

Issues of the previous website we found:

1. The previous website does not work well with all devices. Although most contents could be displayed, when the screen is larger, there would be a huge blank. This means that contents are only displayed on the left half of the screen. It is a waste of space.
2. The heading of the website is not sticking on the top, it would disappear when users scroll down.
3. The navigation bar is not the same on each subpage, and some of them are not linked to any webpage. For example, when we are on the lecture page, we would see the “news” on the navigation bar, which is not on the navigation of the home page and when we click it, it would say “The requested URL was not found on this server”.
4. Users are not about to observe which page are they currently visiting by looking at the navigation bar.

How did we solve them in our new website:

1. We used the percentage of users’ screens to represent the size of some elements, instead of using all pixels as a unit. So our website could adjust itself when users are using different devices, and it could fill the whole screen all the time.
2. We made the position of the heading to be fixed, so it would always be sticking at the top of the screen.
3. We add new subpages and delete unnecessary subpages, and put them on the navigation bar.
4. We modified the colour of the link on the navigation bar, so when users are visiting any subpage on the navigation bar, the colour of that link would be different from other links so users would be able to know which page they are currently visiting.

Challenges we faced and how did we solve them:

1. When we are using percentage to represent the size of elements, we found that it may work not very well on mobile devices, for example, 20% of the width of the computer screen is much bigger than 20% of the width of phone screen since most phone users are using portrait mode, and when the width is too small, there would not be enough space for all contents. To solve that, we combine the percentage and pixels together to represent the size of some elements, and when overflow appears, users should be able to scroll up and down to view all contents.
2. When we are modifying the position of the heading, we found that we cannot just simply make it be fixed, since it would be overlapping when users scroll the contents around it. To solve that, we modified its z-index, so it would be “higher” than other elements so contents would not overlap it.
3. We found that it would be hard to combine our works if we just work separately. For example, if I want to add a subpage, then both of us need to make changes on every HTML file we create (since we need to modify the navigation bar on each page). It would be better if we have an online repository. We finally decided to communicate frequently when we have any idea, and when someone wants to modify some page, then that one needs to tell another one what should be changed on each page.