

WEB SKILL & PRICE GUIDE



In the highly specialized and explosively growing field of the Web, it becomes increasingly

difficult to objectively quantify people's skills. Job titles and hot skills change as quickly as

the technology itself. In addition, the Web has opened up a new avenue for

creative and multimedia specialists, all with a unique set of skills.

The purpose of this guide is to help clarify, for our clients and talent, the distinctions between the many Web specialties and

the levels of expertise within those areas. We hope that

this will aid our clients in accurately determining

their staffing needs and help our talent plan their

personal career paths.

**USING THIS GUIDE** 



This guide should not be considered an absolute, however. Every person has a unique set of skills and abilities that must be assessed on an individual basis and often does not fit neatly into a category. With that being said, we think this guide will prove to be an invaluable resource for understanding the complexities of having a career in the Web or hiring Web talent today.

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	Technical & Graphic Skills	Artistic Skills	Software	Client Rate
2.0 I	Uses clip art and graphic elements provided by others.	Should have decent eye for color and layout spacing.	Photoshop (basic)	1 \$25-35 per hour <i>or</i> \$20-30K per year
PRODUCTION	As above, plus: Can create simple graphic buttons or back- ground textures. Basic understanding of color-palette and graphic-compression issues.	Probably has some print production background. Good sense of color and layout; can interpret a designer's intentions.	Illustrator or	\$35–50 per hour 3+ or \$30–40K per year 2+
WEB GRAPHICS F	As above, plus: Can create complex graphic buttons, button bars, banners, and logo-like or iconic elements. Can create animated GIFS (mostly of the alternating-image or revolving-icon type, not morphing or true organic-motion animations). Good understanding of color-palette and graphic-compression issues.	As above, plus: can draw from photographic reference. May scan photos and then filter them in Photoshop or other programs to approximate hand-painted look.	automating the batch- processing of large num- bers of images)  GifBuilder or GIF mation (Mac), or Ulead GIF Animator (Windows)	1+ \$50-75 per hour or \$40-65K per year 2+
DE			Shockwave export but not Lingo programming)	
WEB SKILL & PRICE GUI	As above, plus: Can create complex animations of inorganic forms, including dancing type, flying logos, and morphing. Can assemble animations in a variety of programs and optimize them for download time/color/other issues.	As above, plus: may be able to draw pencil sketches, scan them, and then overpaint them in Photoshop or Painter, with pleasing results. (However, the emphasis here is still technical; may not be a true illustrator, who has years of art training or experience and a distinctive style.	Painter 2	\$75–200 per hour or \$65–160K per year 8+

	Leve	Artistic Skills	Strategic & Tactical Skills	Years	Software	Client Rate
DESIGN DESIGN		Should have decent eye for layout spacing and color. Can understand tactical goals and follow instructions.	Can understand tactical goals and follow instructions.	1		\$35-45 per hour <i>or</i> \$30-40K per year
WEB DE		Art direction skill basic to intermediate; design experience may be limited to having worked on Web sites.	As above, plus can understand your marketing or other organizational strategy. Can help implement that strategy with some direct supervision.	2+	See "Web Page Production" page for HTML-editing software. Typically a Web designer would know the same software as an HTML coder at the same level. A few Web designers (especially at higher levels or on larger Web teams) may just prototype in Photoshop, QuarkXPress, Illustrator, or FreeHand and not actually do any HTML editing. Nonetheless, knowledge of the HTML language and HTML-editing software allows designers to better understand the limitations of HTML, and to better supervise coders.	\$45–60 per hour <i>or</i> \$40–50K per year
PRICE GUIDE		Probably has some print design background, and strong art-direction skills (managing production and/or creative people). Good sense of color, layout and drama.	Can help you refine your Web strategy; understands copy/ design integration. Good knowledge of information design (how to organize information and create a navigational structure that makes sense) and its relationship to visual design.	3+		\$60–75 per hour <i>or</i> \$50–65K per year
WEBSKILL & PI		Can build a Web site from scratch that is a unified work of art. Can combine content, navigational structure, and appearance into a powerful integrated experience.	Web architect. Can help you develop a successful Web strategy from scratch and the interface design/ "look and feel" to implement it.	4+	As above, plus:  Possibly Inspiration or similar  "brainstorming"/flowchart programs.	\$75–125 per hour <i>or</i> \$65–85K per year

	Server Skills	Programming Skills	HTML & Related Skills	Software & Environments	Years	Client Rate
WEB SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE OF T	Can maintain a Macintosh or Windows-NT-based Web server.	Can create simple connections between a Web site and a database, using offthe-shelf tools like Tango or Lasso.	Can hand-code HTML and use code-validators.  Understands both clientside and serverside imagemaps, and HTML to link to forms.	BBEdit, Home Site or other programmers' text editors  WebSTAR (if Mac-based server) or Internet Information Server (if NT-based)  Tango, Lasso, or similar database tool (if Mac) or hooks to Microsoft Access (if NT)	1+ 1 <1	\$35-50 per hour <i>or</i> \$30-45K per year
	As above, plus: Can maintain a Unix-based Web server. Knowledge of basic Unix commands, symbolic links, General Expressions (GREP), search & replace, etc. Understands server-side includes, CGIs.	As above, plus: Can write simple cgis (probably in Perl, possibly in Bourne Shell or AppleScript). Probably knows JavaScript (but not Java). Can create complex Web/database interactions using off-the-shelf tools.	As above, plus: experienced at cross-platform and cross-browser compatibility issues and other tradeoffs. Can configure complex codevalidators and is adept at interpreting results of error reports.	BBEdit, Home Site or other programmers' text editors  emacs (Unix text editor)  Various Unix-based Web servers, either NCSA-type (such as Apache) or CERN-type or both  Basic skills within a Web programming environment such as Cold Fusion, ASP, etc.	2+ 2+ 2+ <1	\$50–100 per hour <i>or</i> \$40–80K per year
EB SKILL & PRICE GUIDE  Interpretable	As above, plus: Unix guru. Understands routers, switching, telephone company issues (if relevant), LAN/WAN troubleshooting.	(See Web Programming page.)	As above, plus: can create complex framed structures and tables in a plain text editor. Can code complex behaviors into Web pages, integrating JavaScript and HTML.	BBEdit, Home Site, emacs, Web servers: same as above Advanced skills within a Web programming environment such as Cold Fusion, ASP, etc.	3+ <1	\$75-125 per hour <i>or</i> \$60-100K per year
	As above, plus: Internet technical guru, with understanding of IP packet structures, firewalls, authentication/security, interpretation of headers and logs, advanced troubleshooting.	(See Web Programming page.)	As above, plus: can coordinate hardware/ software issues relating to many plug-ins, streaming-media, security and online payment systems.	Specific development environment varies widely. Capable of quickly learning new programming or diagnostic tools needed for a particular project.	4+	\$100-200 per hour <i>or</i> \$80-150K per year
onby ⊚		,	and a Web Programmer may be a matter of and server issues; but the skills and even the			8

	Title*	Function	Skills	Client Rate
WEB MANAGEMENT	Executive Producer	Overall charge and responsibility for implementing company goals for site. Connect senior management's strategic vision with site's artistic, technical, budgetary, time, and staffing implementation. May also function as client contact or account executive (if working for an agency). Essentially an executive position; the Web project may be only one part of this person's job.	Executive, managerial, communication skills. Understanding of company's marketing and/or operational strategy. Familiar with budgetary process. Generally familiar with Web, especially competitors' sites.	\$75–125 per hour** or \$65–100+K per year
GUIDE	Producer or Project Manager	In charge of actual day-to-day functioning of the Web-development team. On smaller projects, this person may also fill the role of Executive Producer and/or Editor.	Generally knowledgeable about Web-development process. May know HTML. Familiar with programming and database concepts and options but is not a programmer. Managerial and general communication skills. Flexible and creative orientation.	\$50-100 per hour or \$45-80K per year
	Assistant Producer or Assistant Project Manager	Position exists on large Web teams only. Coordinates writing/design team of specific subsection of site; or may coordinate only one function for entire site, such as graphics, content research, writing, programming, etc.	Probably knows HTML or at least how to use graphical Web-editing program. May know how to perform specific graphics-production tasks as well (see Web- Graphics Production page).	\$35-50 per hour or \$30-40K per year
WEB SKILL & PRICE Aquent 1998	Site Manager	Emphasis here is on ongoing maintenance and upgrading of existing site. Typically not an agency position; works for company that owns site. May have been the producer of the site; then became site manager once the initial build stage was complete. Specific functions similar to Producer.	Generally knowledgeable about Web-development process. May know HTML. Familiar with programming and database concepts and options but is not a programmer. Managerial and general communication skills.	\$50-100 per hour** or \$45-80K per year
W E ⊗ Aquer	*Titles on this page are not arranged	hierarchically.	** Usually a salaried staff member	9

Title*	Function	Skills	Client Rate
Writer	Research into client company's subject matter, policies and standards, etc. Discuss existing text materials with various company departments and adapt for Web. Write text for major portions of site, plus phrases or short passages as "connecting copy" to help "glue the site together." Integrate efforts with site editors, managers, and graphic designers.	Excellent writing skills. Also requires good verbal communication and interpersonal skills to integrate efforts with other team members. Understands company's subject matter to a reasonable depth, but will probably rely on other people and materials for in-depth expertise.	\$25-75 per hour or \$20-60K per year**
Editor	Adapt textual content for the Web from pre-existing sources (note that "repurpose" is a dirty word on some Web teams, but almost all large company sites do this to varying extents). Copyedit prose from writers. May work with site architect on development of site map (also known as "flow chart," "tree chart" or "site plan"). Decide on linking structure (where things go, what links to what), usually in consultation with site architects/ designers. May also function as Creative Director of site, in which case graphic decisions (but not implementation) are also part of job.	Copyediting and writing skills. Knowledge of subject matter of site. Knowledge of company organizational structure and politics. Diplomatic. Understanding of Web interface and flow issues. General understanding of technical limitations of Web, but does not need to know how to actually construct Web pages.	
Managing Editor	Position exists on large Web teams only. Coordinates writing/design team of specific subsection of site; or may coordinate only one function for entire site, such as graphics, content research, writing, programming, etc.	Highly organized individual. Good diplomatic skills. Understanding of subject matter very useful. May also function as Editor on some projects, in which case copyediting skills are important.	\$25-75 per hour  or  \$25-65K per year
Content Developer	Arrange for new subjects and implementation. Similar to Editor or Managing Editor, but the emphasis here is more on conceptual development of new kinds of content, working from scratch rather than creating new iterations of existing or standard content types; and perhaps researching and utilizing more outside sources.	Highly creative. Excellent knowledge of Web resources and past successes and failures of other, competing sites. Editorial and planning skills. Ability to create outlines, flowcharts, and other conceptual roughs.	

<sup>\*</sup>Titles on this page are not arranged hierarchically.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Usually a salaried staff member

Title

WEB SKILL & PRICE GUIDE OTHER WEB FUNCTIONS	Illustrator	Creates illustrations from scratch; or, more commonly, integrates illustrational, photographic, and navigational elements.	Can draw well from photos, life, or without any reference. Can draw and paint directly onscreen. Knowledge of both paint and draw software.	Photoshop Painter Illustrator FreeHand	Typically works by the piece (flat rate), or \$60-165 per hour
	Icon Illustrator	Creates small, tight, polished illustrations for buttons and other design elements. Cross between illustration and logo design. Hard to do well because of need for clarity in very small space.	Same as above, but perhaps less emphasis on personal style and spontaneity, more emphasis on clarity, precision, and economy.	Photoshop Illustrator FreeHand	\$75-150 per hour
	Digital Video Producer	Creates movies in QuickTime or other formats. Typically these are small, short, and highly focused. Often brief clips rather than highly produced pieces.	Knowledge of general video issues, but especially of compression and file compatibility issues (for example, codecs and MIME types).	Premiere After Effects Proprietary software	\$100-200 per hour
	Music Composer	Create music for site — either background music or soundtrack to be synchronized with animation (the latter is unusual on the Web at this time).	Ability to write or play music. Possibly knowledge of MIDI.	Performer Master Tracks Pro	Often flat rate (per sound or per second of sound), <i>or</i> \$100–200 per hour
	Sound Engineer	Records and optimizes background sounds or soundtracks.	Knowledge of codecs, file formats, streaming and conversion issues. May have knowledge of MIDI.	As above, plus: Deck II SoundEdit 16	
	2D Animator	Creates cartoon or other cel animation. May work in pixmap (bitmap) form, or with vector animation, or both.	Drawing, motion study, and anatomy/ani- mation skills. Knowledge of file type and compression issues.	Director Flash GifBuilder or GIF mation ObjectDancer	\$75–165 per hour
	3D Animator	Creates 3D or virtual-reality animation, such as tumbling logos, rotating "block" type, imaginary worlds, etc.	Knowledge of modeling, animation & related timing issues, procedural shading, texture maps, bump maps, rendering, file-format conversions & optimization, streaming, plug-ins.	Low-end to midrange: Infini-D; RayDream Designer; Strata Studio Pro; Adobe Dimensions; etc. (high-end 3D rare on Web)	
	Technical Advisor	Advises creative director or project manager on feasibility and tradeoffs inherent in different Web technologies. Evaluates programmers' proposals or work. This is really a catchall category for any technical oversight that doesn't fall into any of the other categories.	Knowledge of operating system that server runs on; HTML and advanced Web technologies; database connectivity; etc. Exact skill set depends on nature of the Web site.	Various operating systems, Web server software, applica- tion development environ- ments, and database systems	\$75-200 per hour

Skills

**Function** 

Client

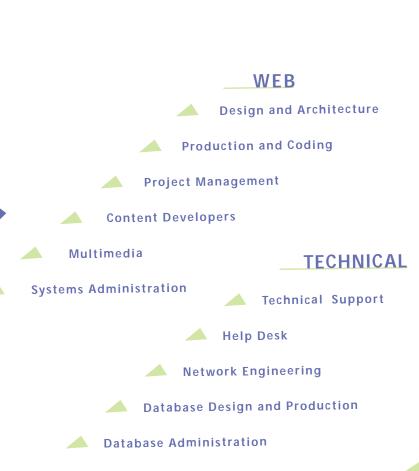
Rate

Software

	Job Category	Typical Tasks and Skills	Software	Years	Client Rate
6, 2.0	Tester	(Also known as QA or Quality Control.) Detail oriented; able to identify bugs in scripting or programming, isolate repeatable bugs, and document them accurately.	Whatever the playback (end-user) software is for the product.		\$20-\$40 per hour \$25-\$45K per year
D-ROM DEVELOPERS	Assistant Production Manager	Aids Project Manager and/or Creative/Art Director in production tasks. Internal liaison between groups. Able to work independently and with team. Responsible for traffic management. Basic writing ability. Helps track and execute project map. Technical: can burn preliminary (beta) versions of CD-ROMs.	Technical: Toast, Photoshop, DeBabelizer Organizational: Word, Excel, MS Project	1+	\$30-\$50 per hour \$30-\$40K per year
CD-ROM [	Project Manager	Proven written and verbal communication skills. People-management skills, including supervision of both staff and freelancers. Able to see big picture while simultaneously being detail oriented; good at prioritizing tasks. Can work with clients. Can create project map. Able to plan production time, assess time cost of revisions, create budgets, and more. Technical: breadth rather than depth of software knowledge.	MS Project, Word, Excel, various databases	1+	\$35-\$70 per hour \$30-\$65K per year
	Content Manager	Responsible for coordinating text, graphics, audio, video. May also be known as "Editor" at the high end or "Traffic Manager" at the low end.	As above.	1+	\$30-\$75 per hour \$25-\$60K per year
JIDE	Interface Designer	Understands human/computer interaction, perceptual psychology, graphic design, typography. Good at creating graphic layouts and "elements" (buttons, banners, etc.). Probably knows HTML.	Photoshop Director SuperCard <i>or</i> HyperCard, Authorware	2+ 4+ 4+	\$40-\$100 per hour \$35-\$80K per year
& PRICE GU	Creative Director or Art Director	Integrates different types of content (script, design, video, audio, etc.) into artistically powerful whole. Grasp of interface-design issues. Understands optimization of different elements for CD-ROM throughput tradeoffs. Many years of design experience.	Pencil and paper Photoshop DeBabelizer Pro, others	6+ 4+ 2+	\$75-\$125 per hour \$45-\$100K per year
CILL & P	Multimedia Programmer	Intermediate: Knows Lingo (Director), Toolbook, Authorware, IconAuthor, HTML, JavaScript, Visual Basic. Advanced: Can write code directly in one or more of the following: C, C++, Objective C, Java. Helps prepare preliminary and final (mastering) version of CD-ROMs.	Director, Authorware, CodeWarrior, other development environments, BBEdit, Nisus, other text editors	4+	\$40-\$150 per hour \$40-\$125K per year
WEBSKILL	Audio/Video Engineer	Knowledge of current A/V formats for both Windows and Mac. Can record (capture), digitize, edit. In-depth knowledge of codecs (compression/decompression methods) and related tradeoffs. Helps prepare preliminary and final (mastering) version of CD-ROMs.	Audio: ProTools, SoundDesigner, DeckII, SoundEdit 16 Video: Premiere, After Effects, Media 100, Avid Media Composer, Movie Cleaner Pro	3+ 2+	\$60-\$100 per hour \$40-\$75K per year

## we are

Aquent Partners is one of the largest and fastest growing specialty talent agencies that focuses on Print Creative and Production, Web. and Technical experts. For both contract and permanent work, we make the best matches for our talent and our clients. With offices in over 40 markets and 10 countries, Aquent Partners provides global solutions for specialized staffing needs.





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