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First came the photographer, then some had to have video. Now some brides and grooms may insist on having a Web site chronicling their special day.

Wedding Web sites offer families and friends of newlyweds a way to keep in touch, if they couldn't be at the wedding, or a way to relive the big event.

"I think a wedding Web site will shortly become a prerequisite for most weddings, just like a video," said Ken Freeman, chief executive officer of epagentry Design Studios.

"I see the trend toward more and more wedding Web sites, as couples today have become more computer literate, and have a high comfort factor with the Web. Most young couples today, along with their family and friends, are all web-savvy and regularly access the Web."

Beth Mallory, owner of TakeAStroll.com Online Family Photo Albums, has done four wedding Web sites since the company started in April.

"With so many people online these days, wedding Web sites are a unique way to capture the special day and unlike a video tape, it can easily be shared with loved ones around the world," she said. "It allows people who can't attend the ceremony to share in the special day by seeing photos and highlights."

Like photos and video, a Web site keeps wedding memories forever.

"After the wedding is over, the content of the wedding Web site will be preserved forever on CDROM. Why is this happening? Because all young couples today have computers and Web access, and CDROM drives to play back their wedding Web sites long after the wedding is over," Freeman said.

A wedding Web site can cost between \$45 and \$400. For some couples, with families and friends all over the world, the Web site can be priceless since it spans the globe.

A Web site, Freeman said, can be "a means of bringing the wedding party closer, despite geographical distances, across the country, or even across the world."

In general, wedding Web sites feature photos of the bride and groom, invitation details, then pictures of the ceremony and reception.

"More and more people are utilizing wedding Web pages prior to the wedding to list local hotel accommodations and other places of interest for out of town guests, we can link to a printable map, and even take RSVP and menu preferences via an online form," Mallory said.

Some sites offer such tremendous details, the browser will feel as if she was at the head reception table.

For example, one Athens, Ohio, couple posted pictures of their guest book (and pen), bridal bouquet, the invitation, champagne glasses – even the program. There was also a "bride's journal" that spanned from the proposal in October 1998 to the big event in September 1999 and included links to the wedding party and bridal shower.

A visitor can even take "The Happy Couple Quiz" on one site to find out how much you know about the newlyweds.

Most wedding Web sites, though, aren't quite that elaborate. The majority feature about three pages and a dozen photos of the ceremony, reception highlights and the honeymoon.

Almost all have "pages" for Web site guests to sign in.

A few of the sites – much to Ms. Manners' dismay, to be sure – even have links to gift registries.

Freeman pointed out that some vendors will offer discounts on tuxedos, flowers or limousines, to name a few wedding services, to couples if their business is featured on the Web site.

For more information about epagentry's wedding Web sites, go to

[www.epagentry.com/wed-epa.htm](http://www.epagentry.com/wed-epa.htm), or email [weddings@epagentry.com](mailto:weddings@epagentry.com).

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