A web developer and web designer have many skills in common. They both have to know how to code, manage SQL databases, resolve issues with web applications, review and test code, understand many programming languages, and work with many other people and departments. Some of these skills overlap with other careers that deal with computers and information technology. Skills like knowing and understanding different programming languages, troubleshooting software and equipment, and working with other people are common in any position dealing with computers.

What is the difference between a web developer and a web designer? A web designer will design the layout of the webpage. The developer will design the landing page or the first page accessed by the user. This must be designed in a way that doesn’t scare off a visitor and must be designed so the user can find their way around the website. This includes where the objects on the page are located, as well as designing the webpage for use on different devices such as a cell phone, or a computer. An example for this would be the placement of a “Login” button, which is usually located in the top right corner of the page. If the designer was to place this in the bottom left, the user could have trouble finding the login button and leave the site. The designer is also the person updating websites and creating images and the visuals displayed on the webpage.

A web developer is the person testing webpages and optimizing the websites for faster loading and navigation. This is when the developer checks to see if there are too many objects on the page, causing it to take a long time to load. This is usually caused by having too many objects on the same page, trying to download over the user’s internet connection. Things like videos, ads, and other multimedia objects can slow down a website. The developer will check the pages and optimize the webpage to load faster and create a better experience for the user. The developer is also the person responsible for maintaining and updating the website, helping with security vulnerabilities and repairing any code that is not running correctly.

While the web developer and the web designer have different roles, they share many skills. One skill required to be a web developer is knowing and understanding several different programming languages. This is important because websites require many different systems working together to make the website interesting and easy for a visitor to use. The website may use HTML to display the webpage in a language the computer understands. At the same time, the website may have Java script imbedded to allow for videos or different photos to display. There are also many different plugins used in websites that help with tracking, security, and giving the website different functionality. There are many different technologies that come together to create an interesting webpage, that is why it is important for the developer and designer to understand these languages.

Another skill that these two roles have in common is the need for attention to detail. This skill is shared with any coder, but switching between programming languages, keeping any best practices, laws, and regulations in mind, as well as the security of the website, makes attention to detail very important. The webpage can be visited by an amazing number of people from all over the world. For whatever reason a person finds themselves at the website, the developer has a responsibility to provide a safe experience for that person. With the potential high traffic to the website, security from any cyber attacks or malicious visitors, is important. Attention to detail when the designing or developing means that you are paying attention and are very careful with the tools you use, and you are vigilant with security and patching anything that could allow a breach of the website’s security and keep the user safe.

There are many other skills that the web developer and web designer share, from knowledge of different code, to where objects should be placed on the page, to security best practices, both roles require many skills. Both roles are important and require the people in these roles to be responsible for their work and for the safety of the user, as well as the owner of the website.

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