COM1008: Web and Internet Technology Assignment: Website (50%) Part 3: The Development and Testing Document

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Changes

For the most part, we stuck to what we had initially planned, however, we did change a few things to improve usability for the user.

- We added a home button to the navigation bar upon realising the logo did not look very clickable. We did not remove the link functionality from the logo, so it could still be used but now it is easier for the users to navigate when they are unfamiliar with the site.
- We added a dropdown list in the navigation bar for each level of the SU building, instead of having a page dedicated to it with links to each level. This made the site easier to navigate as there was 1 less page to travel through to get to an endpoint. It also allowed us to remove the links to each level on each of the level pages, which cleared up space that made each page easier to look at and find helpful information. We decided that since the dropdown box made it so easy to navigate to the info on each level, the general 'areas' page was fairly redundant so we removed it as its main purpose was navigation and it became somewhat of a dead page after this change.
- We added some navigation links to the 'typical week' and 'food' pages as they were
 quite long and this helped the user get to the section they were interested quickly
 without the use of multiple web pages that make the website unnecessarily heavy.

Organisation

We initially used a placeholder site that we made in one of the labs as a template. This allowed us to plan the layout of the site without getting bogged down in the details of how everything would look. We prioritised the content and function over the site at the beginning as we decided it was more important to get that right before we tackled the actual appearance of the site. As such, the CSS was mainly untouched until we finished writing up the content for each page and re-writing the HTML to fit with our plan. We also used the normalise CSS file underneath our main CSS to make things easier.

In order to manage our files, we used Google Drive to start off with but we quickly found that it was awkward to use, especially when we were both changing files at the same time. In order to amend this, we switched to GitHub which was much easier to use, update, track history and such.

We used the Chrome DevTools primarily when debugging the site as we both found it the easiest and use Chrome anyway. It was especially helpful when looking at how the website looks on mobile and high-res displays.

We toyed with the idea of JavaScript initially but felt that it was pointless to make the site more complex than it needed to be, especially as this makes it harder for the site to be similar on all types of device, both aesthetically and functionally.

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Optimisation

We made an effort to make the site as simple as possible, for both visual and digital optimisation. We also made sure to convert all the photos from png to jpeg to reduce file size as they made up the majority of the size of each web page

Security

By using the form you indicated in one of the lectures, the options for malicious intent are somewhat limited, with the worst case scenario being somebody spams the contact form and we get some messages in our email. This is not something we are particularly concerned about as they can be blocked easily if needed. Our emails are public on the site, but again they are our university emails so they aren't exactly private anyway.

With regards to the protocol, we decided that this was fairly irrelevant due to there being no sensitive information on the site as well as no login ability or anything like that.

Testing

We tested the site on Chrome, Edge and Firefox as we felt these were the most commonly used browsers, especially for the demographics that would be using our site.

We tested at a number of different resolutions in addition to our mobile devices to get a good variety. You can see below how the homepage looks at various resolutions.



Figure 1, Homepage on a Galaxy S5

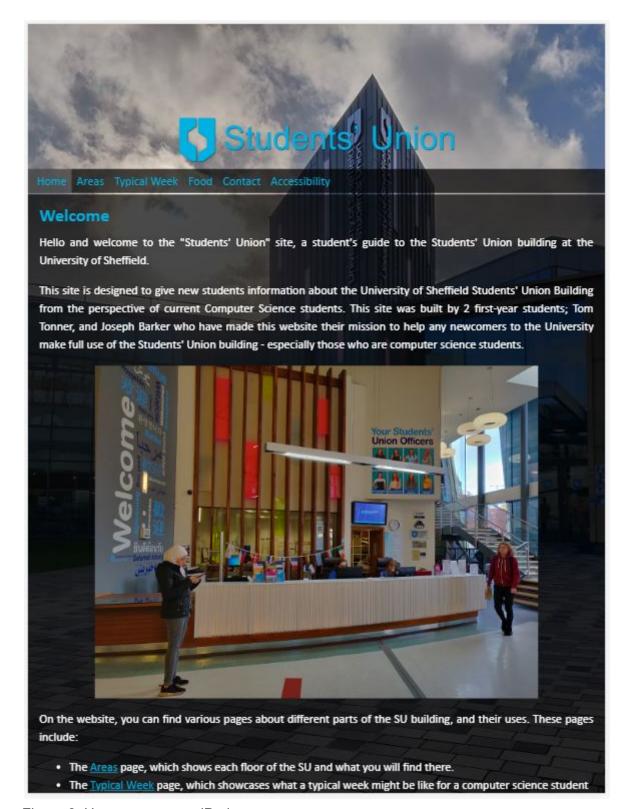


Figure 2, Homepage on an iPad

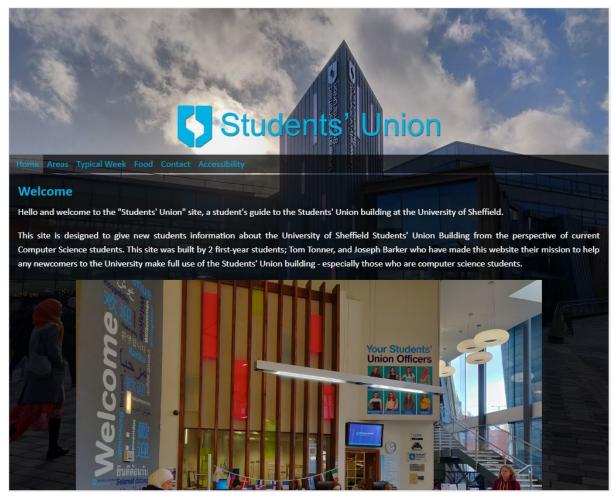


Figure 3, Homepage on a 1024 pixel width screen

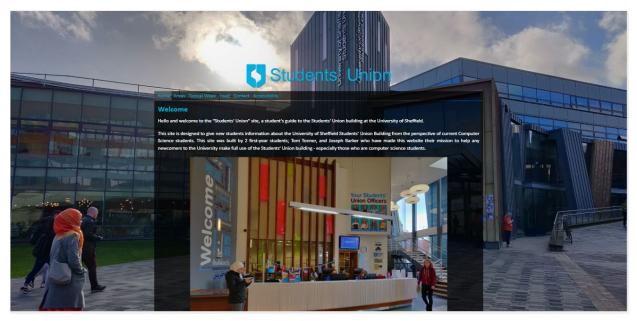


Figure 4, Homepage on a 1440p screen

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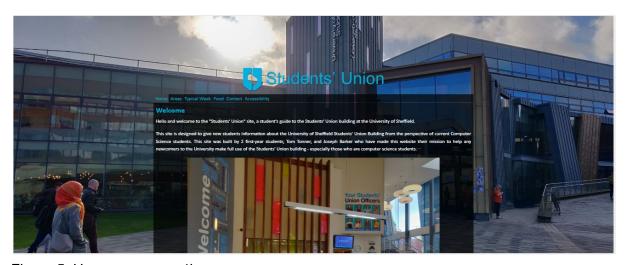


Figure 5, Homepage on a 4k screen

Due to the nature of our responsive design, the site looks familiar at each resolution and it looks the same on all the browsers we tested.