

# Bare Bones? Hardly.

## Web Tools: HTML Text Editor BBEdit 6

by Lidka Schuch

Don't kid yourself, there is definitely more to BBEdition than just bare bones. BBEdition by BareBones Software is a Mac-only HTML text editor, the envy of Windows people. Indeed, with its clean and simple interface, BBEdition has been an industry standard for editing HTML code on Macs for a long time.

Aside from adding a Web Safe Colors

(left) The reorganized **HTML TOOLS PALETTE** shouldn't take too much time to get accustomed to.

(right) BBEdition's **HTML ENTITIES LIST** is now much longer and just as easy to use as ever.



**THE BODY PROPERTIES DIALOG BOX**, formerly known as Document Color.

palette, two tagging features and a few minor improvements, there was not much difference between versions 4.5 and 5. However BareBones' recently released version 6 is a somewhat more significant upgrade, now supporting syntax checking and coloring for HTML 4.01, XHTML 1.0 and WML 1.1.

### REDESIGNED HTML TOOL PALETTE, REORGANIZED PULLDOWN MENUS

The HTML Tools palette now includes many commands previously located in the pulldown menus, plus five new items: Div..., Check, Character Set, Update and Utilities. It takes a moment to get oriented, but the organization is now more logical than ever before (although the five extra buttons make the HTML Tools palette too tall to fit on a 17" monitor!).

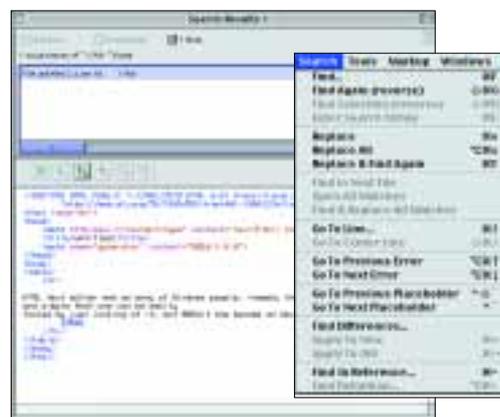
Pulldown menus are also reorganized in a more coherent manner, and the terminology has changed slightly. For example, are you looking for the Entities button on the Tool palette? Check under the Window pulldown menu and look for HTML Entities.

### NEW CONTEXTUAL MENUS AND EXPANDED ENTITIES PALETTE

Following the lead set by other top software companies, Bare Bones now includes contextual menus (Control-click) in BBEdition, a feature worth expanding on. Tag insertion and editing commands available in these menus speeds up work enormously. An expanded Entities palette is now found under the Window pulldown menu.

### CAN MULTI-FILE SEARCH BE EVEN BETTER?

BBEdition's multi-folder and grep-based search capabilities have always been far ahead of other programs in its class (grep-based means a search based on patterns, for example describing words which start with "f" and with "e"). It got even better with the addition of advanced multi-crite-



BBEdition's famed Search capabilities have been extended by adding **MULTI-CRITERIA BATCH SEARCHING CAPABILITIES**.

ria batch searching, custom file filters and more flexibility in viewing search results.

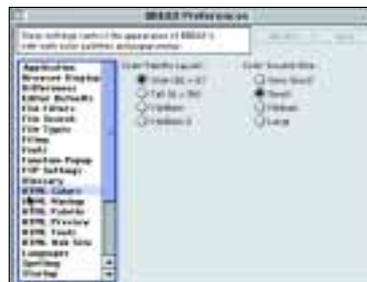
### OSA SCRIPTING AND QUICKTIME SUPPORT

In version 6, OSA scripting support has been expanded to incorporate Apple Event Object Model and Text Suite support, recordability and menu attachment.

Also, QuickTime support now allows users to preview QuickTime movies and translatable images right inside a BBEdition document.

### MORE IMPROVEMENTS

Other improvements include developer-extensible syntax coloring, a better glossary with language sensitive sets, multi-byte character support (write and edit) including Unicode text files, multiple clipboards, an enhanced web-safe color palette (in-



You can now preview **WEB-SAFE COLOR SWATCHES** in various layouts.

cluding VisiBone swatch layouts), and the ability to preview a document simultaneously in all running browsers.

Shortcuts for pulldown menus, OSA



**SET MENU KEYS COMMAND** for customizing shortcuts is under the File pulldown menu.

### NO MORE TABLEBUILDER

TableBuilder, a plug-in for visually building tables included with previous versions of BBEdit, has been scrapped in version 6. It was a helpful tool but the HTML coding generated in Table Builder was much messier than BBEdit's elegant coding.

Patrick Woolsey, director of technical services for Bare Bones Software, says that

scripts as well as Perl scripts, and basically any feature available in BBEdit 6 can now be customized. Also, the Set Menu Keys command is now located in the File pulldown menu.

the essence of the decision to remove TableBuilder from BBEdit tools was that "with the proliferation of graphical tools, we would rather pursue better integration with these tools on the one hand (for those times when graphical layout is important), and toward improving BBEdit's own core markup creation/recognition capabilities on the other."

### GOOD UPGRADE BUT NOT A MUST

Unless you do a lot of AppleScripting or Perl scripting, this BBEdit upgrade is good, but not really a must. Although the core engine was significantly improved, most designers who use BBEdit in conjunction with Dreamweaver or Adobe GoLive will probably not find it a major advancement. ■

*Lidka Schuch is a principal in Studio L, a Toronto-based design studio and school for graphics professionals. E-mail Lidka@studio-L.com or visit www.studio-L.com for more information.*



### BBEDIT 6

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Macintosh only  
System 7.55 or later  
Mac O.S. 8.6 strongly recommended  
4 MB RAM  
20 MB disk space

#### PRICING AND AVAILABILITY

US\$79  
Upgrade from version 2.5 and higher US\$39

Bare Bones Software, Inc.  
Telephone 781-687-0700  
Web [www.barebones.com](http://www.barebones.com)

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**Time is like a circle, endlessly turning. The arc that descends is the past. That which rises is the future. All has been said, unless words change their meanings and meanings their words.**

—The philosophy of Alpha-60

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