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CIS 14A

Week 6 Assignment

1. Using JavaScript on a website can provide many advantages. From the owner’s point of view, it allows their website to function much more than simply being a website that a customer or client can visit and only read. With JavaScript, their website can be interactive, and be more fun and engaging to use. For example, the website we developed in class last week for customizing a new PC can be much more interesting and easy to use than having a website with multiple different pages each with slightly different models. JavaScript also adds an incredibly basic but useful function that all websites should have in one form or another: input. Now a website can take client information to better help suit their needs, whether it’s for helping them shop online, or chatting with other users online on the same website, or even just setting preferences to show relevant news a user is interested in first before other articles. In short, a website can simply become so much more before when using JavaScript in addition to basic HTML. HTML alone can convey a lot of information on a website, but to actually have a form of input, JavaScript must be used.

The following 3 questions were on the back of the handout:

1. Using CSS allows a programmer to format their entire website in a uniform way by adding formatting just once within the document. Without using CSS, HTML doesn’t offer much for changing the way text and info on the screen is displayed. At the most, the size of text can be resized with <h#> tags, but not much else. Whereas with CSS, Formatting can be changed in many different categories for nearly anything, allowing a programmer to create a website that would be easy to read and understand, with different headlines and titles, boxed information, and with style. The use of CSS on a page can allow websites to more easily have varied styles, color themes, and provide a smooth experience to a user. Everything on the website itself can feel easier to work with, and if any changes had to be done to the website, like a change in color or font, it can be done easily by going to the section of code where you added the CSS code, rather than changing many things line by line as you would with HTML alone.

2. The main disadvantage of using CSS, from what I’ve researched, is that information that has used CSS cannot be transformed. So in short, JavaScript type items, like textboxes, cannot be formatted properly because the style and format has to be created once the page has loaded. Aside from that, so long as the programmer understands how to properly code everything, there aren’t too many disadvantages. The main issue would be that, at least starting out, a new programmer may run into issues getting the page to work properly.

3. To implement CSS on a website, the best way would be to create a section at either the beginning or end of the code, to keep everything more easily organized in one single place. Then, all that has to be done is use <style> and </style>. Or, another way this could be done is to separate certain parts of the CSS code into different sections, still using <style> and </style>, but keeping sections separate. For example, one part for the format of the main text, another for additional information on the side, or another for headers and titles on the page. This way, if anything needs to be changed, all you have to do is find the <style> section for that category of text and change those few values. Regardless of which way is chosen, CSS code should be kept focused in only a couple areas so it can be found and easily changed should a change have to be made to the website.