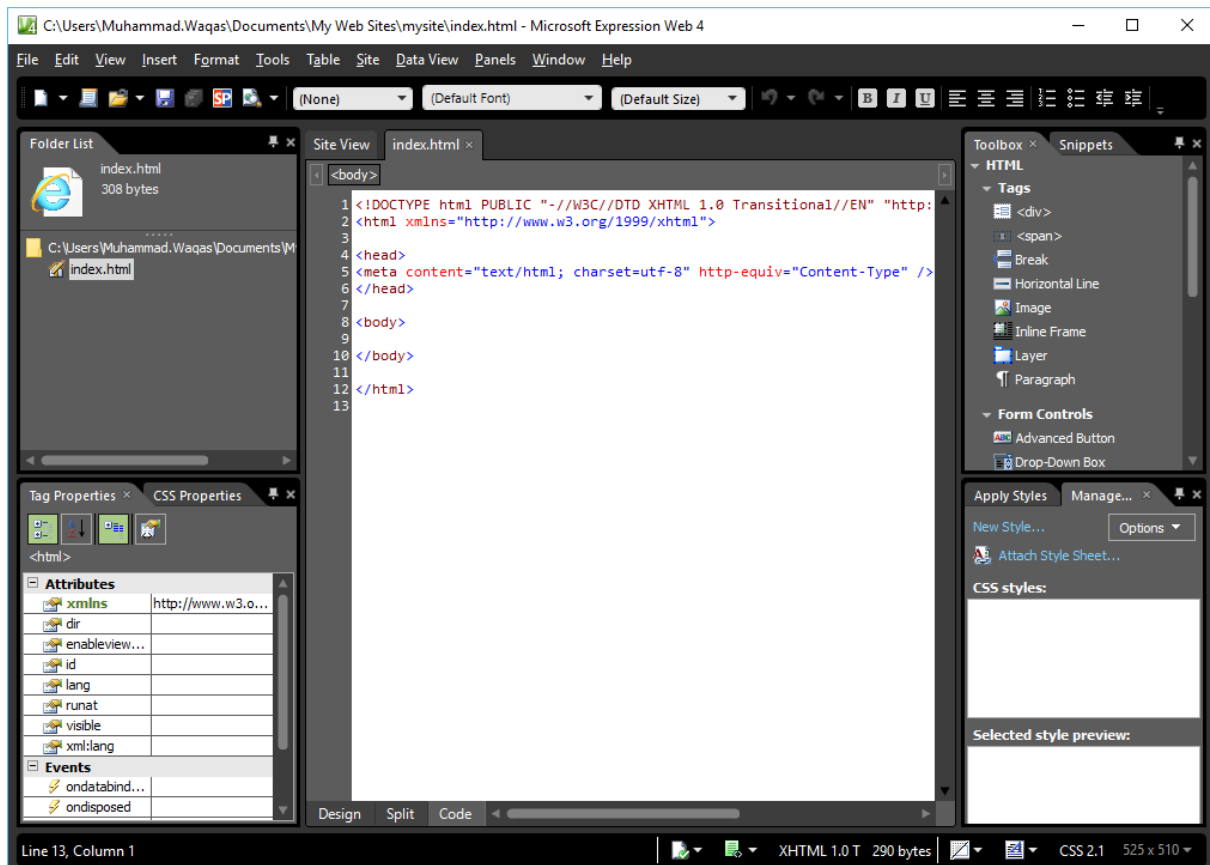
Step 4: The new web will be created with one page named **default.htm**. Let's rename it to **index.html** with a right-click on the file and clicking on the Rename option.



Step 5: The default **doctype** used in Expression Web is:

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
```

You can see it by just switching to the **code view**.



You can change the doctype from **Tools -> Page Editor Options -> Authoring**.

Page Editor Options

General AutoThumbnail Default Fonts Code Formatting CSS
Color Coding Authoring Picture Ruler and Grid IntelliSense Font Families

New Documents

Choose the default type of new documents and the default file extension of new HTML documents.

Default Document: HTML

Default HTML File Extension:
 .html
 .htm

Add a byte order mark (BOM) when creating or renaming UTF-8 documents with these file extensions

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> .htm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> .js
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> .html	<input type="checkbox"/> .php
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> .css	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> .txt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> .dwt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> .xml

Doctype and Secondary Schema

Choose the doctype declaration to be inserted into new pages. A matching document schema will be used to drive incompatibility notifications and IntelliSense for HTML and script. If a page has no doctype or an unrecognized doctype is declared, the Secondary Schema will be used.

Document Type Declaration: XHTML 1.0 Transitional

Secondary Schema: Internet Explorer 8.0

CSS Schema

This schema determines what is available in CSS IntelliSense.

Schema version: CSS 2.1

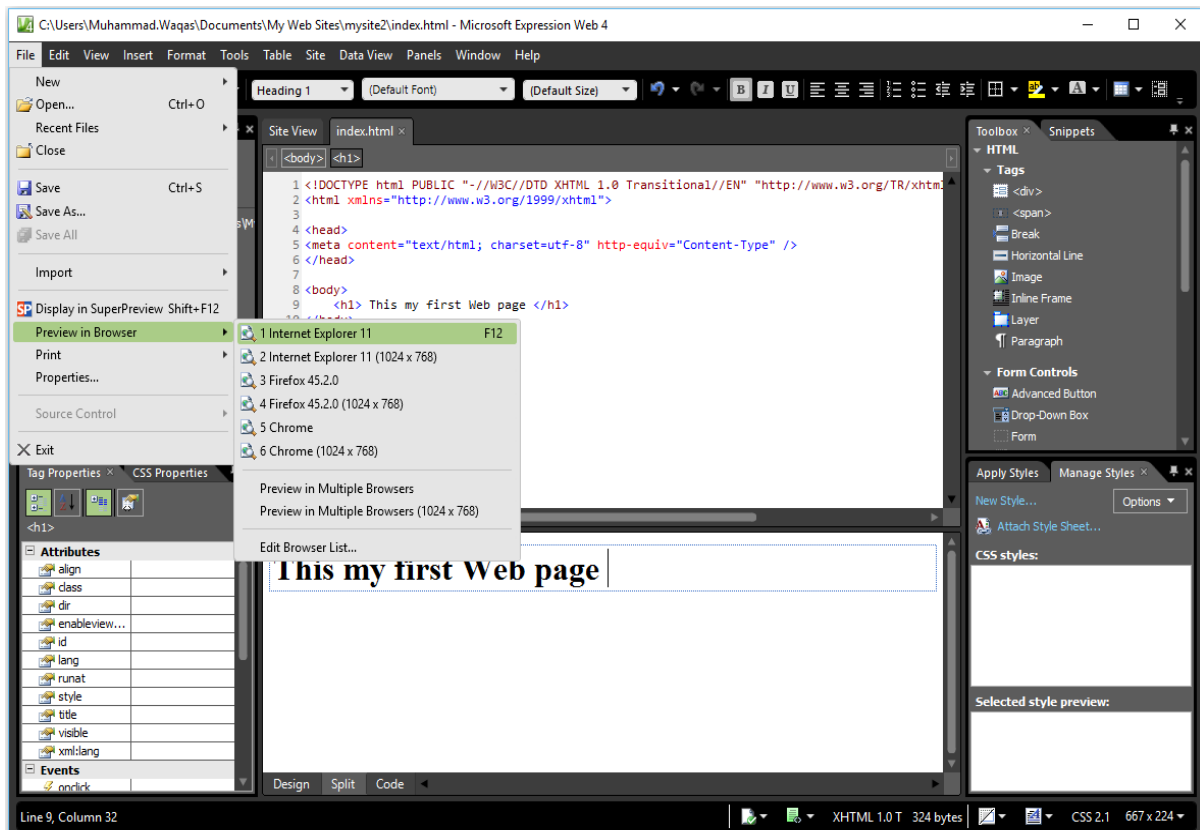
OK Cancel

Step 6: Now, let's add **<h1>** tag inside the **body** tag and some text as shown in the following code.

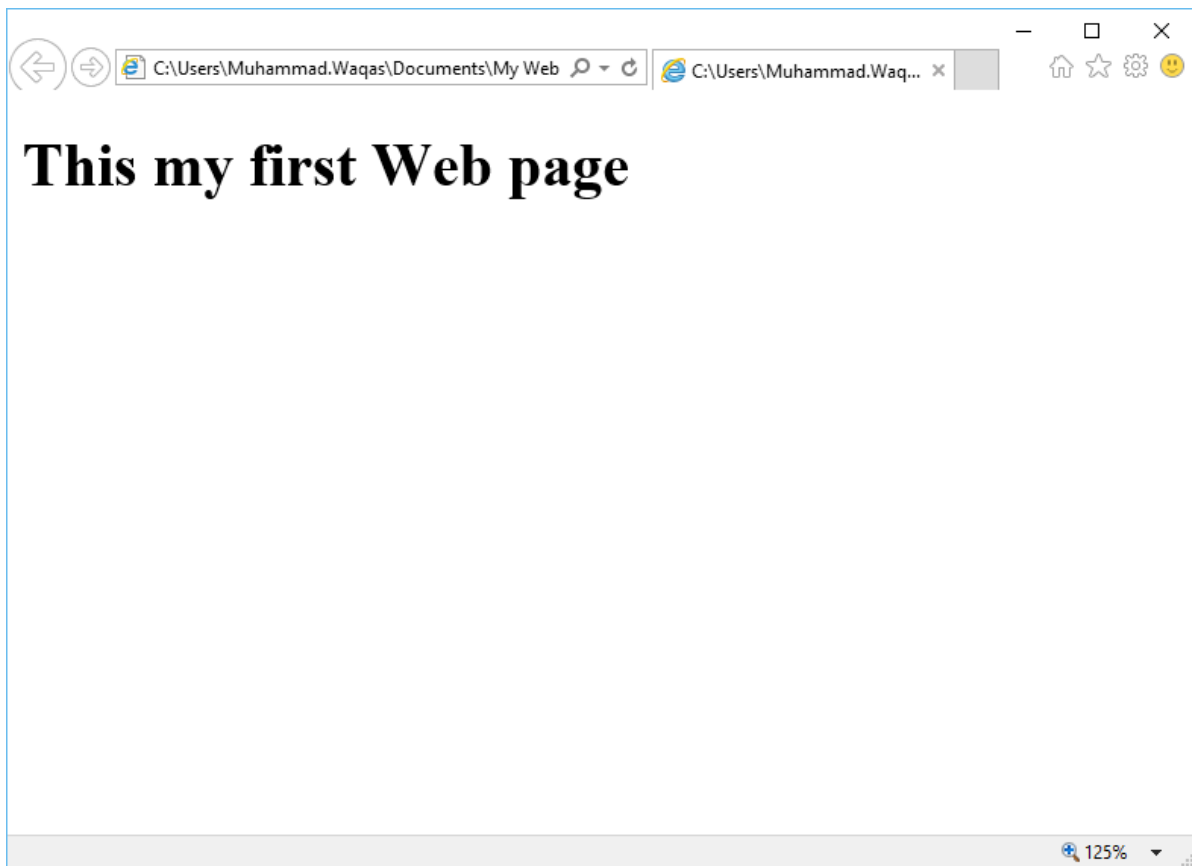
```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
  <meta content="text/html; charset=utf-8" http-equiv="Content-Type" />
</head>
<body>
  <h1>
    This my first Web page
  </h1>
</body>
</html>
```

Step 7: To see our web in a browser, let's go to the File menu and select the **Preview in Browser -> Any browser**, let's say, Internet Explorer.



It will open our web in Internet Explorer.



4. Expression Web – Blank Web Page

As we have already created our website, now we will need to create our Home Page. In the previous chapter, we have created a one-page website, and our Home Page was created at that time automatically by Expression Web. So, if you have created a blank website, then you will need to create a Home Page for your site.

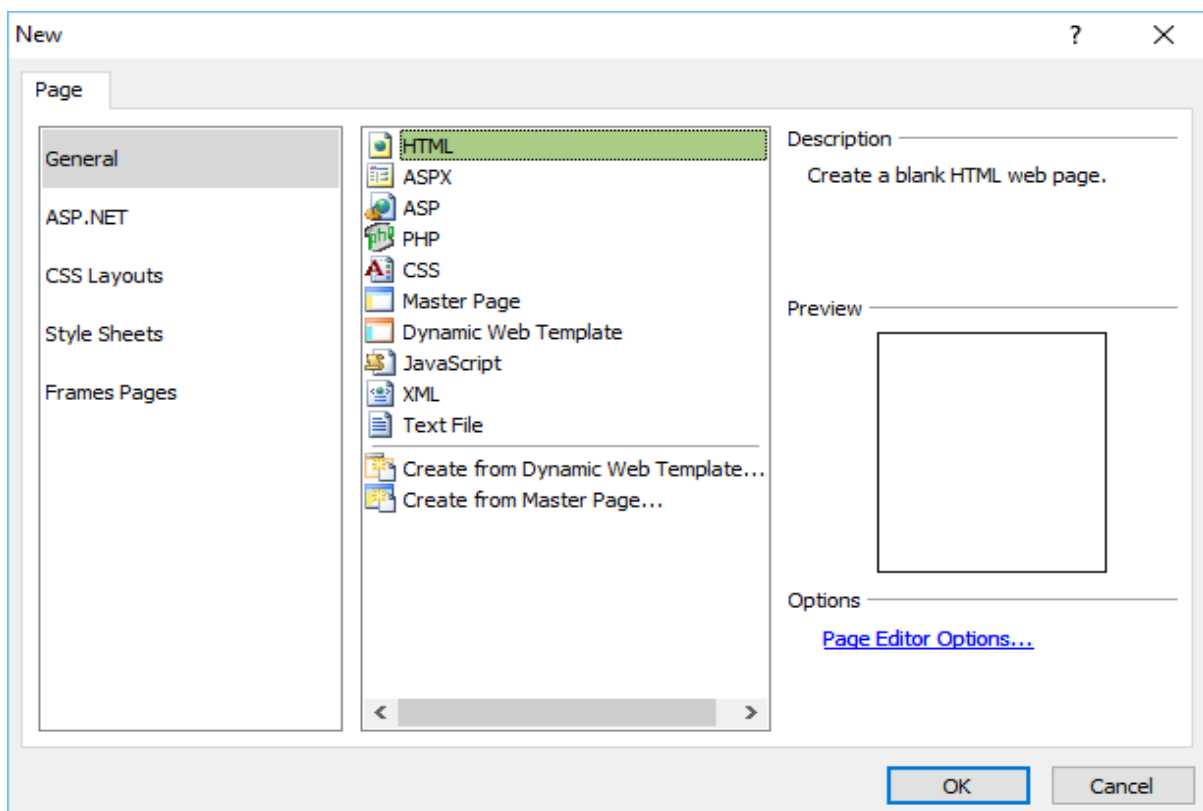
Microsoft Expression Web can create the following types of pages:

- HTML
- ASPX
- ASP
- PHP
- CSS
- Master Page
- Dynamic Web Template
- JavaScript
- XML
- Text File

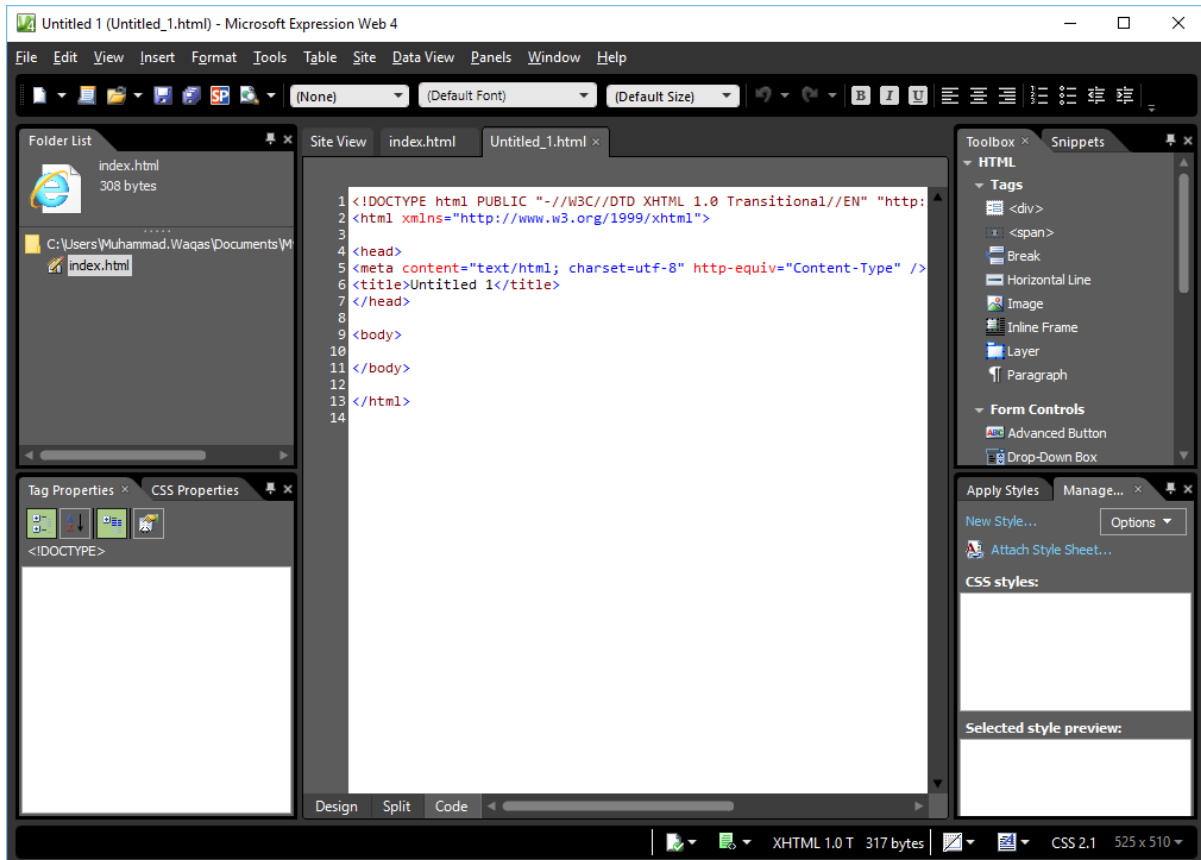
In this chapter, we will create an HTML page and its corresponding style sheet.

Create a Blank Page

To create a blank page, you can simply go to File menu and select **New -> Page...** menu option.



From the new dialog, you can create different types of blank pages such as HTML page, ASPX page, CSS page, etc. and click OK.



As you can see here, the default code is already added by Microsoft Expression Web.

```

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">

<head>
<meta content="text/html; charset=utf-8" http-equiv="Content-Type" />
<title>Untitled 1</title>
</head>

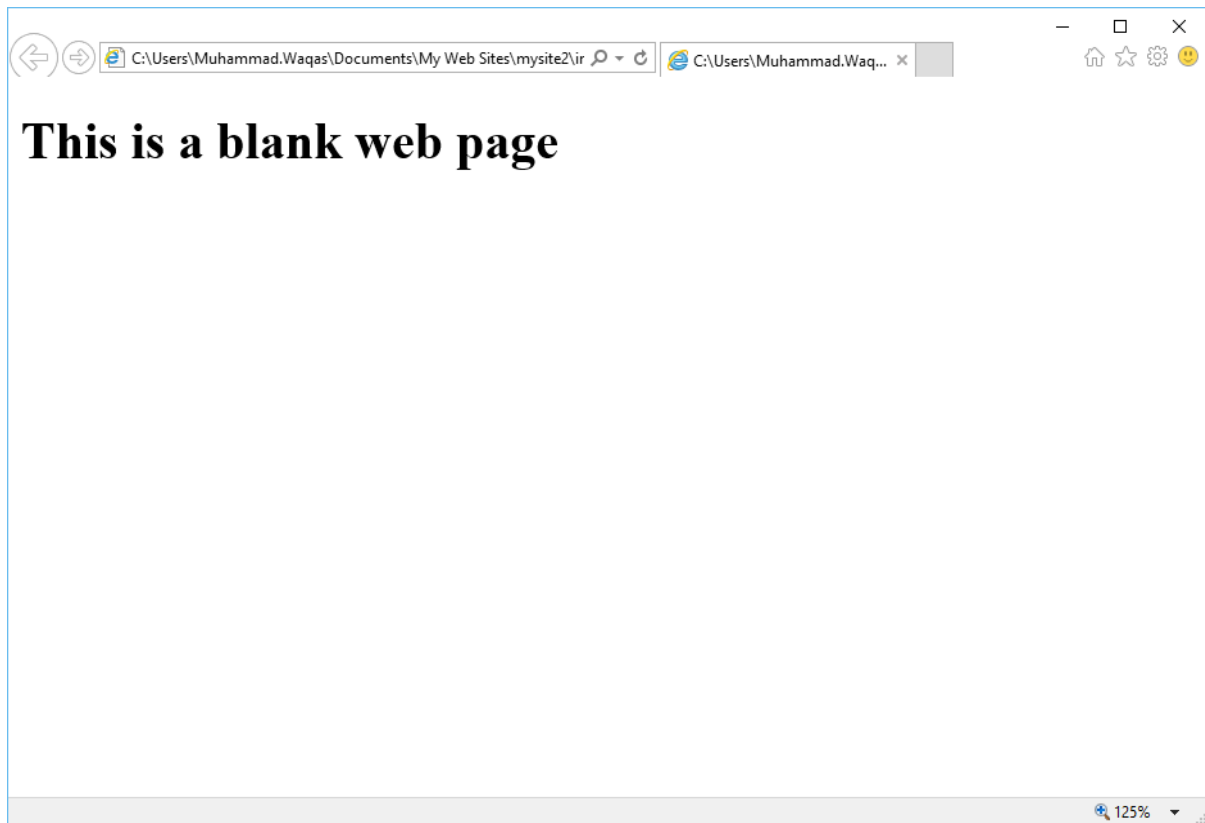
<body>
  <h1>
    This is a blank web page
  </h1>
</body>
</html>

```

As you can see, your newly created page has the file name **Untitled_1.html** or **Untitled_1.htm**. You will need to save the page by pressing Ctrl + S and specify the name.

As our website already contains an **index.html** page, we don't need another one. However, if you have created an Empty website, then name this page **index.html**.

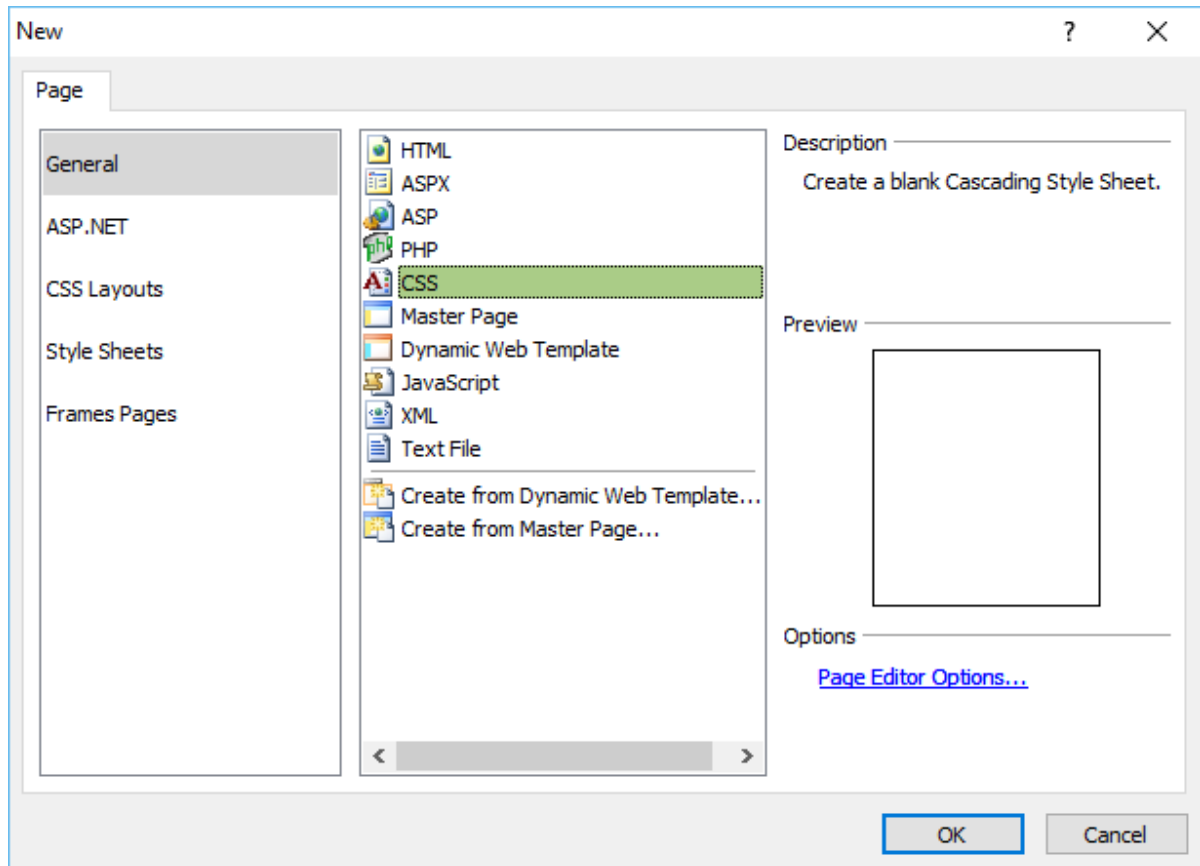
To see your web in a browser, let's go to the File menu and select the **Preview in Browser** -> **Any browser**, let's say Internet Explorer.



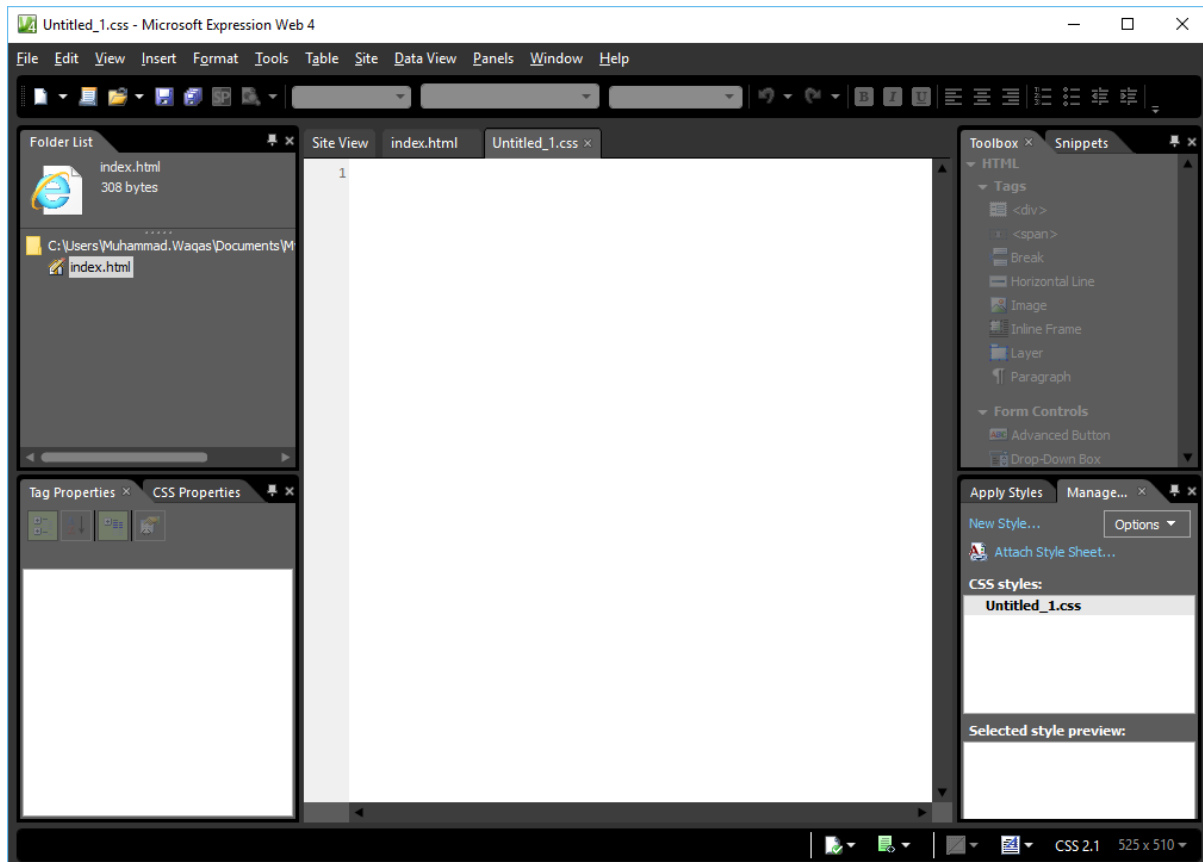
Create a CSS Page

Let's take you through the step-by-step process of creating a CSS page.

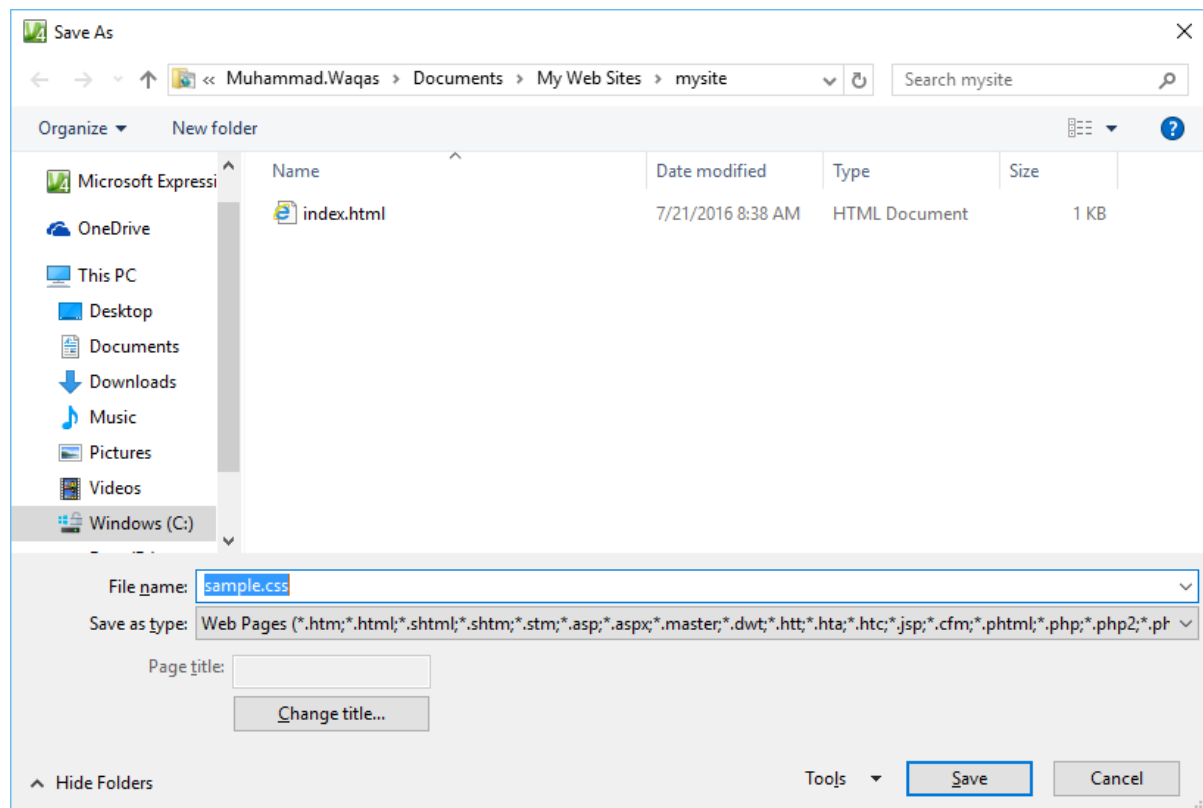
Step 1: To create a CSS page, go to the File menu and select **New -> Page...** menu option.



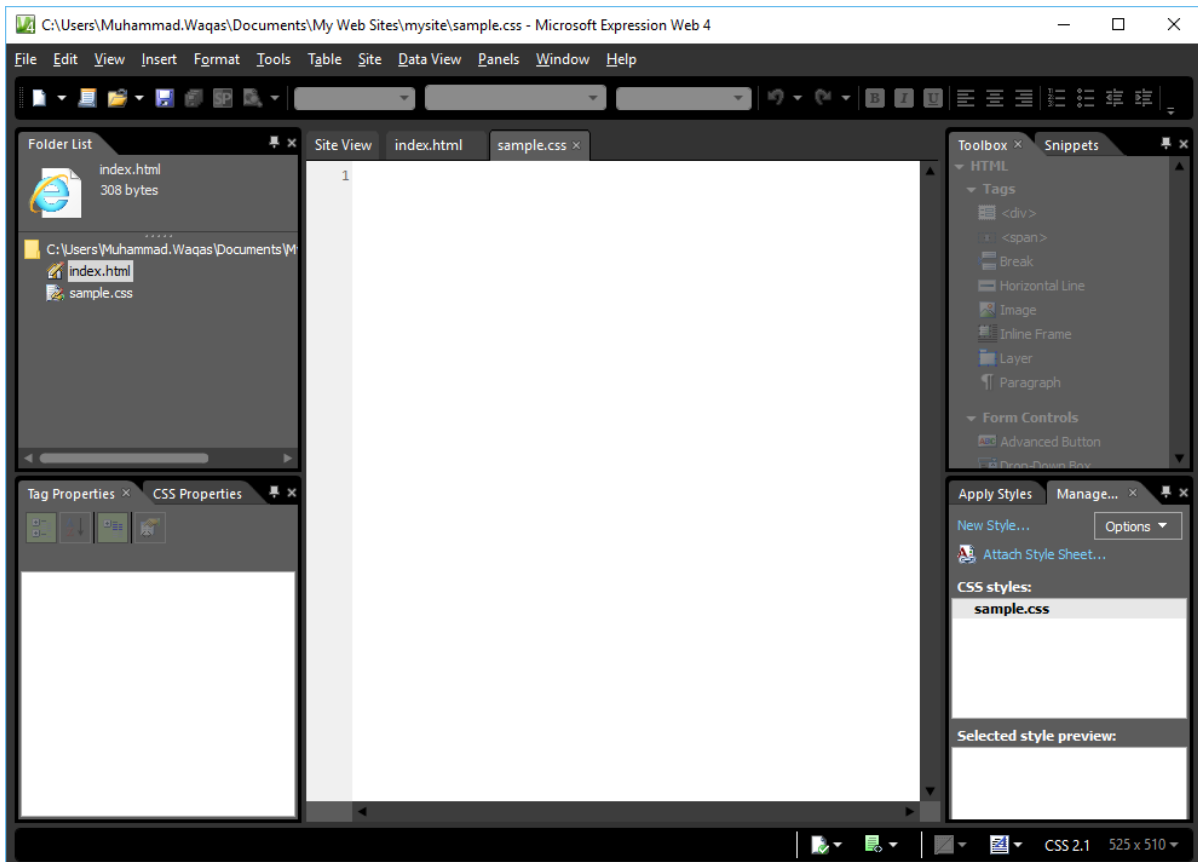
Step 2: Select **General -> CSS** and click OK.



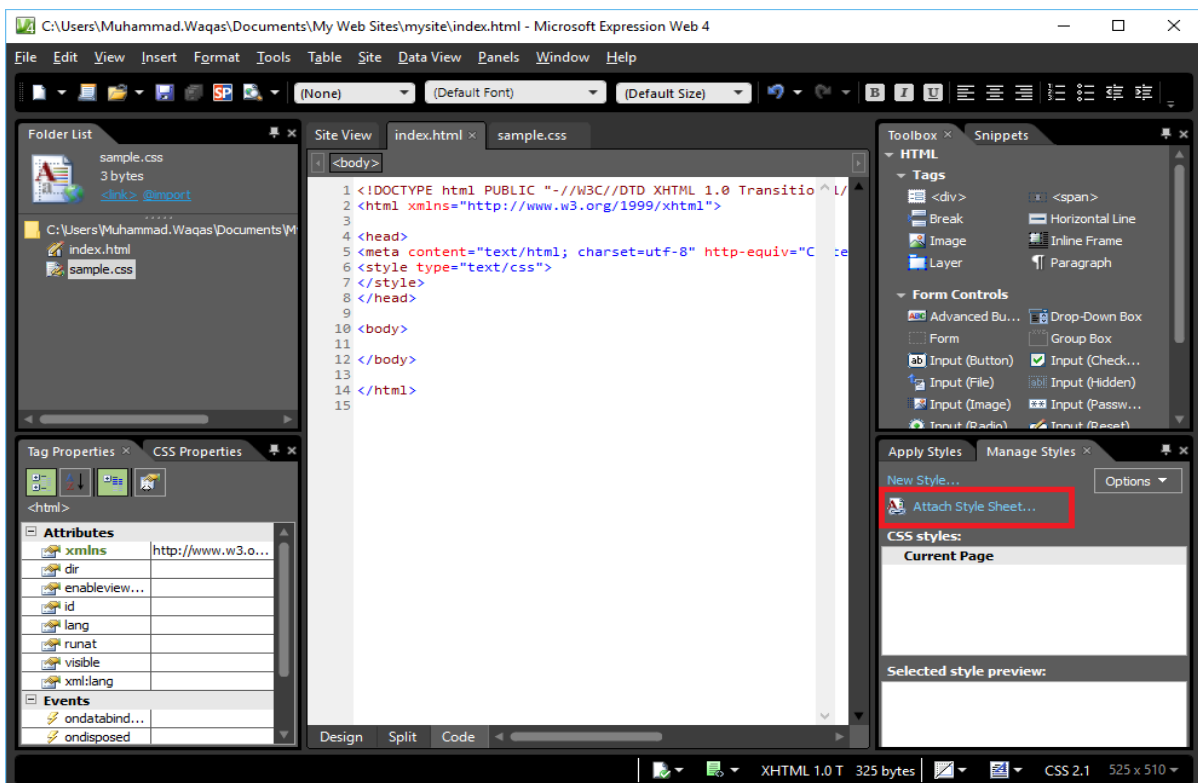
Step 3: Save the page and type a name for the style-sheet.



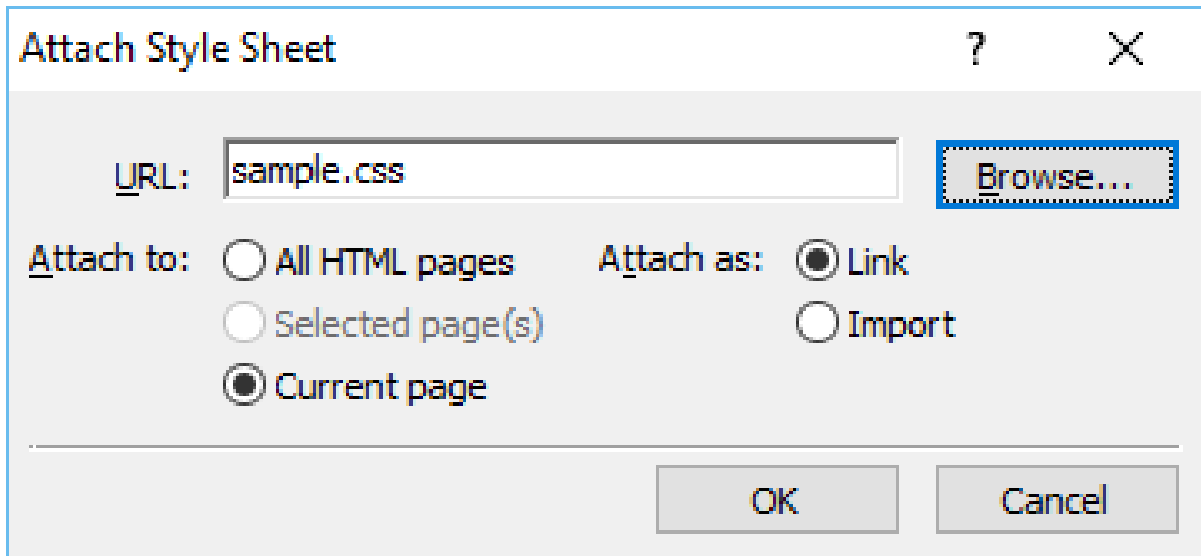
Step 4: Click the **Save** button.



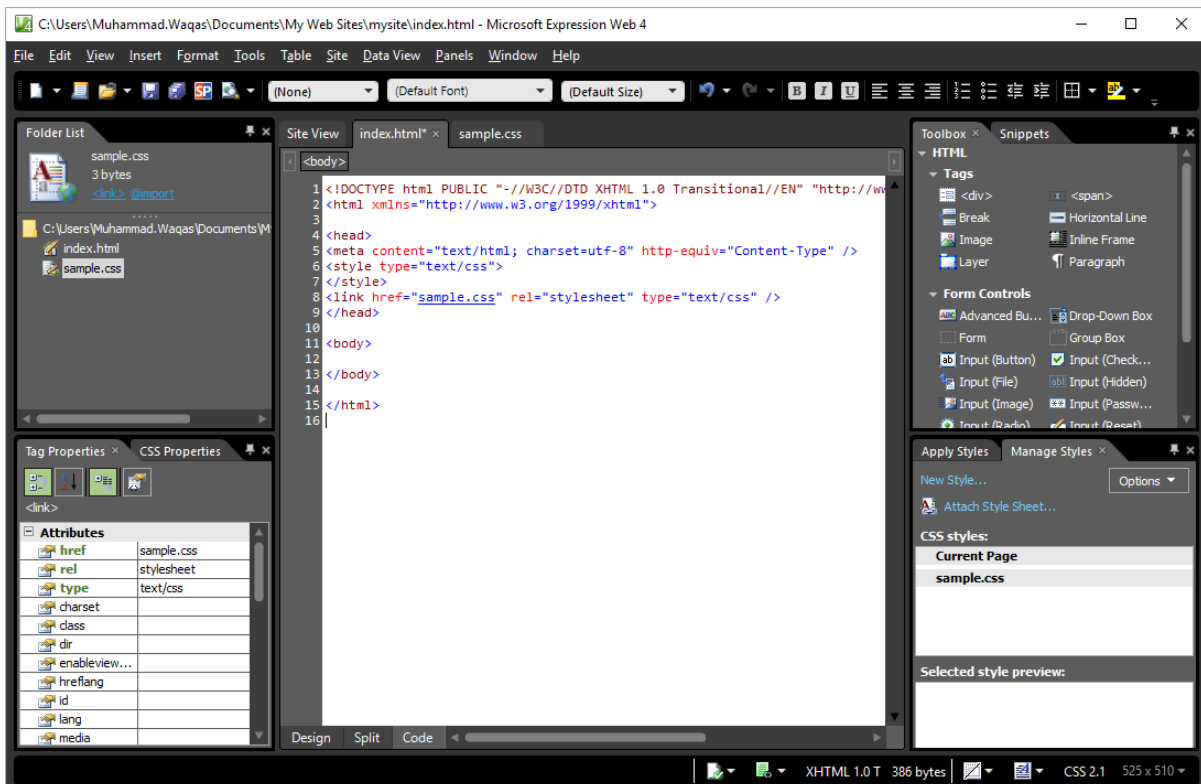
Step 5: Now, let's go to the index.html page.



Step 6: In the **Manage Styles Panel**, click **Attach Style Sheet**.



Step 7: Browse to your style-sheet and select the Current page from "Attach to" and Link from "Attach as" and click OK.



Step 8: Now, you will see that a new line is added automatically in the index.html page.

```
<link href="sample.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
```

Step 9: The **body** element defines the document's body. To style the **<body>** tag, we need to create a new style. First, select the body tag in Design View and then click on the New Style... in Apply Styles panel or Manage Styles panel, which will open the New Style dialog.

New Style [?] [X]

Selector: Apply new style to document selection

Define in: URL:

Category:

- Font
- Block
- Background
- Border
- Border Radius
- Box
- Position
- Layout
- List
- Table

font-family:

font-size:

font-weight:

font-style:

font-variant:

text-transform:

color:

text-decoration:

- underline
- overline
- line-through
- blink
- none

Preview:

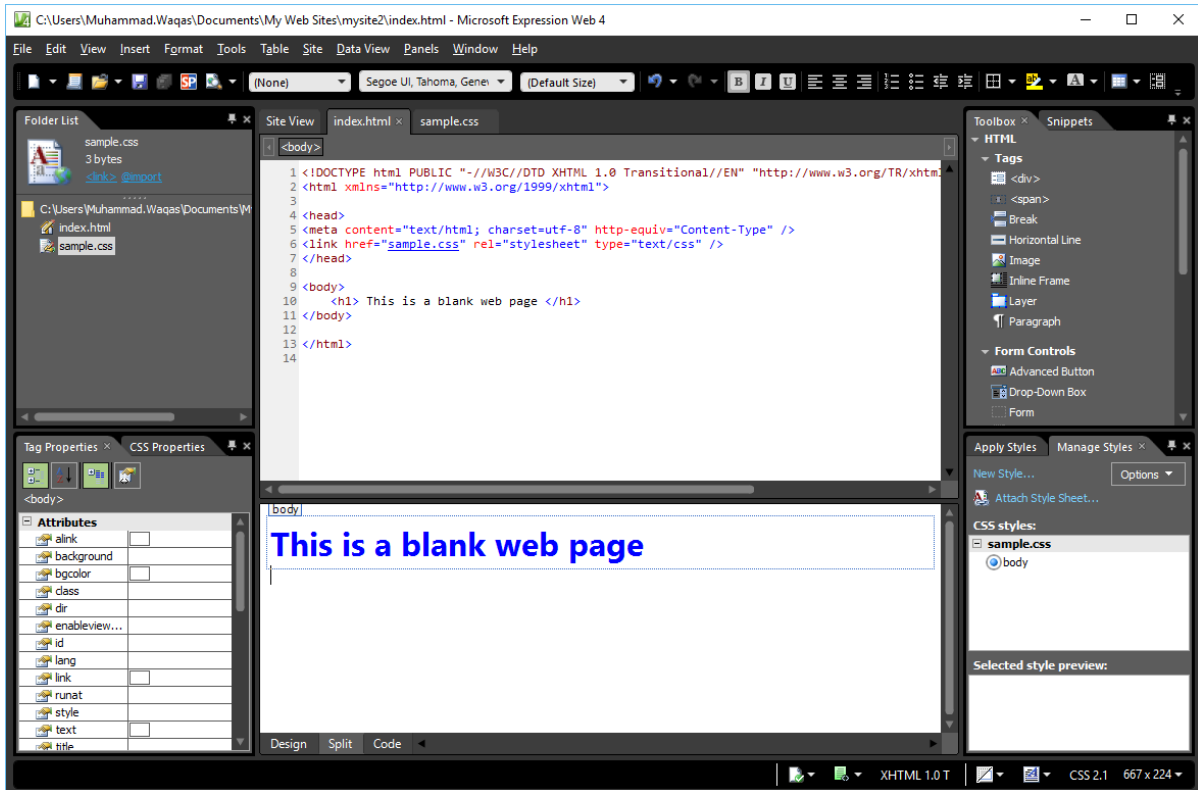
AaBbYyGgLIj

Description:

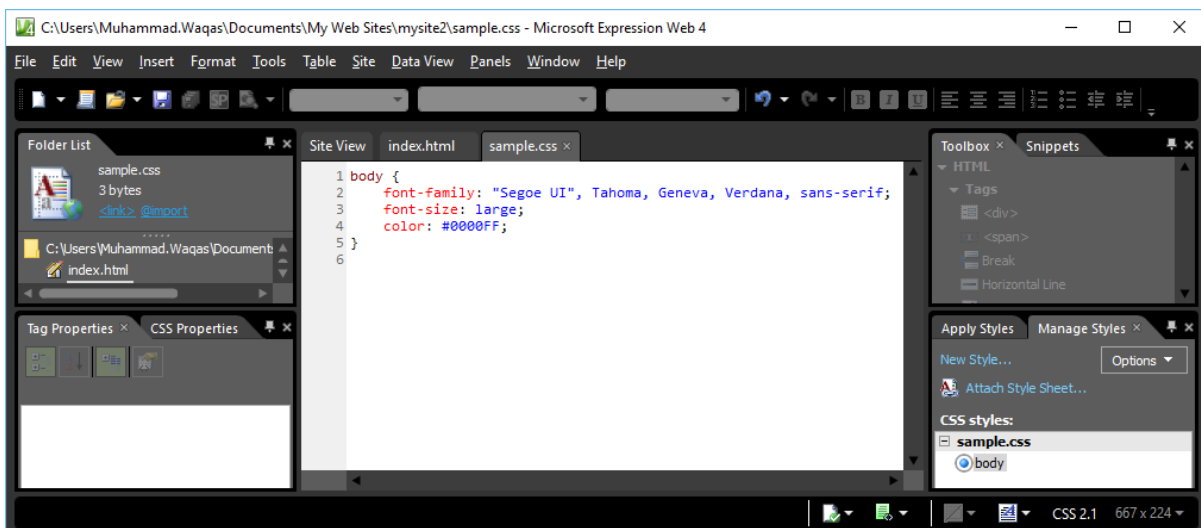
font-family: "Segoe UI", Tahoma, Geneva, Verdana, sans-serif; font-size: large; color: #0000FF

Here, you can define the different options for your style. The first step is to select the body from the Selector dropdown list and then select the Existing style sheet from "Define in" dropdown list.

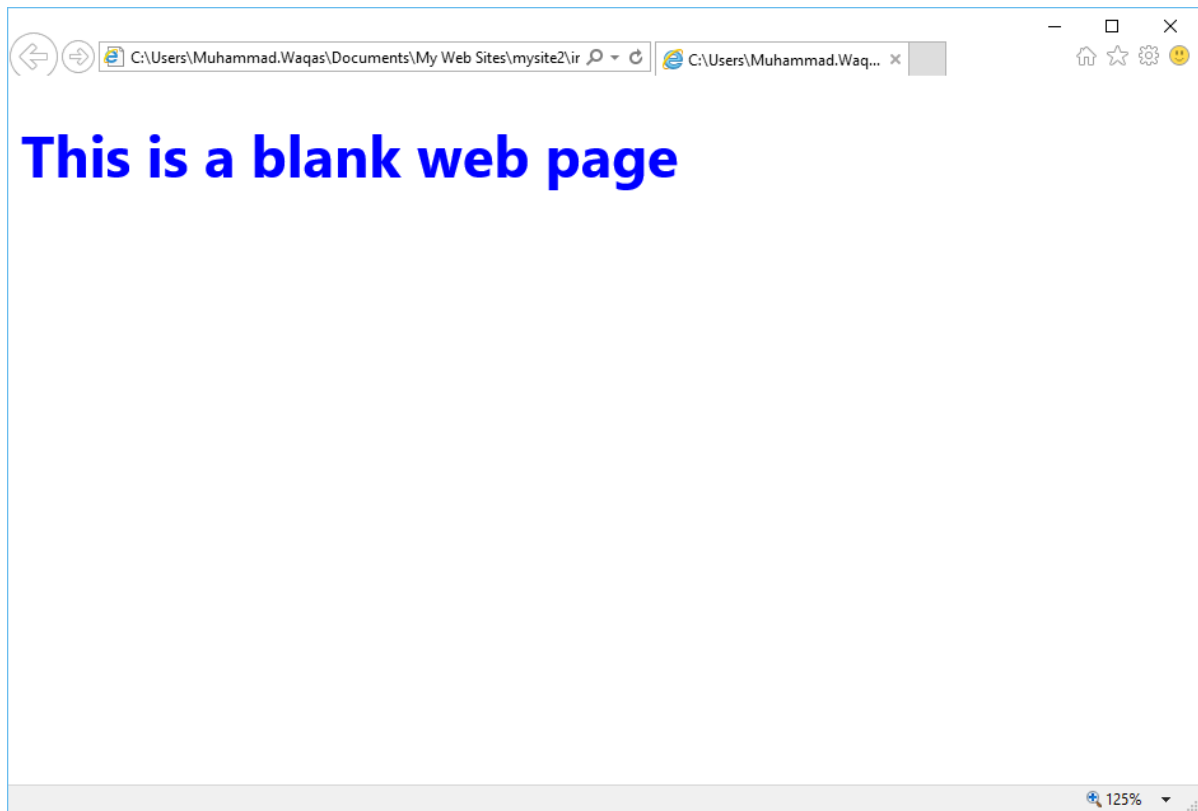
Step 10: From the URL, select the **sample.css** file. On the left side, there is a Category list like font, background, etc. and currently the Font is highlighted. Set the Font related information as per your requirements as shown in the above screenshot and click Ok.



Step 11: Now you can see in the design view that the background color and the font has changed to what we have selected. Now, if you open the sample.css file, you will see that all the information is automatically stored in the CSS file.



Let's preview our web page in a browser. You will observe that the style is applied from the CSS file.



End of ebook preview

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