

Broken Hyperlinks and Breaking Hyperlinks

Introduction

A hyperlink usually links one Web page to another. When a site visitor clicks the hyperlink, the destination page is displayed in a Web browser. Hyperlinks can also link to pictures, multimedia files, bookmarks, e-mail addresses, and programs. In addition to being represented as text, hyperlinks also can be pictures.

There are several ways in which hyperlinks can be broken:

- **Moving files**
- **Renaming file**
- **Deleting files**
- **Mistyping a Web address**

Sometimes these actions can cause a conflict that will result in site visitors receiving an unwelcomed “404 page not found” error message.

Testing and Repairing

After publishing your pages, *always* test all hyperlinks. If your Web site contains a broken hyperlink, the cause might be as simple as an incorrectly typed URL or a link that points to a page that has been deleted from your site. If the destination is another page on the World Wide Web, the page might have been moved or deleted.

Also, it is important to note that while *your* Web site hyperlinks might seem fine and you have satisfactorily tested all your hyperlinks, you may have inadvertently broken someone else’s links somewhere inside the Winthrop.edu site. For instance, someone else may be linking to a file you have moved or renamed. Such actions could cause serious problems for another Winthrop Web author.

NOTE to CMS authors:

If your site is on the CMS, changed page ids also will result in broken links. In a common case such as this, it would make most sense to backup the content of that page id and move that content to a new page id that you know no one else is linking to. In this way, you ensure that the existing page id that could be linked somewhere else on Winthrop.edu will not be broken. In this way, the content may be updated without breaking someone else’s links to that content.

If you decide to remove a library item, such as an image or pdf, please click through your site to make sure you haven’t inadvertently created a dead link going to a location that simply doesn’t exist anymore.