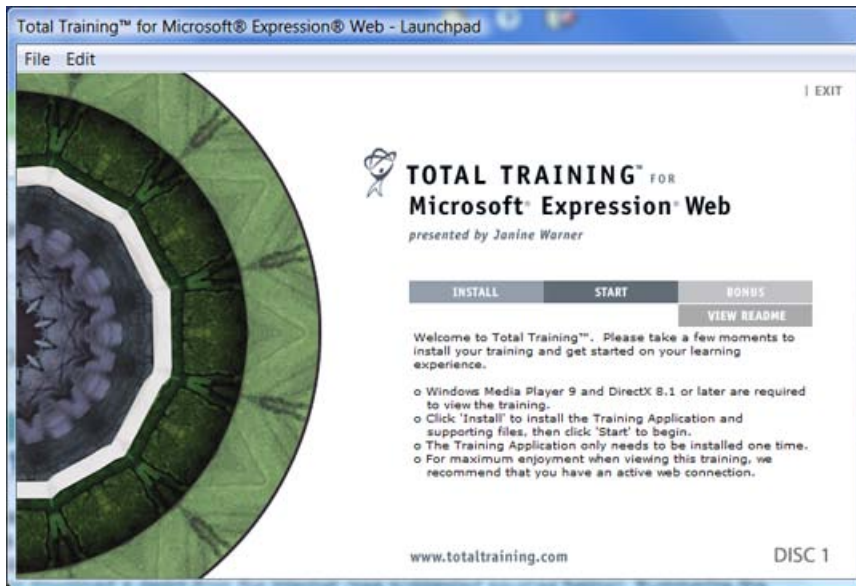


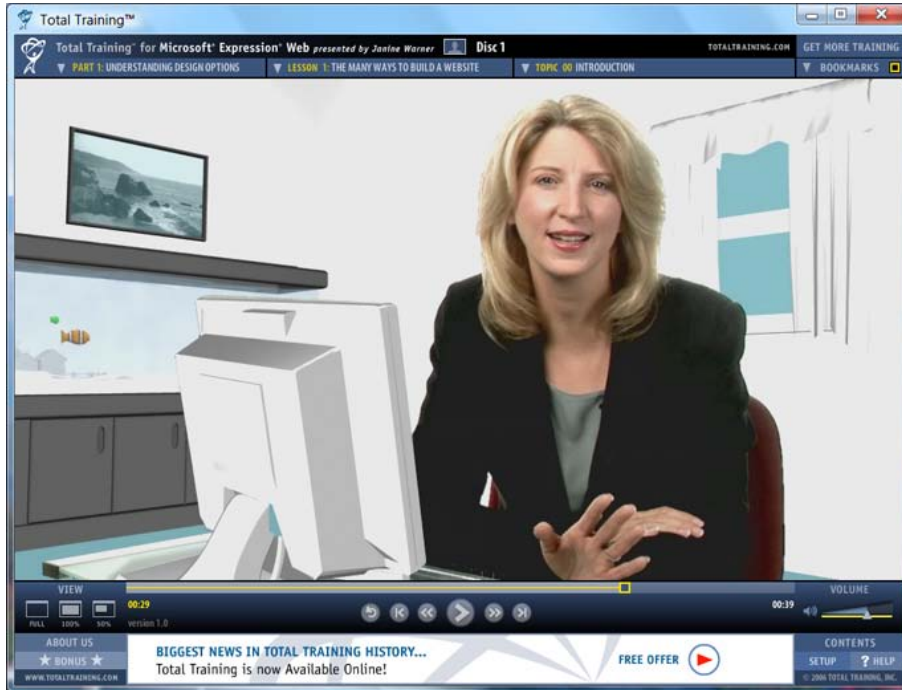
**Alessi and Trollip discuss recommendations for title pages, directions, user identification, and learner control. They discuss various methods and modes of control as well. For this activity, examine one of your favorite pieces of instructional software (no applications or tools – e.g., word processors, databases, spreadsheets, authoring tools, graphic programs, etc.) or download a demo from the Internet (see suggested sources below). Summarize the features of the program in terms of introduction of the program and learner control (see Alessi and Trollip pages 48-60). Include the title of the program, manufacturer, source (where you got it), and the target audience. Conclude with your own assessment of how the program meets or doesn't meet the recommendations by Alessi and Trollip.**

The educational software I selected for this assignment is a DVD-based video instruction on using the Microsoft Web design program Expression Web, which is hosted by Janine Warner and is published and sold by Total Training. When the DVD is first inserted into the DVD player this title screen appears:



This screen gives the viewer the choice of installing the training program interface, starting the training program once it is installed, access to optional bonus materials, and to exit the program all together. It also contain a brief set of instructions on what they minimum requirements are for the training program to work on the viewer's computer, how to begin the installation process, and a couple of notes on using the program. This screen nor anywhere in the program does it request user identification information, mainly because the program does not store information about the user's activity while using the program.

Once the program is installed and the user clicks on "Start" to begin the training program an animated splash sequence appears with instructions to bypass the animation located at the bottom. After the animation completes or if the user has clicked on it to bypass it and go directly to the program, this interface appears and the video instruction begins without user interaction:



In this interface the user has the option of changing the size of the viewing window, pausing, rewinding, or skipping forward through the video, adjusting the volume, and accessing Help, or returning to the setup/title screen. By using the breadcrumb navigation located at the top of the screen users can select different parts, lessons, or topics of the training video using a drop-down list interface. The interface also includes an HTTP driven window to advertise recent product information from Total Training. There are also links to About Us, the Bonus material on the DVD, and the Total Training Web site to buy more products. Like the TICCIT CBI this program allows users total control of the learning environment and pace. The interface is entirely mouse driven with the exception of the standard Windows keyboard shortcuts for minimizing, maximizing, and closing the window containing the training interface.

#### 4.2

Again the product I am reviewing for this assignment is a DVD-based video instruction on using the Microsoft Web design program Expression Web, which is hosted by Janine Warner and is published and sold by Total Training. After closer inspection of the content of the DVD, I was able to determine that the interface used in the Total Training instruction was a Flash-based shell that plays WMV formatted video clips. Although users are not given the opportunity to manually bookmark where they leave off in the instruction, the interface dynamically does this for the user. The next time the instruction is started it picks up at the part, lesson, topic that the user last viewed. The Help system is very basic explaining the user control operations of the interface. This would appear to be a fairly expensive video production, not to the degree of a Hollywood production but you can tell it involved a professionally written screen for the trainer to follow. The set consisted of a vector-based background drawing that the trainer appeared to be sitting in via the use of green-screen technology. There was also a good amount of thought and effort put into the lessons being taught in that they progress from basic to the more advanced features of the software that was being taught and there were supplemental files included on the DVD for the student to use in Expression Web while following along with the video instruction. All in all I would say it was a quality product with informative instruction for the level of learner (beginner) that it was directed towards. I just wish their products would cost a little less, this one was \$150.00, and I wish that they offered more advanced level topics of instruction. Most of their product line is geared towards beginners with some intermediate offerings, and virtually nothing really for advanced users.