



An Overview of Web Development and Core Concepts

What is Web Development?

Web development refers to the work involved in developing a website for the Internet (World Wide Web) or an intranet (a private network). It encompasses all the stages, from the initial concept to the final deployment and maintenance.

Why is Web Development Used?

Web development is essential for creating:

- **Online Presence:** Establishing a digital footprint for businesses, organizations, and individuals.
- **Applications:** Building web applications for various functions, such as e-commerce, social networking, and data management.
- **Information Sharing:** Providing public access to information, news, and educational resources.
- **Marketing and Sales:** Facilitating digital marketing, lead generation, and online transactions.

How Does Web Development Work?

Web development generally involves the following key components and processes:

Component	Description
Frontend Development	The user-facing part of the website (client-side), built with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
Backend Development	The server-side logic, database, and application programming interface (API), often involving languages like Python, Java, or Node.js.
Database Management	Storing, retrieving, and managing data for the website.
Web Server	Software that delivers web pages upon request (e.g., Apache, Nginx).
Deployment	Making the website accessible on the internet.

Scalability and Web Foundation

Scalability

Scalability in web development is the ability of a system to handle a growing amount of work or to be able to be enlarged to accommodate that growth. For web applications, this means ensuring that the website can handle an increasing number of users, data, and traffic without performance degradation. Key aspects include:

- **Load Balancing:** Distributing network traffic across multiple servers.
- **Database Sharding:** Partitioning a large database into smaller, more manageable pieces.
- **Caching:** Storing copies of files in a temporary storage location so they can be accessed more quickly.

Web Foundation: Networking

The foundation of web development relies heavily on networking protocols. The most fundamental concepts include:

- **HTTP/HTTPS:** The protocol used for transmitting hypermedia documents, such as HTML, over the network. HTTPS is the secure version.
- **TCP/IP:** The fundamental protocols that govern how data is exchanged over the internet.
- **Client-Server Model:** The architecture where a client (web browser) requests a resource from a server, and the server responds.

The Critical Rendering Path (CRP)

The **Critical Rendering Path (CRP)** is one of the most difficult and crucial parts of frontend design. It is the sequence of steps the browser takes to convert the HTML, CSS, and JavaScript into a visible, rendered pixel-by-pixel web page.

Optimizing the CRP is vital for perceived page load speed, which directly impacts user experience and Search Engine Optimization (SEO). The main steps in the CRP are:

1. **DOM Construction:** Parsing the HTML to build the Document Object Model (DOM) tree.
2. **CSSOM Construction:** Parsing the CSS to build the CSS Object Model (CSSOM) tree.
3. **Render Tree Construction:** Combining the DOM and CSSOM to create the Render Tree.
4. **Layout (Reflow):** Calculating the size and position of every object on the page.
5. **Painting:** Filling in the pixels for the final rendered view.

Required Knowledge for Web Development

To succeed in web development, you should search and gain knowledge in the following areas:

Area	Focus Areas to Search
Frontend	HTML5, CSS3 (Flexbox, Grid), JavaScript (ES6+), Modern Frameworks (React, Vue, Angular)
Backend	A server-side language (Python, Node.js, PHP), RESTful APIs, Database design (SQL/NoSQL)

Area	Focus Areas to Search
DevOps	Cloud Platforms (AWS, Azure, GCP), CI/CD, Docker, Kubernetes
Web Performance	CRP Optimization, Caching strategies, Asset compression
Security	OWASP Top 10, HTTPS, Input Validation, Authentication, and Authorization

DNS Resolution

DNS Resolution (Domain Name System Resolution) is the process by which a hostname (like [example.com](#)) is translated into an IP address (like 192.0.2.1). This is a fundamental step in the process of loading any website.

The steps in DNS Resolution are:

1. The user enters a domain name, and the browser checks the local DNS cache.
2. If not found, the query goes to a **Recursive Resolver** (often an ISP's server).
3. The Resolver queries a **Root Nameserver**.
4. The Root Nameserver refers the Resolver to the appropriate **TLD (Top-Level Domain) Nameserver** (e.g., .com).
5. The TLD Nameserver refers the Resolver to the **Authoritative Nameserver** for the specific domain.
6. The Authoritative Nameserver provides the IP address.
7. The Resolver sends the IP address back to the browser.

The entire process must complete before the browser can initiate a TCP connection and an HTTP request to the web server located at 📍 Place.

AI summary

This document, "An Overview of Web Development and Core Concepts," defines web development as the work involved in building and maintaining a website for the Internet or an intranet.

Key concepts covered include:

- Components of Web Development: Distinguishing between Frontend (client-side, using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript) and Backend (server-side logic, database, and API).
- Scalability: The ability of a system to handle increased work/traffic, with key methods like Load Balancing, Database Sharding, and Caching.
- Web Foundation: Highlighting fundamental networking protocols such as HTTP/HTTPS and TCP/IP, and the Client-Server Model.
- Critical Rendering Path (CRP): The 5-step process a browser follows to render a web page, emphasizing its importance for user experience and SEO.
- DNS Resolution: The steps by which a hostname is translated into an IP address using a Recursive Resolver, Root Nameserver, TLD Nameserver, and Authoritative Nameserver.
- Required Knowledge: Recommended focus areas for success in web development, including skills in Frontend, Backend, DevOps, Web Performance, and Security.