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**CENTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING**

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**The Web**

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# History of the Internet

The history of the Internet has its roots in the need to share research materials over a network. [Computer science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_science) was an emerging discipline in the late 1950s that began to consider [time-sharing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time-sharing) between computer users and, later, the possibility of achieving this over [wide area networks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wide_area_network).

Early packet switching networks such as the [NPL(National Physics Laboratory) network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NPL_network), ARPANET(Advanced Research Projects Agency Network), [Merit Network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merit_Network), and [CYCLADES](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CYCLADES) in the early 1970s researched and provided [data networking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_network). The ARPANET project and [international working groups](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Networking_Working_Group) led to the development of [protocols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communication_protocol) for [internetworking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internetworking), in which multiple separate networks could be joined into a network of networks, which produced various standards. [Vint Cerf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vint_Cerf), at [Stanford University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_University), and [Bob Kahn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Kahn), at ARPA, published research in 1973 that evolved into the [Transmission Control Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_Control_Protocol) (TCP) and [Internet Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Protocol) (IP), the two technical foundations of the Internet.

In the early 1980s the [National Science F](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Science_Foundation)oundation funded national [supercomputing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supercomputer) centers at several universities in the United States and provided interconnectivity in 1986 with the [NSFNET](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NSFNET) project, which created network access to these supercomputer sites for research and academic organizations in the United States. International connections to NSFNET, the emergence of architecture such as the [Domain Name System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain_Name_System), and the [adoption of TCP/IP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_protocol_suite#Adoption) internationally marked the beginnings of the [Internet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet). Commercial [Internet service providers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_service_provider) (ISPs) began to emerge in the very late 1980s. The ARPANET was decommissioned in 1990. Limited private connections to parts of the Internet by officially commercial entities emerged in several American cities by late 1989 and 1990. The NSFNET was decommissioned in 1995, removing the last restrictions on the use of the Internet to carry commercial traffic.

Research by British computer scientist [Tim Berners-Lee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Berners-Lee) in 1989-90 resulted in the [World Wide Web](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Wide_Web), linking [hypertext](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext) documents into an information system, accessible from any node on the network. Since the mid-1990s, the Internet has had a revolutionary impact on culture, commerce, and technology. Increasing amounts of data are transmitted at higher and higher speeds over [fiber optic networks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiber-optic_communication) operating at 1 [Gbit/s](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gbits/sec), 10 Gbit/s, or more. The Internet's takeover of the global communication landscape was rapid in historical terms: it only communicated 1% of the information flowing through two-way [telecommunications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunication) networks in the year 1993, 51% by 2000, and more than 97% of the telecommunicated information by 2007. Today, the Internet continues to grow, driven exponentially by the rapid expansion of networking technologies.

# Web Archives of Some Websites

## Reddit

Reddit started off as a simple content aggregator and news website, keeping its core concept of allowing a user to post and review media. The first website it launched in 2005 had a navigation bar to sort by hottest or newest and to view top of all time and stats of posts. It also included a search bar and a login/register label. The website didn’t change its core concepts over the years but had design improvements.

Major design changes surfaced in 2011. More CSS design tools were used and the overall the site looked more appealing. Submit a link was also added which allowed users to post on a sub-Reddit. The navigation bar changed and now incorporated a controversial and saved option.

In 2014 the website included a new text post which allowed for micro blogging. The website stayed more or less the same since 2011 keeping its core concept with design overhauls. The 2016 version of the website included an option to subscribe to Reddit email services. Since then moderators of sub-Reddit were introduced. The platform is now one of the most visited websites on the Internet.

## IMDb

IMDb (Internet Movies Database) started off as an online review website where users and critics alike can review movies and shows which determine the ratings of movies and show which in turn other users can see the ratings of these movies and shows.

In 2007 the website was largely HTML based and contained pages where users can see rated shows and movies and can rate shows and movies themselves. It included daily Poll Questions, Coming Attractions, Movie/TV Quote of the Day, IMDb Hit List, language change options and login and sign up options. It also had its top 250 Films of all time section.

By 2009 in addition to design improvements, it incorporated Movies near you links, a navigation bar consisting of Now Playing, Movie/TV news, IMDb TV, and show time and tickets options. It also had a gallery of parts of movies and shows.

It kept the overall core concept of Movie/TV aggregation and news concept with most changes coming with regards to design improvements. By 2014 it had included videos of parts of Movies/Shows, a navigation bar incorporating Celebrity, Events and photos and a Watch list option and a Search bar.

The Website has since grown to a large scale where it continues to be a formidable and commendable source of Movie/Show related news and Ratings.

## EdX

EdX is a non-profit online based platform established in 2012 where students can learn and earn certificates for various courses.

It started off as a website that included a Find Course section where a user can search for a course to learn. It also had a list of courses the user can take. It contained a navigation bar incorporating About, Blog, Jobs, Log-in and Sign-up options. It also displayed partnerships with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University and BerkleyX. Each course is also tagged with the colleges it’s associated with. The website also contained News and Announcements section. In 2013 the navigation bar was slightly changed to include a How it Works section, Courses section, Schools section, a Register Now section and a login section. The University of Texas System, Georgetown University and various universities were added to the partnerships section. Instead of a list of courses, the website instead used a view course button where the user can now click this button and view the courses in a separate tab. Contact information was provide at the footer.

By 2015 the navigation bar replaced the Schools section with Schools and partners section, and now included a find course search bar. The view courses section remained the same. A list of popular courses was now added. Types of courses section were also included.

The website has since come to include popular categories of courses, and an overall appealing designed layout.

## 1337x

1337x is a piracy website that provides link for torrents which in turn downloads desired media. It began in 2014 with a website that included a login and register option at the top right corner of the website. It had a navigation bar that consisted of home, upload, rules, contact, about us and donate section. It also had a search bar to find torrents. In the body it included featured torrents list, international featured torrents list, most popular torrents list, popular movie torrents list, popular TV torrents list, popular application torrents list, popular music torrents list, popular game torrents list and other popular torrents list. Its footer consisted of recent searches and contact information.

Its 2015 version had small tweaks in the inclusion of a side tab to select various categories of torrents and links to other torrent sites. The 2016 version of the website now made a single homepage to search for torrents and categories of torrents. Thus the user either searches the torrent or selects a category where the user is then directed to a page containing the results of selection and options to sort the torrent based on popularity.

The site has since maintained the same basic layout as its predecessor, maintaining and updating the core concept of providing links for torrents and torrents themselves based on category and popularity.

## CrackWatch

CrackWatch is a website that provides updates of the crack status of popular video games protected by Digital rights Management (DRM). The site began simply linking to a twitter account. The sites 2017 version had the CrackWatch logo on top and in a grid format listed the games tagged with their crack status. Games cracked were shown in green while games that weren’t cracked were shown in red. Below this information about the CrackWatch website could be found with a disclaimer stating CrackWatch only provides crack status and doesn’t provide links to the games cracked version.

The site has since not undergone any radical changes. Only a few design improvements were made to the site to improve its appeal and design. The latest version of the website has a navigation bar with options to login, select games, groups, karma, keys and forums. Major inclusion is the introduction of a Reddit-like Up-vote / Down-vote micro blogging where users can interact with posts. A search bar is also included. The site also includes Hot Games section where popular games crack status is displayed. A best comments and Latest Cracked games section is also included, the former displaying the best comments and the latter providing which have been recently cracked. An upcoming games section is also part of the site.

Overall the CrackWatch site provides with the crack status of games without linking the games cracked versions. This site is one of the more popular sites for people who don’t buy games come to check the status of a recently released game.

# 12 Categories of Websites

## Portal

* Allianz: [www.allianz.com](http://www.allianz.com): A website for insurance and asset management.
* AvMed: [www.avmed.org](http://www.avmed.org): A not-for-profit health insurance carrier website.
* Grants.gov:www.grants.gov: A website for accessing and applying for grants.
* Addis Ababa Institute of Technology portal: portal.aait.edu.et: A website for handling student registration and grade reports.
* Coach: www.coach.com: A website specializing in luxury.

## News

* British Broadcasting Corporation: [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com). A news website for the BBC media.
* Daily Mail: dailymail.co.uk. A website of the Daily Mail tabloid.
* Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation: [www.ebc.et](http://www.ebc.et). A website of the EBC media outlet.
* The New York News: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com). A website of the New York times newspaper.
* Cable News Network: [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com). A website of the CNN media outlet.

## Informational

* Mint: www.mint.com: A web-based personal financial management service.
* The Verge: [www.theverge.com](http://www.theverge.com): A website that provides information on technology, science, art and culture.
* Airbnb: www.airbnb.com: A website for arranging or offering lodging for tourism experiences.
* Polygon: www.polygon.com: A website that informs on gaming related topics.
* Noble prize: nobleprize.org: A website informing on topics related to the Nobel Prize.

## Business/ Marketing

* Amazon: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com): An online marketplace.
* Bloomberg: [www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com): A website that provides business and market news.
* Business insider: [www.businessinsider.com](http://www.businessinsider.com). A website providing business related news.
* Financial Times: [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com): A newspaper based website covering business news.
* Market Watch: [www.marketwatch.com](http://www.marketwatch.com): A website providing stock market, financial and business news.

## Educational

* Stack Overflow: <https://stackoverflow.com>: A question and answer site for programming related problems.
* EdX: [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org): A nonprofit website providing massive open online courses.
* Coursera: [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org): An online learning platform.
* Brightstorm: [www.brightstorm.com](http://www.brightstorm.com): An online learning platform.
* Khan Academy: [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org): A non-profit educational website with a set of online tools to help students.

## Entertainment

* Netflix: [www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com). An entertainment website to view movies and TV shows.
* IMDb: <http://m.imdb.com>. An entertainment website to view ratings of movies and shows and to rate them as well.
* YouTube: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). An entertainment website to watch videos from across the globe.
* Spotify: www.spotify.com. A music streaming platform.
* E! Online: <http://m.eonline.com>. A website to catch up with the latest entertainment news.

## Advocacy

* Alliance for Justice: www.afj.org: A website for progressive judicial group based in the United States.
* Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org: An international non-governmental organization conducting research and advocacy on Human Rights.
* National Alliance on Mental Illness: www.nami.org: A mental health organization.
* Mental Health Advocacy Service:www.mhas-la.org: An advocacy website focused on mental health issues/
* National Children’s Advocacy Center: www.nationalcac.org: An advocacy group set up to combat child abuse and help in the betterment of living conditions of children.

## Blog

* Blogger: www.blogger.com: A website for users to publish knowledge, experiences and news.
* Tumblr: www.tumblr.com: An American micro blogging and social networking website.
* Ghost: <https://ghost.org>: An open source publishing platform.
* Typepad: <http://www.typepad.com>: An online blogging service.
* Medium: <https://medium.com>: An online publishing platform.

## Wiki

* Wikitravel: <https://wikitravel.org>: An open source travel guide.
* Wikihow: www.wikihow.com: An open source how-to website.
* Wikibooks: <http://en.m.wikibooks.org>: An online free library of educational textbooks.
* Wikitionary: www.wikitionary.org: A web based project to create a free dictionary of terms.
* Wikipedia: www.wikipedia.org: A free online web based encyclopedia.

## Social Network

* Reddit: [www.reddit.com](http://www.reddit.com): An online content aggregator and news platform.
* Twitter: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com): An online micro blogging and social networking service.
* Instagram: [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com): An online social networking service based upon posting of media specifically photos and videos.
* Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com>: An online social networking service.
* QZone: <https://qzone.qq.com>: A social networking platform based in China.

## Content Aggregator

* Popurls: www.popurls.com: A website encapsulating headlines from the most popular websites.
* The Web List: <https://theweblist.net>: A website that contains links to the latest information and news on the web.
* WP News Desk: wpnewsdesk.com: A website that sources TV news, articles and games.
* Blog Engage: www.blogengage.com: A website for the review of blog articles submitted by users.
* Travel Blogger Community: travelbloggercommunity.com: An online community that reviews travel blogs.

## Personal

* Pascal van Gemert: pascalvangemert.nl: A personal website for Pascal van Gemert, a web developer.
* Hope Reagan: hrdept.design: A personal website of Hope Reagan.
* Tim Harford: timharford.com: A personal website for Tim Harford an economist.
* Joshua McCartney: [www.joshuamccartney.com](http://www.joshuamccartney.com): A personal website for Joshua McCartney a Senior Art Director.
* Ellen Skye Riley: [www.ellenskyeriley.com](http://www.ellenskyeriley.com): A personal website for Ellen Skye Riley a presentation and icon design specialist.

# Evaluation of Websites

## The 6 criteria for the evaluation of a Website are:

## Authority

Authority reveals that the person, institution or agency responsible for a site has the qualifications and knowledge to do so. Authority evaluation is:

* Authorship, meaning it should be clear who developed the site.
* Contact information such as e-mail, phone number and fax number should be clearly provided.
* Author should provide state qualifications, credentials and personal background in relation to the information they provide.

## Accuracy

Information on a website should be accurate and precise to a standard. Accuracy evaluation includes:

* The reliability of the author meaning the author’s own reputation or affiliation with a respectable institution.
* The comparability of the information on the website to other sites on the same topic.
* The inclusion of a bibliography and/or a reference.

## Objectivity

The clear objective of the site should be clear and unbiased. Objectivity evaluation includes:

* The bias of the presentation of information on the website.
* The site’s advertisement conflict with the content.
* The site’s attempt to explain, informs, persuade or sell a product.

## Coverage

The coverage of a website refers to how a website explores a topic through the use of links and such. Coverage evaluation includes:

* Depth of topics explored by the website.
* Comparison of the value of the site’s information to other similar websites.
* The site providing information with no relevant outside links.

## Currency

The currency of the website refers to how up-to-date the information displayed on the website is and how often the site is updated. Currency evaluation includes:

* The date at which the information was first written and was placed on the web.
* The date at which the information was revised and updated.
* The links provided on the website are up-to-date and reliable.

## Purpose

The purpose of the information presented should be known, whether it’s to inform, entertain or provide marketing services. Purpose evaluation includes:

* The extent to which the content in the website actually supports the purpose of the website.
* The links used being appropriate for the site.
* The domain of the website. The URL indicating its purpose.

## Evaluation of example websites

### FantasyPremierLeague.com

In regards to Authority the Fantasy Premier League ticks the boxes by providing necessary contact information and copyright information. Its accuracy is also dependable as it provides with the necessary links and also its affiliation with a respectable institution primarily the Premier League. Fantasy Premier League is also a clear and unbiased website with no regards to swaying a user to a particular opinion. With regards to coverage the fantasy premier league website provides information and options to the user using necessary links only related to fantasy football. Due to consistent updates and maintenance of information on the website it also has good currency evaluation. The site is solely focused on providing fantasy premier league related information and does as such, thus meeting the purpose requirement. Therefore the Fantasy Premier League website is a well-developed website in these regards.

### 1337x.to

Authority wise the pirate bay does provide some socials however author of the website is very unclear, thus not very reliable considering authority. With regards to accuracy the website provides necessary links to media that it shares however consistent ad popups and a non-existing affiliation with a respectable institution reduce its overall reliability and authority. In regards to objectivity, the website is focused on providing links to download media and therefore doesn’t participate in swaying the user to a particular opinion, thus ticking the objectivity box. The website covers information by providing links to download media making it have a good coverage; however consistent ads do deter its coverage. Currency wise the website is well equipped providing, adding and updating links on a daily basis. With respect to purpose the website meets its objective of its domain which is .to. Thus providing links to torrents which in turn are used to download media. Overall the website is objective and purposeful but lacks in the authority, accuracy and reliability aspects.

# Resources

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Internet>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200306074445/https://www.reddit.com/>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200305163833/https://www.imdb.com/>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200304184618/https://www.edx.org/>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200304090517/https://1337x.to/>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200229050252/https://crackwatch.com/>

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://liferay.dev/blogs/-/blogs/15-awesome-web-portal-examples&ved=2ahUKEwjD3afbr4XoAhUHUxUIHYSSCUAQFjABegQIDhAG&usg=AOvVaw2Hg4MErOP-phJWRY8Io7In> https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/library/CoreSkills/6\_Criteria\_for\_Websites.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjuuoyrsYXoAhUTuHEKHeROArgQFjAIegQIAxAB&usg=AOvVaw2IS7cLhlf\_EQApAEu7nNJU&cshid=1583481479905