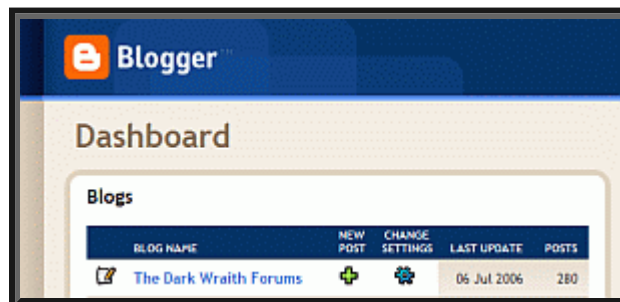


Special Blog Post: The Coding Hack's Corner

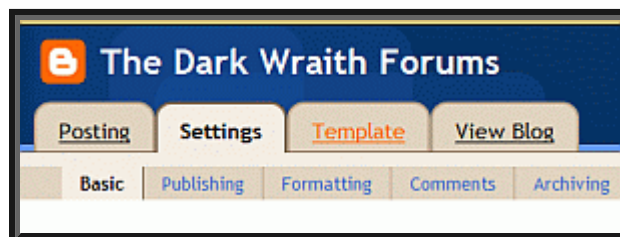
This is the second issue in The Dark Wraith Forums series on tips and helpful advice for bloggers. [Issue #1](#) provided some useful directions on making HTML tags and special character codes. In this issue, a very narrow matter will be addressed: backing up your template. Although the publishing platform called Blogger will be used for the example, the routine can be applied to blogs on just about any service, provided you know how to get to the screen that displays the code for your blog template.

The instructions that follow are for Windows users. Follow them, and even if your template is completely destroyed by accident or by the incompetence of your publishing service (and no specific service will be named here, but Blogger comes to mind as an example, although no specific publishing service will be named here), you'll be able to simply and easily rectify what would otherwise be a total catastrophe. So without further introductory prattle, here's how to back up your template.

◇ Go to the screen where you manage your blog.



◇ Find the tab for managing your template and click on it.



◇ Your template screen should now appear.



◇ Right-click in the template screen. A drop-down menu will appear; on that menu, click on "Select All."



◇ The contents of the template screen should all highlight.



◇ Right-click again. When the drop-down menu appears, click on "Copy."



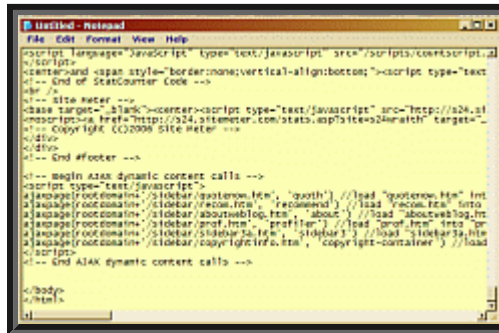
◇ Now, open the ancient Windows word processor called Notepad. (That's right: Notepad. Don't argue; just do it.)

Start → Programs → Accessories → Notepad.

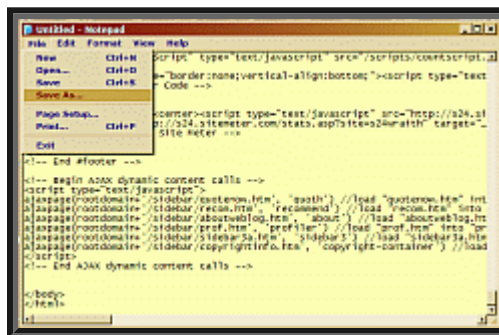
◇ Once you've launched Notepad, right-click in the blank screen area. When the drop-down menu appears, click on "Paste."



◇ Your entire template should appear exactly as it looked in the template management screen from which you just exported it.



◇ Save the file.



◇ Just type **index2006-07-06** or whatever date it is in YYYY-MM-DD format (with thanks to Dr. Bong for suggesting that variation on my own unfortunately backward date naming method). Notepad will put the **.txt** extension on the file, which is what you want it to do. Writing the file name this way will allow you to go back through and know when you've made back-ups of your template. If you need to recover your blog template from a deletion or from some coding experiment you've done, you'll know exactly what index file version was your last good one.



◇ **WARNING:** Do *NOT* under any circumstances use Word or WordPerfect or any other high-end word processor for saving this file. Use plain old Notepad.

You now have a back-up of your template; so no matter what happens to the template on your publishing service, you'll be able to make everything right again in a matter of a few minutes. If you ever do need to publish the back-up, follow these simple steps:

- ◇ Open that back-up index file you created in Notepad.
- ◇ Right-click in the Notepad screen where all the text of the template is displayed.
- ◇ On the drop-down menu that pops up, choose "Select All."
- ◇ Right-click again.
- ◇ On the drop-down menu that pops up, select "Copy."
- ◇ Go into your template management screen.
- ◇ Remove any vestiges of the corrupted template code that might still be there.
- ◇ Right-click anywhere in template screen area (which, again, should have no old code still there because you've removed it).
- ◇ On the drop-down menu that appears, choose "Paste."
- ◇ Your back-up code should appear in the screen, and you can now republish the template.

That's it for this edition of "The Coding Hacker's Corner." More issues will follow in the future. Until then, keep this advice in mind: *It's Bill Gates's universe; we're all just hackers in it.*

The Dark Wraith wants to help folks be *good* hackers in it.