

Chapter 9.

Perfect Packages



Ready to get things wrapped up some tidy packages?

This chapter will definitely show you how. We'll explore three more web components and a whole bunch of free Feature Packs. When you're done, you'll ride off into the sunset, smiling all the way.

What you'll find here...

Topic	Description	Page
Organize your project		
•Tabbed UI Component	Quick and easy. Website in a component! Recommended!	336
•Page Layout Component	Use an A5w page to organize like items. Can be put in Tabbed UI.	346
•Navigation System Component	Places a horizontal or vertical bar from which 'child' menus drop down or fly out.	352, 358, 361
Feature Packs	V10 Feature Packs included with V11 at no charge	366
•"Handy Tools"	"Flying Start Genie"	366
	"Tree-control Navigator"	367
	"Using Grid Components on the Desktop"	367
	"Action Buttons in Grid Components"	367
•"Images & Files"	"Image upload"	367
	"File upload"	368
	"File / Image download"	368
	"Import Excel or Ascii File"	368
	"Export to Excel or Ascii file"	368
•"Custom windows"	"Generic User-Defined Pop-up Window"	369
	"Custom Help Windows"	369
•"Converting DBF to SQL"	"Database Upsize Genie"	370
	V11 Feature Packs available at extra charge	
	Images, Maps, Calendars, Slider Control, Searches, Embedded Grids, Dialogs and more!	370



Component Re-Views

- For a pictorial review of components in this chapter see page 459.

How the material is organized

This is where it all comes together. You will find these web components just what you need to organize all your materials.

And. It's all about presentation. A fine restaurant goes the extra mile to deliver a plate to your table that looks delicious. You are sold before you take the first bite.

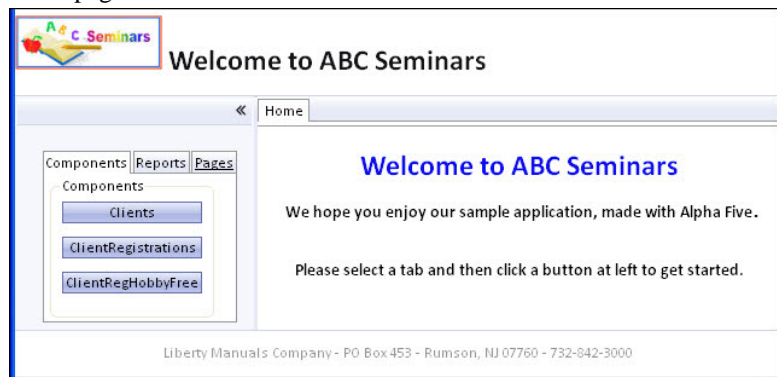


And. Alpha Five takes presentation seriously with elegant answers that combine components, web pages and reports into tidy packages. Here is your recipe for success. Illustrations are on the opposite page.

And. That's not all. We have more perfect packages for you. These come in the form of delectable morsels of functionality called *Feature Packs*. Take a look at the left for those that are available for Alpha Five V11. They are complete with videos that explain all.

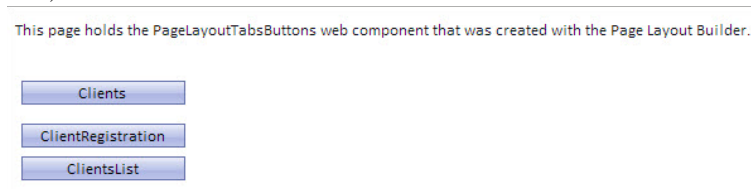
TABBED UI

Organizes components, pages and reports with buttons and tabs. This builder even adds a Home page. Easiest & fastest.



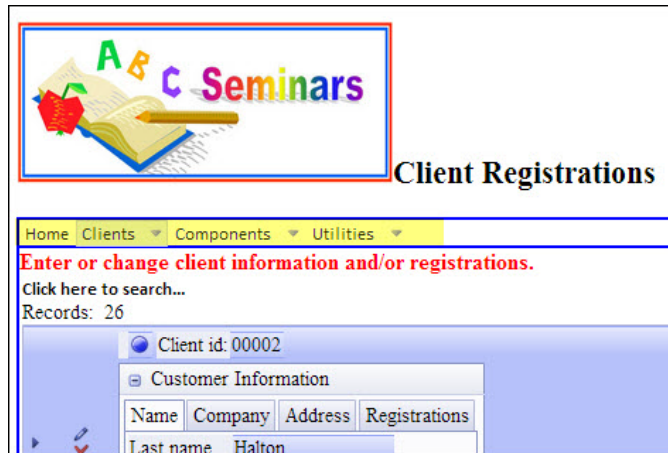
PAGE LAYOUT BUILDER

Creates complex page layouts for grids, pages and reports. You can tuck them inside Tabbed UI's, too.



NAVIGATION SYSTEM

This component creates a menu bar that navigates between pages. It can be set up to go across the page or down the side.



One thing is for sure – no matter where you plan to send your application, some mighty pretty packaging awaits. Yum!

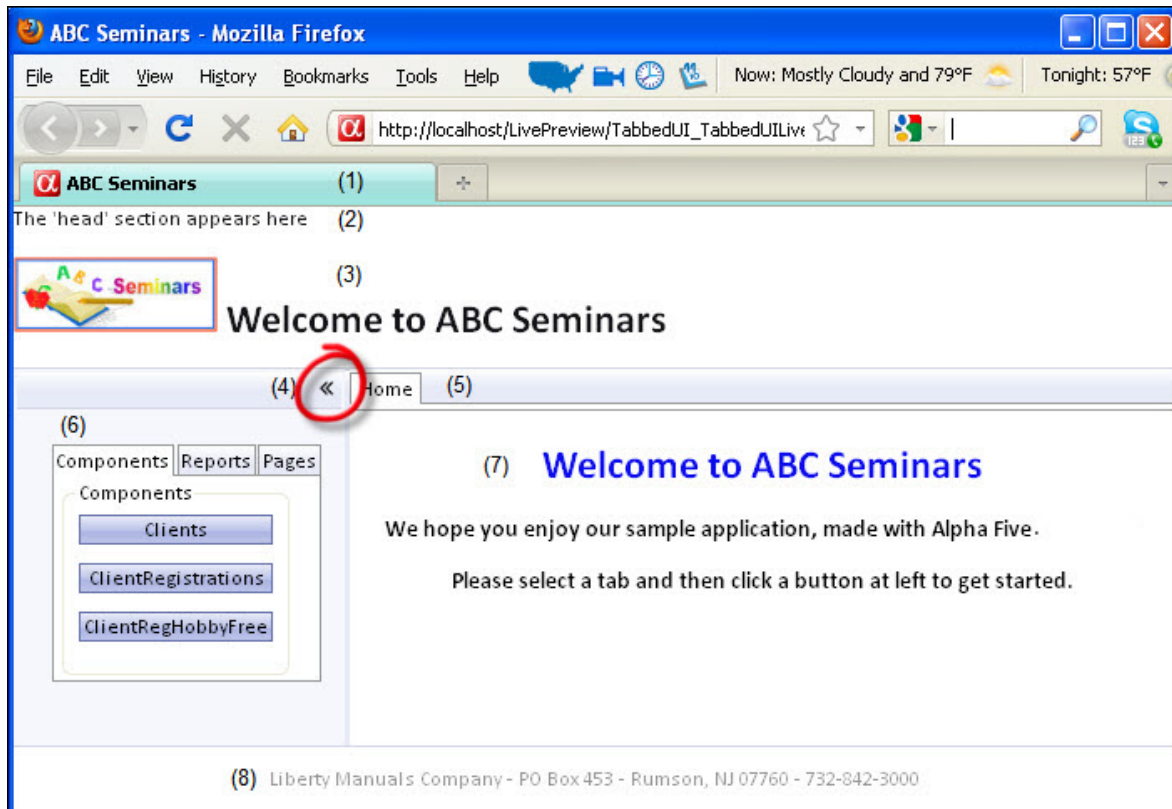
Understanding the Tabbed UI Builder

COMPLETED EXAMPLE

- Component: *MyABC_Menu*; Page: *TabbedUI_MyABC_Menu*.

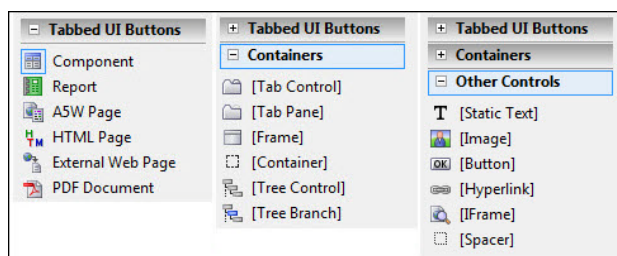
Tabbed UI stands for *Tabbed User Interface*. You could almost call this builder an instant website creator — it comes complete with a header, home page and handy buttons that can be placed in a tabbed container as you see below or in frames or just march down the left or right side.

- And the best part is that you already know how to add most of its elements. Let's take a close look at its design.



LEGEND

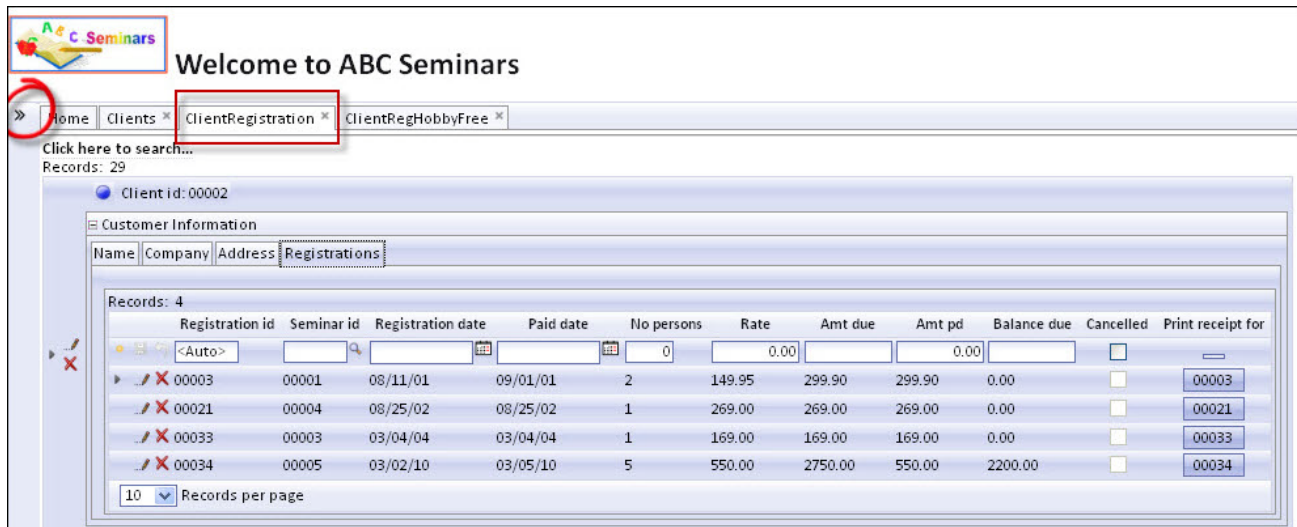
- (1), (2) and (3 & 8) are defined in the Tabbed UI Properties section.
 - (1) See “Change page name” on page 343.
 - (2) See ““Head’ content” on page 343.
 - (3) See “Adding a header” on page 342.
- (4) Click the << to collapse the buttons panel for a wider page display.
- (5) and (7) The Home page tab is automatically included and a properties option opens the HTML Editor for home page text, pictures, etc. (see “Adding a Home page” on page 343).
- (6) Buttons are pre-defined for Grid Components, Reports, A5W, HTML and External Web Pages, PDF Documents.
- At the design level, the buttons are enhanced with:
 - *Containers*: Tab Control and Pane, Container, Tree Control and Branch.
 - *Other Controls*: Static Text, Image, Button, Hyperlink, Frame and Spacer.



HOW IT WORKS

When you click on a button, not only does the selection open, but a tab is placed on the top row (red box below). Once the grids have been loaded, the tabs make it easy and quick to move between selected objects. The left menu can be collapsed for a wider display.

play (red circle) as shown in the following screen shot. Grids function independently, so the AJAX callback is for the active grid only.



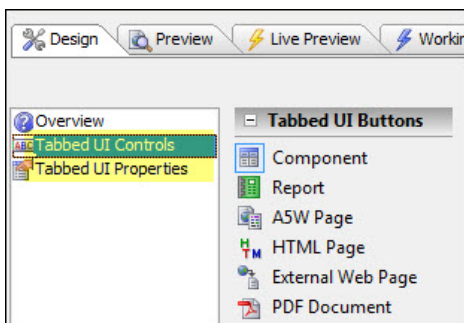
- Are you excited? We think this development is delightful!

Best of all. The Builder is really, really, REALLY easy to use.

Creating a Tabbed UI

As we have seen, the Tabbed UI can open components, reports, A5W and HTML pages, as well as external pages and PDF documents. As always, there is a builder.

1. *WPCP > Web components:* Create a new Tabbed UI Builder.
New > Web Component > Tabbed UI Builder.

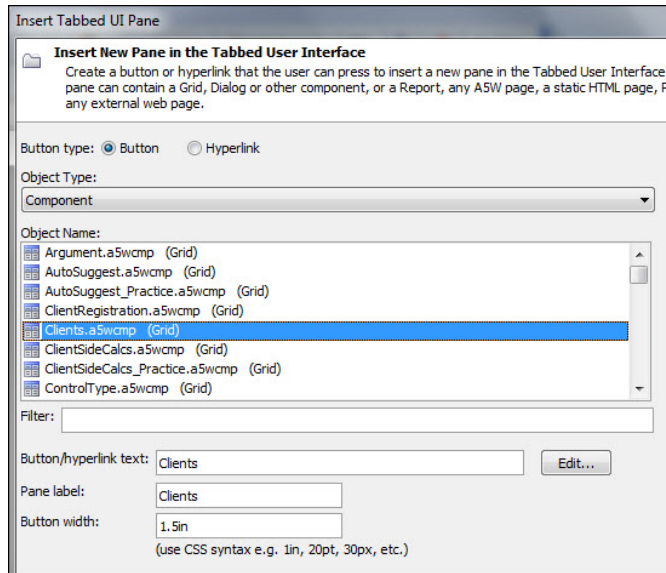


The navigation pane is on the left. We will be exploring both *Tabbed UI Controls* and *Tabbed UI Properties* (yellow).

2. *Overview:* Read the description. As usual, we will cover the steps outlined There.

Adding controls

3. *Tabbed UI Controls > Tabbed UI Buttons:* Click **Component**.



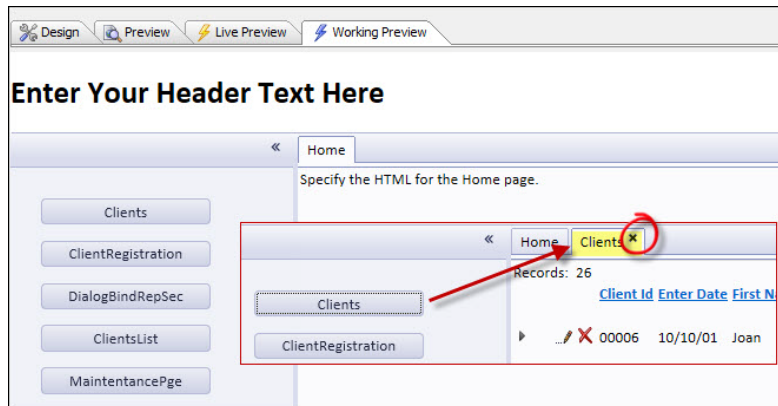
Dialog Title: Insert Tabbed UI Pane

- **Button type:** You can use either Buttons or Hyperlinks.
- **Object Type.** You can change the listing of Object Names to the following: Report Layouts, A5W pages, Static HTML pages, External (web) pages and PDF documents. Except for External pages, they must all be located within the current Web Project.
- **Filter:** Useful for finding objects in a long list. You must **enter at least 3 letters** i.e. to find *StackedColumnar*, enter *sta*.
- **Edit** button opens the HTML Editor for further formatting of the text for the button label.
 - a. **Button type:** Choose **Button**.
 - b. **Object type:** Choose **Component**.
 - c. **Object Name:** Choose **Clients.a5wcmp (Grid)**.
 - d. **Button/Hyperlink text:** **Clients** (default is name of grid, report, etc.)

- e. **Pane label:** **Clients** (also default).
- f. **Button width:** **1.5in** (default)
- g. Click OK.

PROPERTIES

Once an object is added to the list, its properties become available. Most are self-explanatory.



4. Repeat the above steps to add the following:

- **Components:** **Client Registration (Grid) & DialogBindRepSec (Dialog2).**
- **Report:** **ClientsList (Report).**
- **A5W Page:** **MaintenancePge.a5W.**

5. Save as **MyABC_Menu**.

6. Go to *Live Preview*.

7. Allow Alpha Five to turn on the Application Server, if necessary.

DISPLAY NOTES

- Live Preview is best because reports and Maintenance components are not visible in Working Preview.
- Some items, such as child grids with tabs, may not display properly. For those, the Browser is better.

FEATURES

The screen shot above shows some of the features:

- A button for each object is at the left.
- Header Text: Good place for a logo and welcome message.
- Home page can be designed in HTML.

8. Click the **Clients** button to see the pane and its tab appear (inset).

9. Close the pane by clicking its “x” (red circle).
10. Return to Design mode.

RENAME BUTTON & TAB

You can give the buttons any name you like, but you need to do it for both the button and its tab (pane).

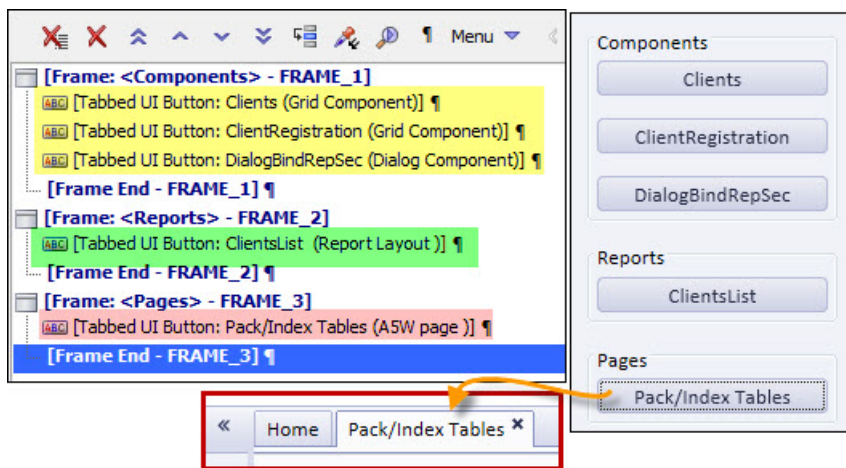
PROPERTIES: [TABBED UI BUTTON: MAINTENANCEPGE (A5W PAGE)]

TABBED UI BUTTON/ HYPERLINK PROPERTIES

- **Button text:** Change to **Pack/Index Tables**.
- **Pane title:** Change to **Pack/Index Tables**.
 - This action changes the name of the Tabbed UI Button control to: [Tabbed UI Button: Pack/Index Tables (A5W page)]
 - The original filename is unchanged as can be seen at Web Projects > A5W Pages.

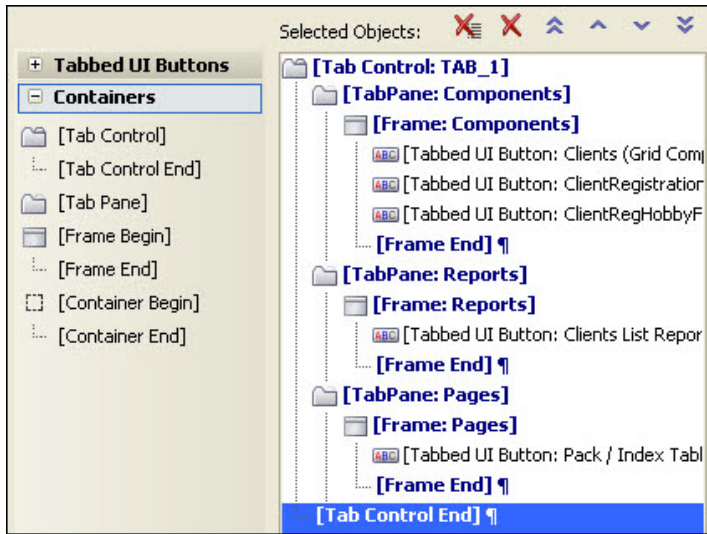
Adding frames

Frames will group the components, reports and pages together. Be sure to select the fields first and then click the Containers button.



- a. **Selected Objects:** Select the first three objects (yellow at left).
 - b. Click **Containers**.
 - c. Choose **Frame**.
 - **Insert opening Frame Begin & closing Frame End tags:** **Yes**.
 - **Label:** **Components**.
 - Click **Insert Around**.
 - d. Repeat for the report (green) and page (pink) as at left.
11. Go to Live Preview.

12. If you get a navigation warning, click *OK* or *Leave this Page*. We'll deal with that shortly.
13. Click the *Pack / Index Tables* button.
 - Note the pane tab also shows the revised name (red border above).
14. Return to Design mode.



Adding tabs

- Add a **Tab Control** and **Tab Panes** as at left.
- Go to Live Preview.



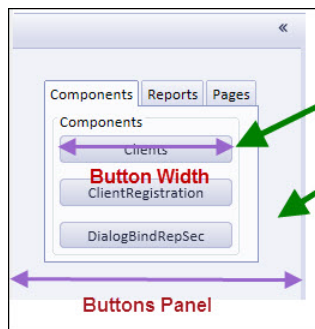
- Return to Design Mode.

Editing an object

- Select a **component**.

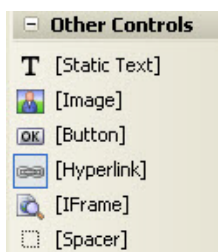
- Note that [Edit Object](#) (below list) becomes active.
- When you click on it, you will be taken directly to the component or other object for editing.

Changing width of buttons and panel



Occasionally, you may need to change the width of the buttons and/or the button panel.

- Button width:** Width can be set for **each individual button** at Properties > Tabbed UI Button / Hyperlink Properties > Style. Default = 1.5 in.
- Buttons panel:** Go to **Tabbed UI Properties** > Tabbed UI Properties > Button panels style. Default = 2.5 in.



Adding Other Controls

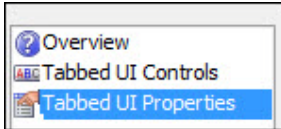
In addition to the above containers, other controls may also be added. Most work in the expected manner.

- Static Text, Image, Button, Hyperlink, IFrame, Spacer.

Testing at the Browser

- Click **Preview** on the upper tool bar.
- Go to the **Browser** and test the tabs and buttons.

- Next we will remove the navigation warning, give the page a title and create a header with a logo. The following settings are found in the **Tabbed UI Properties** section.



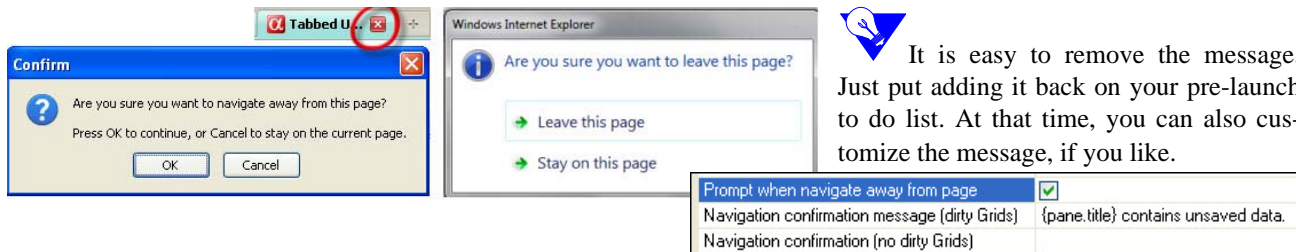
19. Return to Design Mode.

20. Go to **Tabbed UI Properties**.

Understanding the Browser navigation warning

When you go live, you won't want the end user to accidentally leave a page. Alpha Five provides for this by forcing confirmation before leaving the page.

While testing, however, this message can become annoying because it needs to be dismissed each time you preview your work.



It is easy to remove the message. Just put adding it back on your pre-launch to do list. At that time, you can also customize the message, if you like.

TABBED UI PROPERTIES

- **Prompt when navigate away from page:** **No**

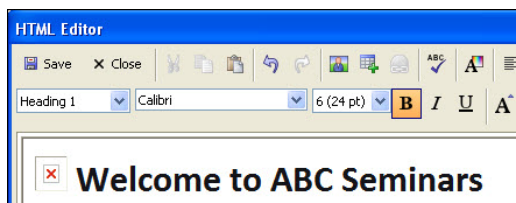
Giving the page a title

You can give the Tabbed UI page a title that will appear in the Browser's URL or tab (#1) in screen shot on page 337).

TABBED UI PROPERTIES (CONT.)

- **Page title:** Enter **ABC Seminars**.

Adding a header



It's easy to add a logo and text.

LOGO

Adding a logo is like adding any other picture at the HTML Editor. If you need a refresher on doing this:

- See "Adding an Image to both page and project" on page 44.

TABBED UI PROPERTIES (CONT.)

- **Header text:** Click the button to open the **HTML Editor**.
 - a. Add **ABC_Seminars_LogoSmall.jpg** to both the project and the HTML Editor as at left. Then add the text.
 - b. c:\A5_V11_WebAppBook\ ABC_V11Web_Lessons\ Images\ **ABC_Seminars_LogoSmall.jpg**.
 - c. Click Save.

Adding a footer

Typically, footers contain company information and/or links to other pages in the site.