

Creating Hyperlinks in FrameMaker


Hypertext links are helpful to link information in online documents and get you to that information quickly. FrameMaker provides the capability to create hyperlinks and buttons that work once converted to Acrobat PDF. That is one of the many advantages to creating source documents in FrameMaker.

Setting Up Text Hyperlinks

A click-able text area can be a word or a series of words. Making the click-able text visually different from other text helps users to clearly identify hyperlinks in text and tells FrameMaker (and Acrobat) exactly what text string contains the hypertext command. This also tells FrameMaker and Acrobat what area to highlight after the link is activated. If you do not identify text that includes a hypertext command, the entire paragraph is activated as a link.

Identify hypertext areas using Character Formats. Create a new Character Format that you can assign to hypertext links in text. Be consistent with colors and styles.

To identify hypertext linked text:

1. Select the text that you want to use as a hyperlink.
2. Click one time on the Character Catalog symbol located on the top right  of the document window .
The Character Catalog appears.
3. Click one time on the character tag name you plan to use.
If you used an italics character format, the selected text changes to italics, which leaves the remaining font properties (such as the font face and size) intact.

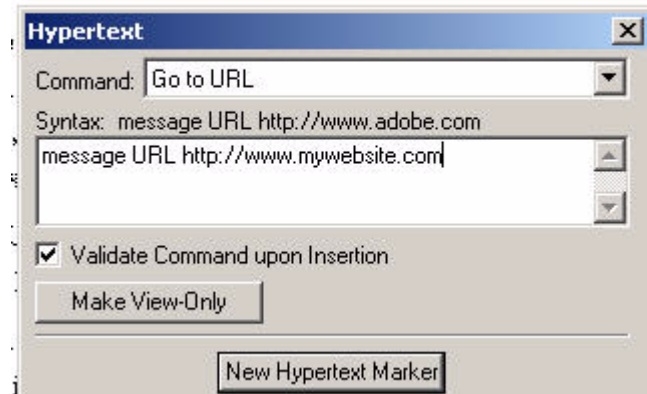
Now you've identified the text that you want to use as a hyperlink.

To insert a hypertext command:

1. Click one time within a text area in which you want to insert hypertext.
2. Select Special > Hypertext to display the Hypertext window.
3. Select Go to URL from the Command pull-down menu.
"message URL" is inserted in the Syntax field.

4. Type the URL you want to use as the link destination.

typed the text that you want to use as a [hyperlink](#).



5. Check Validate Command Upon Insertion to troubleshoot errors on the spot.
6. Click New Hypertext Marker to insert the hypertext command.

Note: If you want to spot-test the new hypertext command, click the Make View-Only button in the Hypertext Window. This command is the same as if you used Esc Flk to toggle between View-Only and Editable.

Once you convert the FrameMaker file to Acrobat PDF, the hypertext link works.

Creating Graphic Button Hyperlinks

Graphic buttons used for navigation purposes usually appear on many or all pages throughout a document. You can create the hypertext buttons one time on FrameMaker's master pages and they work in on each corresponding body page in FrameMaker and Acrobat PDF.

To set up a graphic for hyperlinks:

1. Place a graphic you want to use as a button on a master page.
Do not place the graphic in an anchored frame or behind a text column frame.

2. Select Graphics > Tools.
The Graphic Tools palette is displayed.



3. Select the Place a Text Frame tool .
4. Draw a text frame over the graphic that is approximately the same size.
The Add New text Frame window is displayed.

5. Select Background Text, and click the Add button.
Background text indicates that this text frame is not available for text input on body pages. A background text frame is displayed on corresponding body pages. In this case, you will insert a hypertext command in the text frame that is activated on each corresponding body page.

6. Select the text frame only, without selecting the graphic. Use Ctrl+click (Windows) to select a text frame.
7. Select Graphic > Bring to Front.
In order for hypertext links to work, the text frame containing the hypertext command must be in the foreground.
8. Use the graphic toolbox graphics Tools palette to switch the text frames properties to Fill:None, Pen:None.
Because the graphic is behind the text frame, you must make the text frame transparent in order to see the graphic.

Now you have prepared a graphic to use as a button that pages forward when clicked.

To insert a hypertext command:

1. Click one time in the text frame that you created in the previous exercise.
Having trouble clicking inside the text frame? If the text frame is still selected, you cannot click inside it. First, click somewhere else on the page to deselect the text frame, and click inside it.
2. Select Special > Hypertext.
The Hypertext window is displayed.
3. Select Jump to Next Page from the Command pull-down menu.
nextpage is displayed in the Syntax field.
4. Click New Hypertext Marker. Switch to body pages.
You see the new graphic displayed on body pages using that master page's layout.
5. Make the document View-Only, and test the button.

When you convert the document to Acrobat PDF, the button you created will work just as you intended.