

Tutorial 8: Quick Form Button

Objectives:

- Your goal in this tutorial is to be able to:
 - properly use NetStores Quick-Form feature in Dreamweaver
 - customize the Quick Form order button
 - create a form with various components:
 - check boxes
 - text fields
 - radio buttons
 - list and pull-down menus
 - view, test and debug your Quick Form

NetStores allows multiple ways for your customers to order your products. You can use the NetStores Add-to-Cart or instant-purchase button as described in Tutorial 5 or to use driven search to present pages of certain categories of products as discussed in Tutorial 7. However, if you prefer additional flexibility and features, or you have a small number of products you can use the Quick Form configured ordering system. Quick Form permits you to create a form on one page that allows your customers to select and input products they wish to buy, and then click one button to order several products.

Inserting a Quick Form into Your Web Page Using the Default Order Button

To add the Quick-Form system to a Web page, follow these instructions:

- Open a Web page that needs a quick form.
- Place the cursor where you want to add the form.
- Click the *NetStores Quick Form* icon in the objects pallet (Fig. 8.1).
- The *Quick-Form* dialog box will appear (Fig. 8.2).
- Click OK (Fig. 8.2).



Figure 8.1 Click the *NetStores Quick Form* icon in the objects pallet.



Figure 8.2 The quick-form dialog box.

The form is now ready to add elements or features (Fig. 8.3).

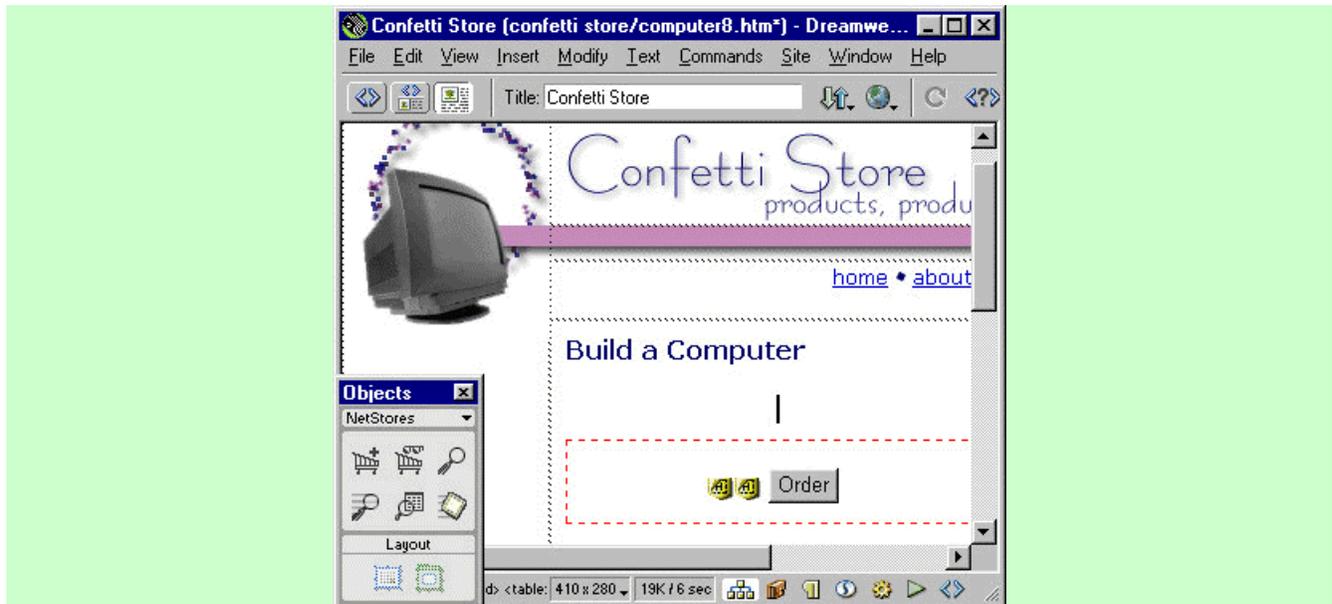


Figure 8.3 The Quick Form, within the red dashed lines, is now ready for elements or features.

Change the text on the Quick-Form Order Button

To change the text on the quick-form order button, follow these instructions:

- Open a Web page that needs a quick form.
- Place the cursor where you want to add the form.
- Click the *NetStores Quick Form* icon in the objects pallet (Fig. 8.1).
- Change the *Button Text* entry to the desired text (Fig. 8.4).
- Click OK (Fig. 8.4).

This procedure changes the text on the Quick-Form input button (Fig. 8.5).

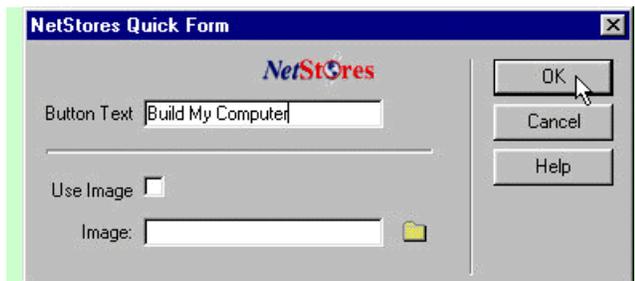


Figure 8.4 In the *Button Text* box, type in the text for your new button and click **OK**.

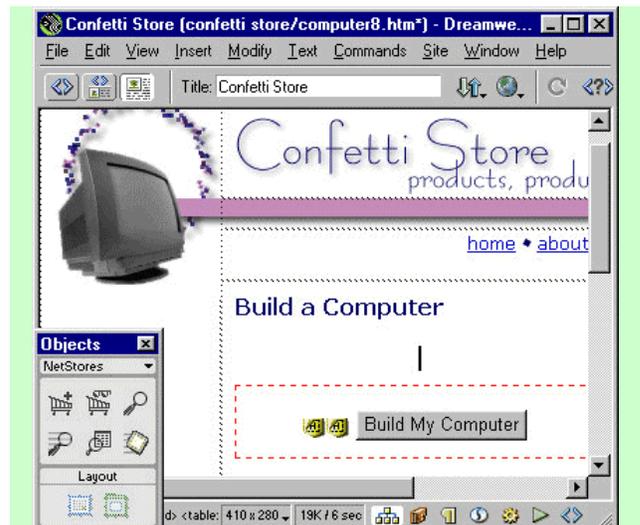


Figure 8.5 The Quick Form, inside the dashed red lines, has different text for the order button.

Customizing the Appearance of the Quick-Form Button

You can change the appearance of the Quick-Form button by selecting your own image for the button by inserting entries in the *NetStores Quick-Form* dialog box as follows:

- Open a Web page that needs a quick form.
- Place the cursor where you want to add the form.
- Click the *NetStores Quick Form* icon in the objects pallet (Fig. 8.1).
- Click the *Use Image* check box (Fig. 8.6).
- Click the folder button at the right of the *Image* text box (Fig. 8.6).
- Select your own image to make an order button (Fig. 8.7).
- Click **OK** (Fig. 8.8).
- Save your file.

The settings you used when you last created a Quick-Form button (by clicking OK), are saved and will reappear the next time you use the Quick-Form object.

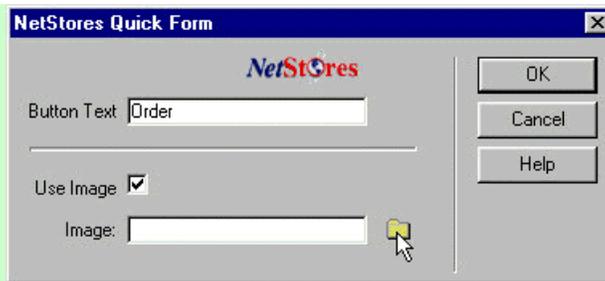


Figure 8.6 Click the *Use Image* check box and click the folder button at the right of the *Image* text box.

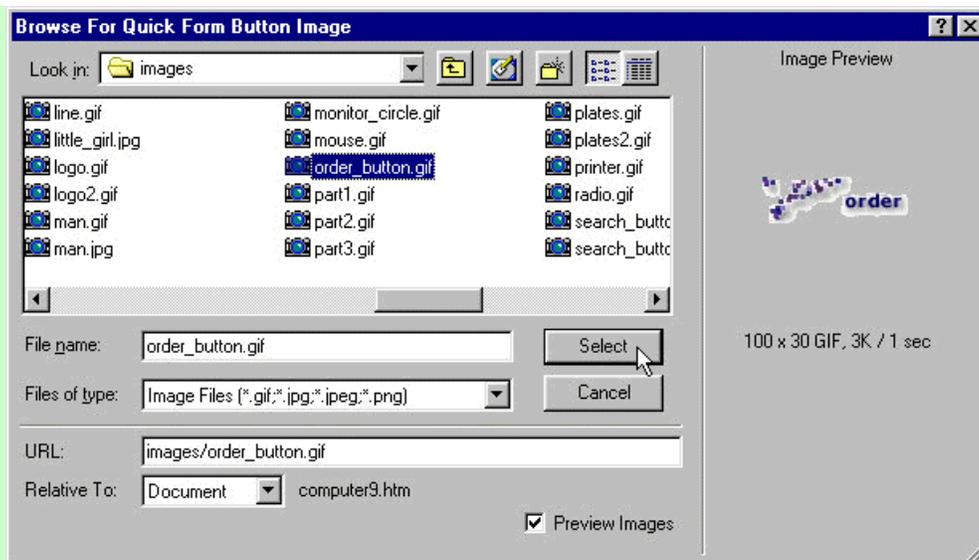


Figure 8.7 Select your own image to make an order button.

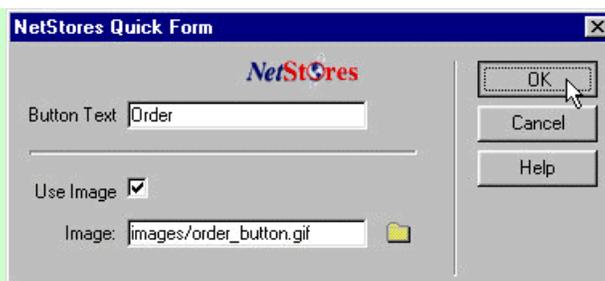


Figure 8.8 With your own file name in the *Image* box, click **OK**.

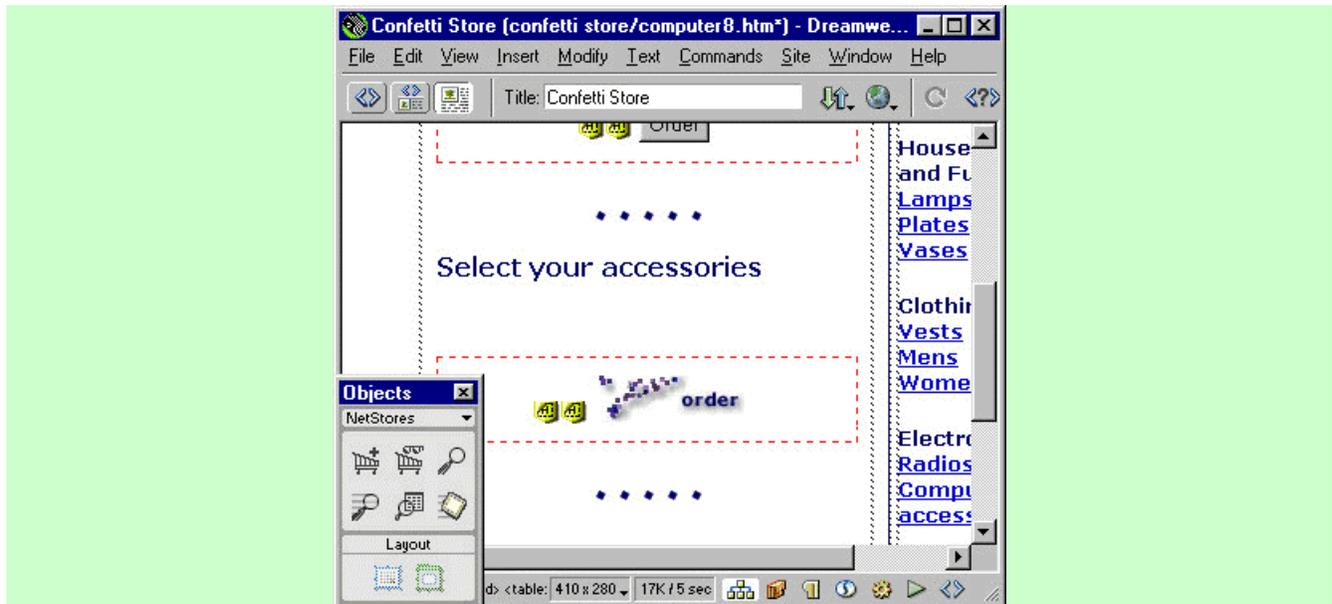


Figure 8.9 The area surrounded by red dashed lines is the Quick Form with the Confetti Store *order_button.gif* image as an order button.

Inserting Elements in Your Quick Form

Using the Quick-Form object, applying one of the methods described above, inserts a form object with some special elements into the currently opened document (Figs. 8.3, 8.5, and 8.9).

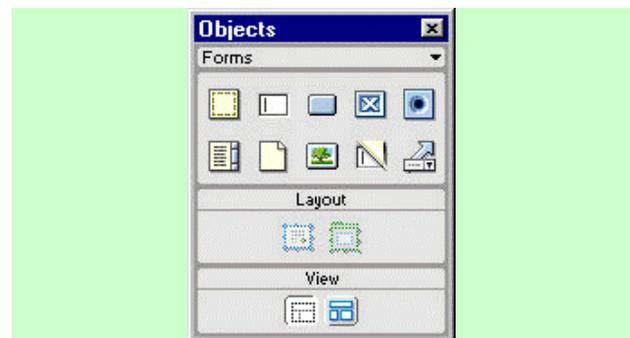
Next, you will want to add HTML input elements and other elements like text and graphics into this form so your customers can make selections and order your products. You may use several different types of input elements, such as check boxes, radio buttons and drop-down menus, and they provide different ordering methods.

To make these elements available in Dreamweaver, perform these steps:

- If the Dreamweaver objects panel is not open click **Window > Objects**.
- Select the *Forms* Object pallet by selecting **Forms** from the drop-down menu (Fig. 8.10).
- Ensure that the *Properties* box will be displayed when you work with the form objects by clicking **Window** — if no check mark is displayed next to *Properties*, click **Properties**.



Figure 8.10 a. Select **Forms** from the drop-down menu to display the *Forms* Objects pallet



b. *Forms* Objects pallet in Dreamweaver.

Check Box for Selectively Purchasing Products

To allow customers to choose the products they wish to buy, you can add check-box elements to your quick form.

- Position the cursor within the form made by Quick Form just before the order button or where you would like to add check-box elements.
- Click the *Insert Checkbox* icon in the *Forms* palette (Fig. 8.11).
- Select the check box and in the *Properties* panel, set the *Checked_Value* to a product code from your inventory in the item file (Fig. 8.12).

- The name of the check-box element is not important, but should not be a valid product code.
- Next to the check box, insert pertinent product information such as images and names of items (8.12).
- Continue adding as many check boxes and items as you wish.
- Save your file.

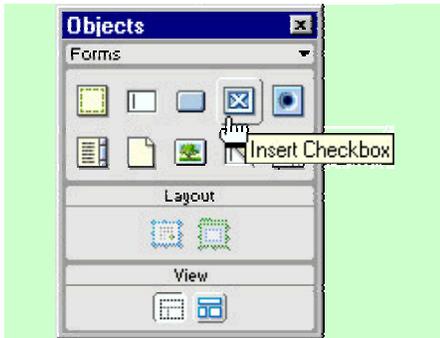


Figure 8.11 Click the *Insert Checkbox* icon in the *Forms* palette.

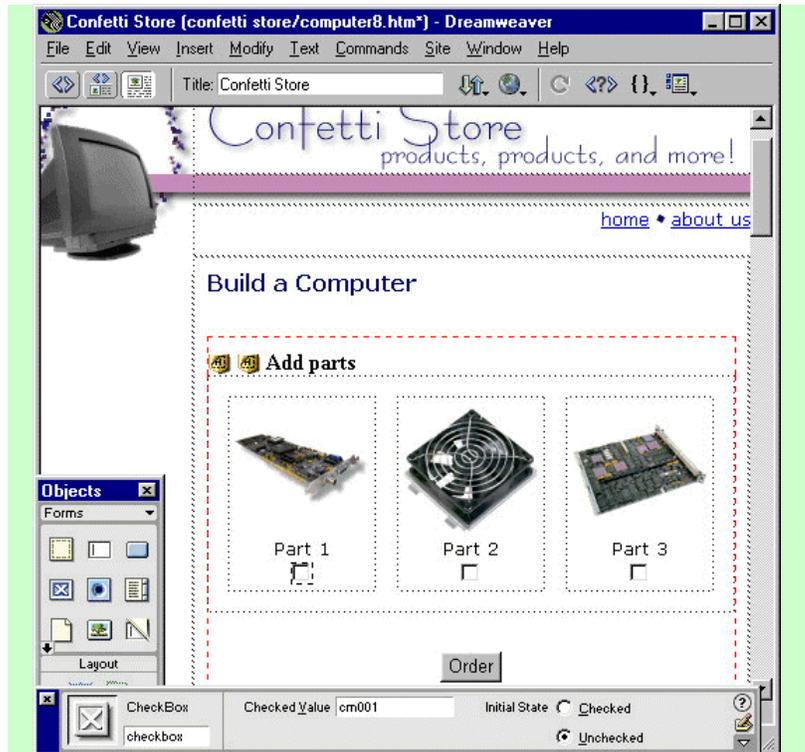


Figure 8.12 In this example, we added a table with 3 check boxes and images. Here we show the first check box selected. Its properties are displayed at the bottom of the screen. For *Checked_Value* we typed in the product code *cm001*, which corresponds to Part 1, pictured above it. Notice that we inserted other items with check boxes to the table.

You can add text, graphics, or other elements to the order form to give it the appearance you want. At this point, you should be able to create a page that allows your customers to select which of your products they wish to buy in any combination.

Your customers can now check boxes and click the order button (Fig. 8.13), to add the products to their Shopping Carts (Fig. 8.14).



Figure 8.13 A completed Quick Form on an example Web page.



Figure 8.14 Results from a Quick Form order.

Text Field for Selecting the Quantity of Products

To allow your customers to indicate the quantity of an item to purchase, you can use a text-field box instead of a check box. In this case, you simply follow these instructions:

- Position the cursor in the quick form where you want to add a box for entering the number of a particular item desired.
- Click the *Insert Text Field* icon (Fig. 8.15)

- Change the *TextField* name in the *Properties* panel to the appropriate product code from the item file (Fig. 8.16).
- Change the *Char Width* to 2, 3 or 4.
- You may want to enter an initial value (*Init Val*) of 1 for a default selection (Fig. 8.16).

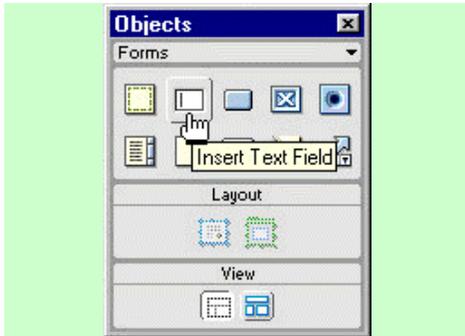


Figure 8.15 Use the *Insert Text Field* icon in the forms object panel.

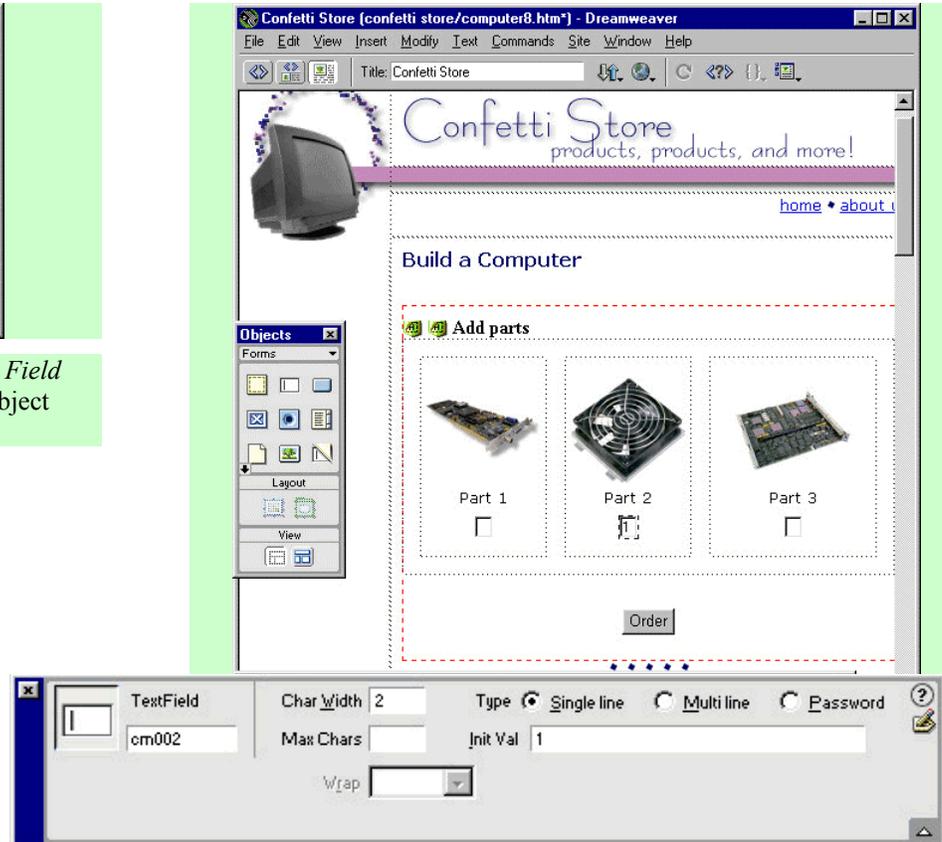


Figure 8.16 At the bottom of the screen in the *Properties* panel, change the *TextField* name to the appropriate product code from the item file (in this case, we typed in the code *cm002*, corresponding to *Part 2*). Next, select an initial value (*Init Val*) of 1 or to leave it blank and change the *Char Width* to 2, 3 or 4.

This setup allows your customers to type in the number of products they wish to buy (Fig. 8.17).



Figure 8.17 Example Web page using text fields in Quick Form.



Figure 8.18 Results from a Quick-Form order with text fields.

Radio Button Choices

If you want the customers to be able to choose one option from several, you can use either radio buttons, a list, or a pull-down menu. To add radio buttons to a group items, follow the instructions below:

- Add items to a Web page that will need radio buttons.
- Position the cursor where you want a radio button.
- Click the *Insert Radio Button* icon in the *Forms* object panel (Fig. 8.19).
- Select the radio button if it is not already selected.
- In the *Properties* panel, type in a *RadioButton* name that does not match any product code (Fig. 8.20).
- Enter a *Checked Value* equal to the product code of the item from the item file (Fig. 8.20)
- Add several radio buttons with the **same** *RadioButton* name and with their *Checked Values* equal to the product codes for each item (Fig. 8.20).
- If you like, you can make one of them *Checked* (Fig. 8.20).

Figure 8.20b shows the order form on a Web page and Figure 8.20c shows the *Order Recap Form* after picking the default, monitor 1, when we clicked **Order**.

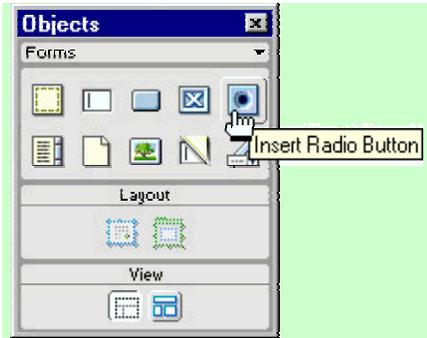


Figure 8.19 To add a radio button, click the *Insert Radio Button* icon in the *Forms* object panel.

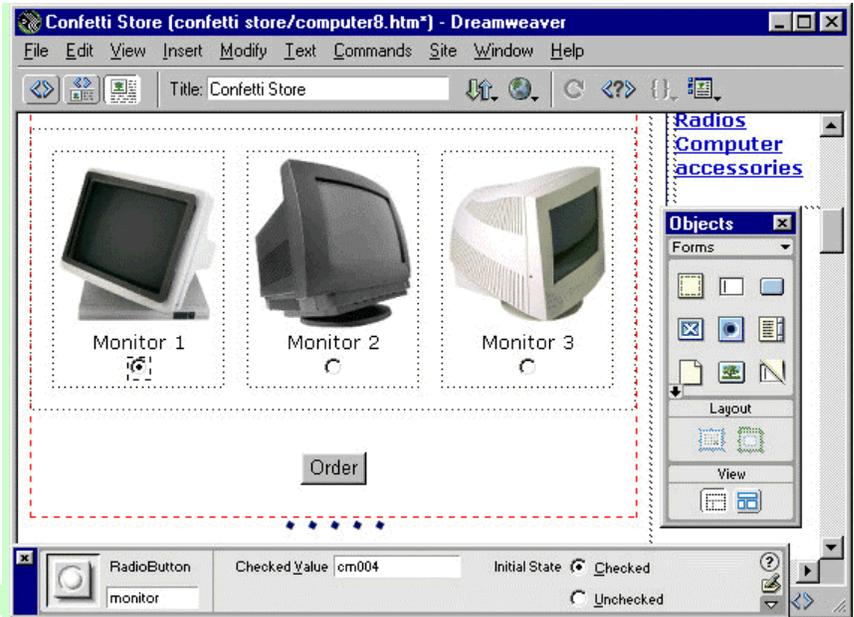


Figure 8.20 Using radio buttons.

a. View in Dreamweaver. In this example we selected the radio button below Monitor 1. In the Properties panel at the bottom of the screen, we typed in *monitor* as the *RadioButton* name and entered the product code *cm004* for the *Checked Value*. We selected this monitor as the on to be *Checked*. Notice that we added other items; these all have the same *RadioButton* name.



Figure 8.20 continued b. View in browser.



Figure 8.20 continued c. Order Recap Form after selecting Monitor 1.

List or Pull-Down Menu Choices

Creating a list or pull-down menu for selecting between different products is even easier than creating radio buttons to perform the same function, although it does not allow you to include images of each. Follow the instructions below to add a list or pull-down menu:

- Position the cursor where you want a list or pull-down menu.
- Click the *Insert List/Menu* icon in the *Forms* object panel (Fig. 8.21).
- In the *List/Menu* Properties box, select either *Menu* or *List* (Fig. 8.22).
- Click **List Values...** (Fig. 8.22).
- In the *List Values* dialog box, type in items to be shown in the list or menu in the *Item Label* column and enter the product codes from the item file in the *Value* column (Fig. 8.23).
- Click **OK** (Fig. 8.23).
- Back in the *List/Menu* Properties box, choose which item in the list or menu should be *Initially Selected*. In the example, the 1.4Ghz CPU is initially selected (Fig. 8.24).

Figures 8.24 and 8.25 show a menu and a list respectively.

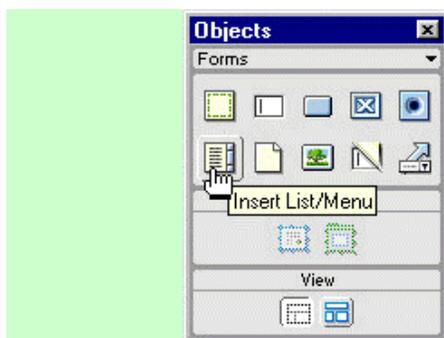


Figure 8.21 To add a list or drop-down menu, click the *Insert List/Menu* icon in the *Forms* object panel.

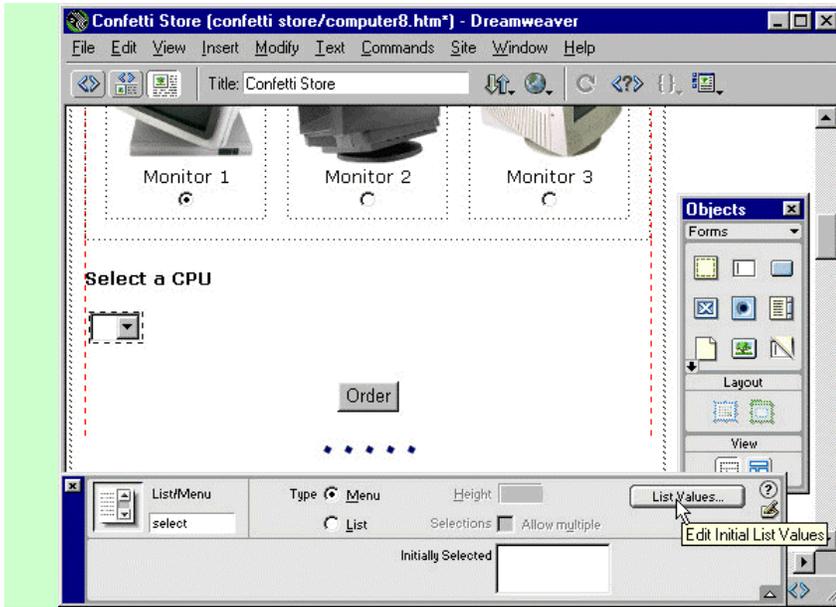


Figure 8.22 In the *List/Menu* Properties box, shown here at the bottom of the screen, select either *Menu* or *List*. We selected *Menu*. Then click **List Values...**

Figure 8.23 In the *List Values* dialog box, type in items to be shown in the list or menu in the *Item Label* column and enter the product codes from the item file in the *Value* column and then click OK.

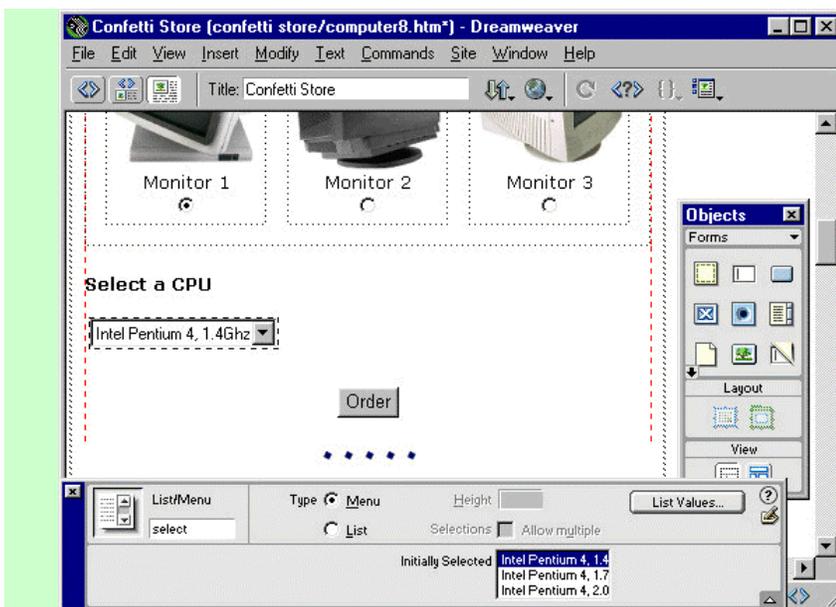
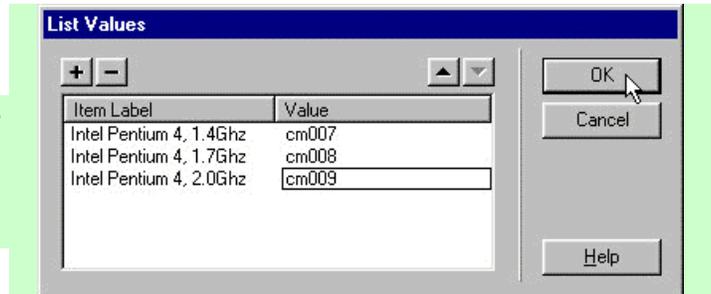


Figure 8.24 Choose which item in the list or menu should be *Initially Selected*. In this example, we show a list with the 1.4 Ghz CPU selected.

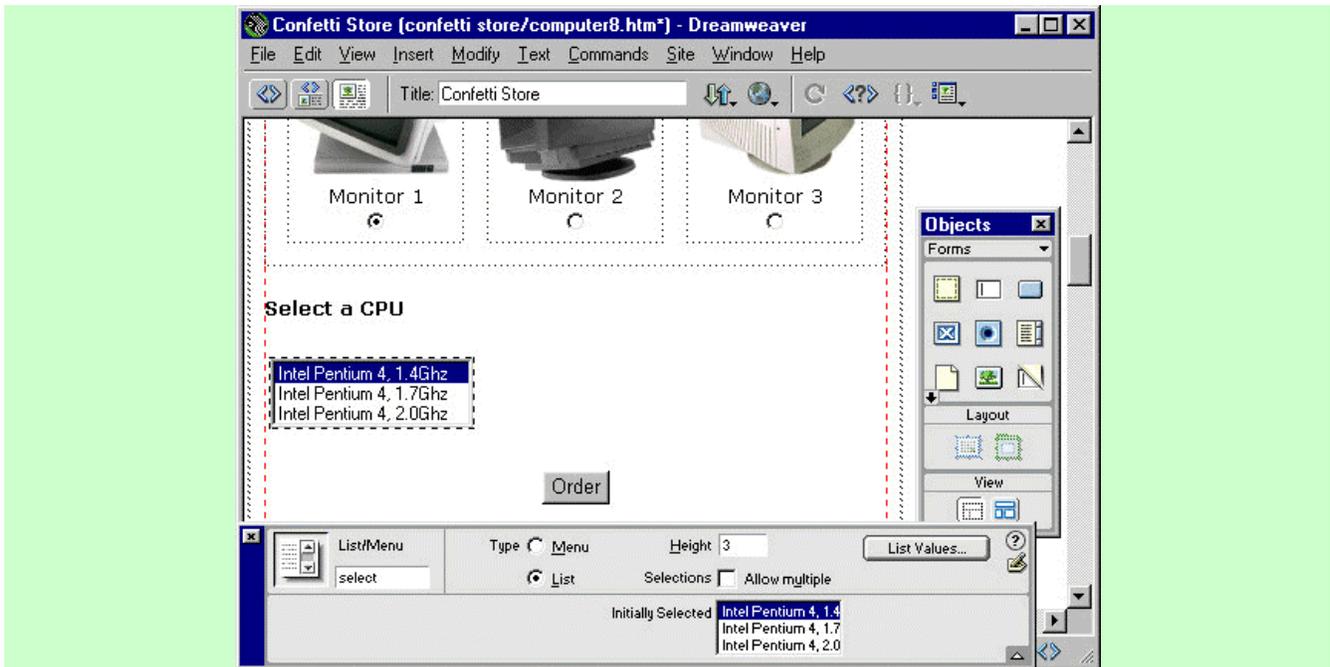


Figure 8.25 An example list to select a CPU. Enter the number of items in the list to display at one time in the Height box. Here we specified 3 items.

Results of a Quick Form

Now you should be able to create one Web page where customers can select multiple products and order them all at once.

Figure 8.26 shows a simple example of the Quick Form in a Web page in which radio buttons and a menu are included. After selecting one Part 2, two Parts 3, Monitor 3 and the 2.0 Ghz CPU, the resulting *Order Recap Form* looks like Figure 8.27.

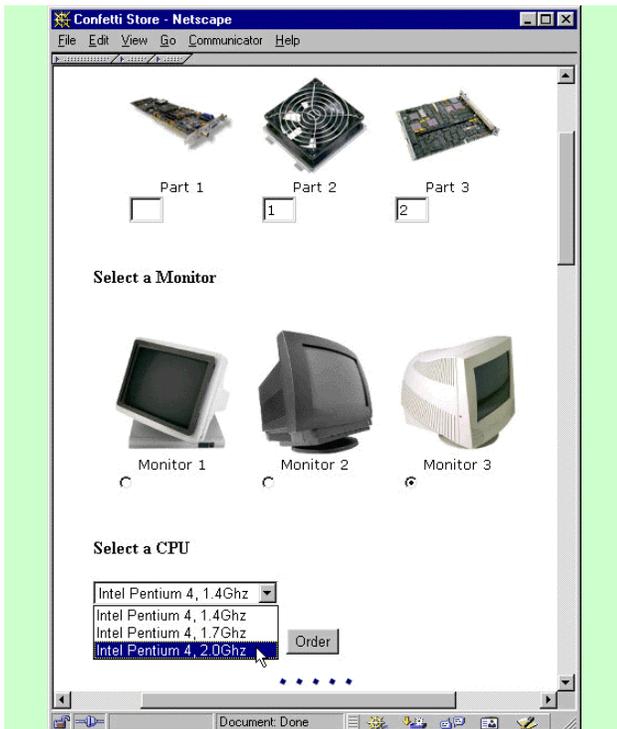


Figure 8.26 An example Web page with a Quick Form with radio buttons and a menu included.



Figure 8.27 Order Recap Form after selecting Part 2, 2 Parts 3, Monitor 3 and a 2.0 Ghz CPU in the form shown in Figure 8.26.

You have now learned how to use a quick form, with its default settings or customized to meet your needs. You should be able to include check boxes, text fields, radio buttons, lists and pull-down menus. These skills enable you to build a Web page where your customers can select multiple items and order them all at once.