

The animation process:

By Thomson Chemmanoor

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When we were small, we used to watch many cartoons on the television. Well, in the present day, the same cartoons are now referred to; in techno speak, as animation. Creating animation may seem to be a tough job. However, in reality, creating an animation is no big thing. To get the hang of things, it is always best to start with creating small animations. Once you understand the basics of animation, you can very well move on to creating complex animations that use more than twenty frames for the animation.

Animation is created in the same way cartoons and movies are made. When we make cartoons, we draw pictures on each page of a book, and fan the pages very fast to get to see a moving picture of the cartoons. If you were to go through each page individually, you would not get the moving effect. Similarly, an animation is just like that picture book, and is made of a bunch of individual pictures. The pictures of the animation are put together in a single file, like the pages of the book, using special animation software. Once the animation is complete and inserted into the required web page, the browser does the rest. It is up to the browser to play back the animation to bring the picture to life.

There are a few points to remember when creating animation pictures. Always make the individual files that make up the animation, as small as possible. This is because the bigger the individual file is, the larger is the resulting animation. When the animation is on the bigger side, the downloading time too increases, thus losing its appeal. You should also make it a point to maintain the same color format for the individual pictures while creating an animation. Just like in the picture book where all the pictures were of the same color and size, the individual images selected for the animation too have to have the same dimensions. While processing the animation, unless you tend to have a jerky animation, you should maintain a smooth transition between the pictures of the animation. Do not focus on producing an animation that repeats endlessly, like perhaps a swinging monkey, as this proves to get annoying to the viewer.

You do not have to be a scientist to make an animation. All you have to do is to download the loads of free animation software and pictures available in the internet. However, if you decide to use somebody else's animation for your website, it is always better for you to get permission from the designer of that animation, or at least give the creator the due credit for using it. Of course, if you are not interested or talented enough to do your own animation, you can always enlist the help of animation experts.

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