**Talking Points, Creating Your Own Web Site, Dwayne Hunter**

**Free websites** – allows you to “get your feet wet” and access won’t be removed when you graduate! Begin to generate an online presence. Use this as an opportunity to show your work – professional and personal. Blogs (are also websites!): Google sites, Wordpress, Blogger, Wix

**Web hosting software:**

* How does a web server work? The “server” is composed of both software and hardware. The software serves at least two purposes: processes a request from a client to view content and it allows a content producer to add/maintain/remove information.
* What hosting software is available? Apache HTTP Server is probably the best known and easiest to maintain. Others include content management systems such as Wordpress, Drupal, and Plone.
* What are the costs? How do you acquire the hosting software? Apache HTTP Server is open source, as are many of the other, and they are available via download sites.

**Hardware: (“...the server is made of software and hardware…”)**

* What kind of a machine hosts websites? The infrastructure must support the web hosting software and the intended audience. At a basic level, a desktop machine would work!
* What is the OS? Most web hosting software is available on a variety of platforms, including Windows, Linux, and Apple.
* How much does the infrastructure cost? These costs vary, from the cost of a desktop machine to a fully redundant server cluster.

**Domain registration:**

* What is a domain name? Machines on the internet are identified by a series of numbers in the form xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx. This identity is provided by a server on your local network. The alias, or domain name, for this identity is registered through a domain name server.
* Why is it important? How is it used? Both the numerical and name identity is unique across the entire internet. This identity is used by web browsers (and other technology) to access information.
* How do I register a domain? The numerical identity is automatically provided by *routers* on your network. (Explain “routers”.) Inside of a company’s network, the domain name may be chosen but could be automatically provided. Outside a company’s network, the domain name is chosen then registered with a domain name registration organization, such as GoDaddy. There are annual costs associated with this registration.
* What are the responsibilities after I have registered the domain? Once registered, you must continue to pay the annual fee. Can you guess what might happen if you choose to stop paying the annual cost for the domain name? If the domain is given up, someone else can register that domain.

**Updating content:**

* How do I update content? There are a variety of website development tools. Some are free, such as Microsoft Web Expressions, while others cost, such as Dreamweaver. Content Management Systems have updating features built into the hosting program.
* What software should I use? Your choice of software depends upon your level of expertise, how often you plan to update the site, and the level of access provided by the web host. (Remind about free sites.)

**Web applications**:

* How do I create applications that can be used on my site? What are examples of applications? (Registration forms, calculators, data entry forms, graph that is developed from data.) These applications are built using a variety of methods, including options that are available through the web hosting software, application development toolsets, and programming languages.
* What language should I use? Popular languages include PHP and Java, but the list of application languages grows almost daily! (PSS previously provided agronomic courses that taught programming languages.)
* What application languages are supported by the web server? Most web hosting servers allow for PHP development. To find out what is supported, talk to your web host.
* Where can I learn more about programming languages? Online tutorials and classes are freely available. Classes, such as Coursera, usually offer free classes for application development, although they expect the learner to have some fundamental knowledge of at least one programming language.

**index.html**

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<!—Apurba Sutradhar -->

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Expression Web (used to be Front Page)  
<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=36179>

<http://www.favicon.cc/>