

Flash Introduction

Duration: Two days

This course provides a thorough introduction to Adobe Flash CS4, acknowledged to be the industry standard for web-based animation, multimedia and interactive content. You will learn how to animate and how to work with a range of media, and create content ranging from animated banner ads through to complex projects. This course is suitable for Flash CS4 or CS5 users.

Flash fundamentals

- What Flash does and how it works
- About Vector graphics and Pixels
- Setting document properties - stage size, frame rate, background colour

Artwork

- Drawing in Flash - using the drawing tools, working with Drawing Objects and Shapes
- Working with colours, gradients, strokes etc.
- Transforming and combining elements

Imported Assets

- Pixel images - file formats, transparency, tracing, modifying, file size considerations
- Video - playing external FLV files
- Sound - understanding audio file formats, compression and quality issues - adding audio to frames and buttons
- Importing artwork and complete layouts from Illustrator and Photoshop
- Importing animated SWF files

Animation techniques

- Understanding layers, frames and keyframes
- Using Graphic and Movie Clip Symbols
- Motion, Classic and Shape Tweening
- Editing Tween paths
- Frame by frame animation
- Using Motion Presets
- Animating properties such as colour, transparency & brightness
- Using Motion Guides
- Adjusting tweens with the Motion Editor
- Working with Scenes for larger projects

Working with Text

- Typing and pasting text
- About font handling
- Choosing formatting options
- Choosing an anti-aliasing method
- Animating text elements

Interactivity

- Buttons - constructing simple and more complex buttons, hit areas, animated buttons
- Writing simple Actions - stopping a movie on a specific frame, creating 'go to' buttons, linking to an external website

Exporting and Publishing movies

- Outputting SWF files, HTML pages, animated gif and other content types
- Optimising movies for quality and file size
- Delivering Flash in a browser and other solutions.

Recommended Further training

- Flash Advanced Animation Techniques
- Flash Actionscript Fundamentals
- Introduction to Illustrator