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Creating Typewriter Effect (Part 1)



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“Flash started as an animation tool with a very basic programming language (Actionscript). From the heyday of the dot-com boom, Flash offered lightweight animations that could be incorporated into any web site, providing a compelling way to bring designs to life.

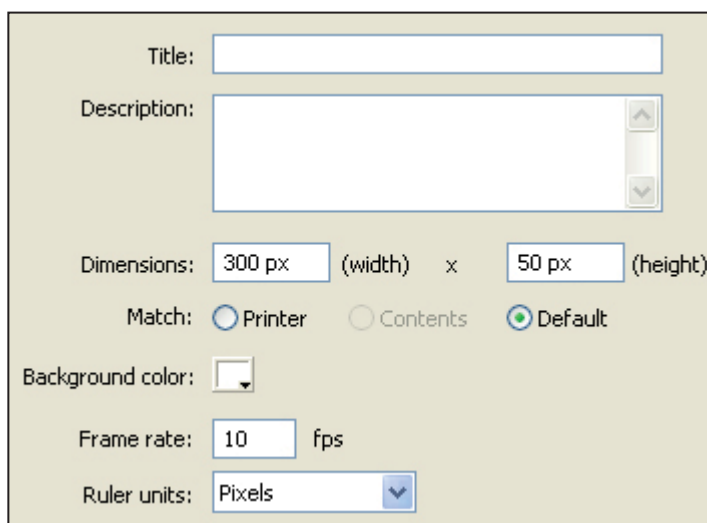
In this section, we'll use Flash to create a frame-by-frame animation to bring ideas to life. We'll start by creating a typewriter effect, which has all the letters typed in Flash to reveal in succession instead of all at once. Let's see how this goes...”



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Creating a Flash document

- 1) Create a new Flash document and change the stage dimensions to **300 x 50 pixels** and set the frame rate to about **10 fps**.



- 2) Activate the Text tool and choose the **_typewriter** font from the Properties panel. (or for that matter any font that you like)
- 3) Set the font size to about **50**.
- 4) On the Stage, use the Text tool, create a text field and enter **Flash 8**, in all caps.

FLASH 8

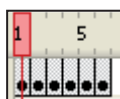
To generate the typewriter effect, the letters need to appear over time, so each letter needs to appear on its own frame. We'll use Flash's Break Apart command to split the text into individual letters so that we can manipulate as separate elements.

Breaking apart text

- 5) With the text still selected, choose **Modify > Break Apart** to separate letters in the text.

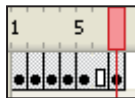


- 6) Click on frame 6 of layer 1 and drag left to select all the frames.
- 7) Choose **Modify > Timeline > Convert to Keyframes**. (A keyframe appears on every frame)



Creating the frame-by-frame animation

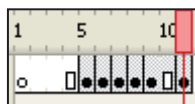
- 8) On frame 1, delete every letter of the text except for the F in the word Flash. On frame 2, leave only the letters FL. On frame 3, leave only FLA and so on.
- 9) When we broke apart the text, the space between Flash and 8 is not accounted for. To simulate the spacebar being pressed between Flash and 8, select frame 5 and press **F5** to insert a frame between frame 5 and 6.



- 10) Press **Enter** (or Return) to see the animation. Each letter appear in succession.

Note : Since we do not want letters to appear immediately, we have to create the initial pause effect

- 11) Select frame 1 through 7 by clicking and dragging on the frames.
- 12) Drag the selected frame span to the right, so that the span starts at frame 5 and ends at 11.



- 13) **Test** the movie to see the completed animation. Now there is a momentarily pause, during which the Stage is empty, before the text appears.