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Web Service Architectures; HTML, XML

Ramakrishnan & Gehrke, Chapter 7
www.w3schools.com
www.webdesign.com
…

Really everybody can design an own website

Overview

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- Internet / Web Concepts
- Three-tier architectures
- Presentation layer
- Middle tier

History: The Internet and the Web

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- 13th century
  Incas use Quipu
- 1945 idea of linking together microfiche published by Vannevar Bush
- 1960s Internet as (D)ARPA project:
  fault-tolerant, heterogeneous WAN (cold war!)
  term "Hypertext" coined by Ted Nelson at ACM 20th National Conference
- 1976 Queen Elizabeth sends her first email. She's the first state leader to do so.
- 1980 Berners-Lee at CERN writes notebook program to link arbitrary nodes
- 1989 Berners-Lee makes a proposal on information management at CERN
- 1990 Berners-Lee's boss approves purchase of a NeXT cube
  Berners-Lee begins hypertext GUI browser+editor and dubs it "WorldWideWeb"
  First web server developed

WWW: The Beginnings

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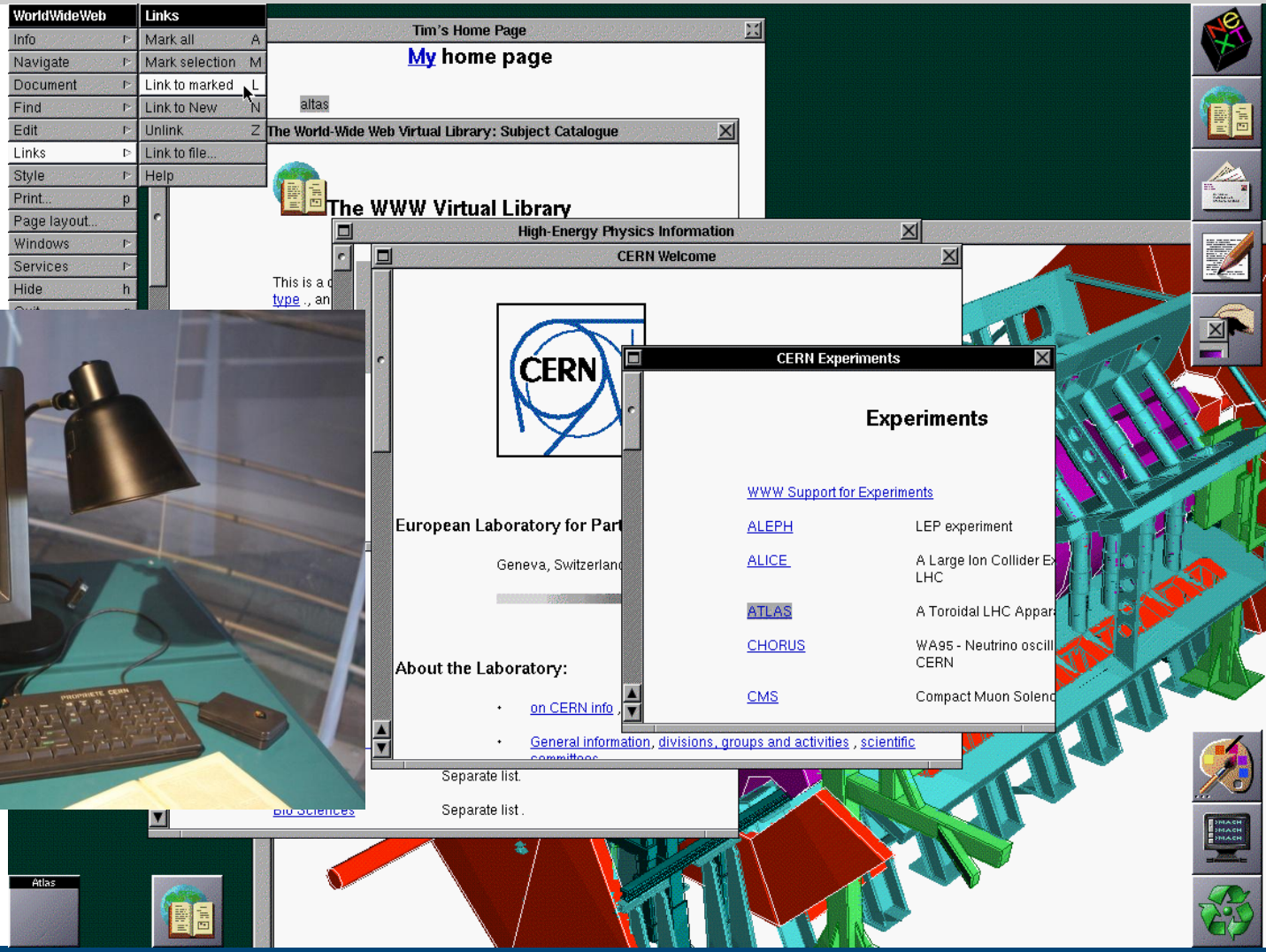

[wikipedia]

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- 1991 May 17 – general release of WWW on central CERN machines
- 1992 more browsers: Viola & Erwise released
- 1994 > 200 web servers by start of year
  Mosaic: easy to install, great support, first inline images ("much sexier")
  Andreessen & colleagues leave NCSA to form "Mosaic Comm. Corp"; later "Netscape"

Internet & WWW

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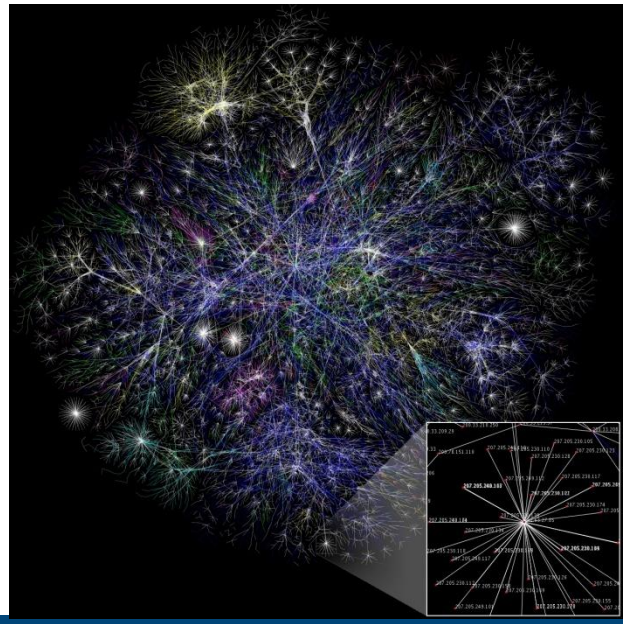
- Internet originally 4 basic services, based on TCP & IP:
  - telnet, ftp, mail, news
  - Later many more: IRC, SSL, NTP, ...
- Each computer has worldwide unique id
  - IP address: n.n.n.n (32 bit IPv4, 128 bit IPv6)
  - Domain name: subdomain.host.top-level-domain
  - DNS to resolve
- World-Wide Web just another Internet service
  - HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  - HTML: Hypertext Markup Language
  - URIs (Uniform Resource Identifiers)

telnet, ftp, ..., http
(application layer)

TCP
(transport layer)

IP
(network layer)



[wikipedia]

Uniform Resource Identifiers

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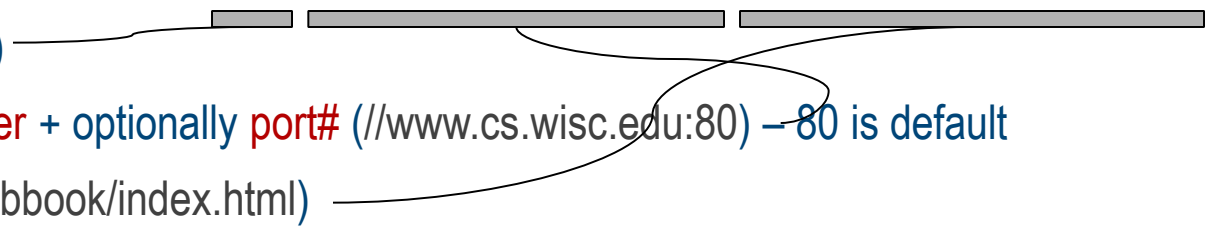
- Uniform naming schema to identify resources on the Internet
  - resource can be anything: index.html, mysong.mp3, picture.jpg
  - Syntax: scheme ":" [authority] [path] ["?" query]
  - Ex: http://www.cs.wisc.edu/index.html, mailto:webmaster@bookstore.com, telnet:127.0.0.1
- Structure of an http URI: http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~dbbook/index.html
  - Naming scheme (http)
  - Name of host computer + optionally port# (//www.cs.wisc.edu:80) – 80 is default
  - Name of resource (~dbbook/index.html)



- URL = Uniform Resource Locator (subset of URIs; old term)
  - Identification via network "location"

Hypertext Transfer Protocol

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- What is a communication protocol?
  - Set of rules that defines the structure of messages & communication process
  - Examples: TCP, IP, HTTP
- What happens if you click on www.cs.wisc.edu/~dbbook/index.html?
  - Client connects to server, transmits HTTP request to server
  - Server generates response, transmits to client
  - Both disconnect
- HTTP header describes content/action (text = ISO-8859-1), content for data
  - RFC 2616

HTTP Request Structure

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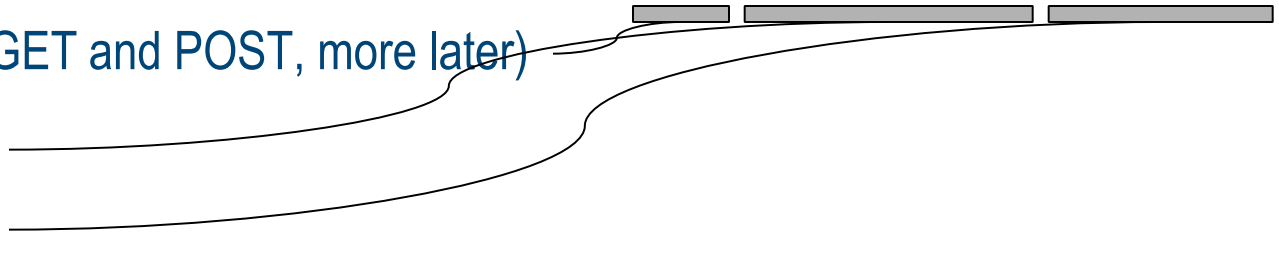
- Request line

  GET ~/index.html HTTP/1.1

  - Http method field (GET and POST, more later)
  - local resource field
  - HTTP version field



- Type of client

  User-agent: Mozilla/4.0

- What types of files (MIME types) the client will accept

  Accept: text/*, image/gif, image/jpeg

  - MIME = Multipurpose Internet Mail (!) Extensions = file type naming system
  - MIME types other than text/*, image/jpeg, image/gif, image/png need browser plug-in or helper application

HTTP Response Structure

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- Status line

  HTTP/1.1 200 OK

  - HTTP version: HTTP/1.1
  - Status code
  - Server message, textual

  •200 OK: Request succeeded
  •400 Bad Request: Request could not be fulfilled by the server
  •404 Not Found: Requested object does not exist on the server
  •505 HTTP Version not supported

- Date when the object was created

  Last-Modified: Mon, 01 Mar 2002 09:23:24 GMT

- Number of bytes being sent

  Content-Length: 1024

- What type is the object being sent

  Content-Type: text/html

- *…plus potentially many more items, such as server type, server time, etc.*

- The payload!

  <html>…</html>

Conventions

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- index.html (Windows: index.htm), .php, ...
  - If local path ends with directory, this file is assumed
    - *Ex: http://www.myserver.foo/Downloads*
  - If not found: directory listing is displayed
    - *Put dummy index.html if you don't want this, or disable default in server*
- Local path *~name/path*
  - leads to ~*name*/public_html/*path* where *name* is local user name

Intermezzo: Documents

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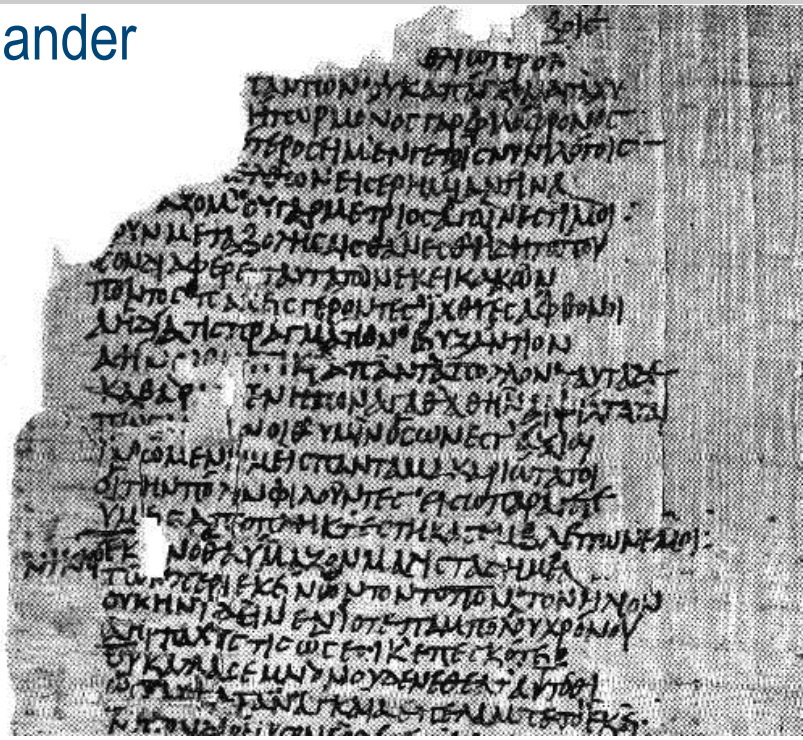
- *Samia* ('The Woman from Samos') by Menander
  - no space between words,
    no punctuation,
    no speaker's indication
  - Paragraphus, ¶: A critical sign used to mark the beginning of a paragraph or section [Parkes 1992]



- Later:
  Document Management Systems (DMS)
  - store all enterprise documents (contracts!)
  - scans (images →display) + "fulltext" (maybe via OCR→searchable)
  - Ex: Select C.pageno, C.image from Contract C where C.text like '%Adams%'
  - Problem: DMS doesn't know position/context/meaning of my search string in text body

SGML and HTML

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- Task: within document, isolate contents / structure / layout
- SGML = Standard Generalized Markup Language
  - Idea: make document structure explicit by adding mark(up)s ("tags")
    - *Cf. Search engines: hit in <h1>...</h1> weighted higher than in the middle of a ... section*
  - Document definition lists allowed tags → typed documents
  - Problem: complexity → not widely used
  - Focuses on contents & structure, no layout considerations
    - *NB: ODA (Office Document Architecture) grasps contents+structure+layout orthogonally*
- HTML = Hypertext Markup Language
  - SGML–based
  - Idea: format document according to logical structure, browser will make "something useful" out of it (h1, h2, h3, p, li, ...)
  - Practice: people (mis)use tags to enforce *layout* (b, i, ...), tweak code

"optimised for MS IE 6.0 and 1024x768"

HTML Primer

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- HTML is a data exchange format
  - Unformatted ASCII
    - *Proper indentation increases readability*
  - Text interspersed with tags, some with attributes; usually start and end tag:
  - Opening tags: “<” element name “>”
  - Closing tags: “</” element name “>”
  - Tags can be nested:

```
<h1 align="center">headline</h1>
```

```
<h1><em>my</em> text</h1>
```

- Many editors automatically generate HTML directly from your document
  - But you need to know HTML too, want to generate it lateron!
  - And tool's code sometimes has bad quality, cf. Microsoft Word “Save as html”

HTML Primer (contd.)

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- Text structuring
  - Title (for browser title bar)
  - Headlines
  - Paragraphs, text emphasis
- Links
  - External
  - Relative
  - Internal
- Images
  - use alt, width, height attributes!
- Text structuring (contd.)
  - Lists

```
<a name="top">
<title>My first HTML document</title>
<h1>An important heading</h1>
<h2>A slightly less important heading</h2>
<p>This is the <em>first</em> paragraph.</p>
<img src="peter.jpg" width="150" height="200" alt="me">
My link list:
<ul>
 <li>This is a link to <a href="http://www.w3.org/">W3C</a>
 <li>This a link to <a href="peter.html">Peter's page</a>
 <li>Go to <a href="#top">top</a>
 <li><a href="/"><img src="logo.gif" alt="home page"></a>
</ul>
```

HTML Primer (contd.)

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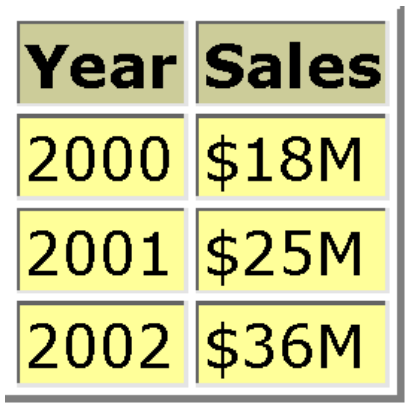
- Text structuring (contd.)
  - tables
  - row
  - column heading
  - regular column



Year	Sales
2000	$18M
2001	$25M
2002	$36M

```
<table>
  <tr>
    <th>Year</th>
    <th>Sales</th>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>2000</td>
    <td>$18M</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>2001</td>
    <td>$25M</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>2002</td>
    <td>$36M</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

CSS: Cascading Style Sheets

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- Idea: Separate display style from structure & contents
  - W3C recommendation = standard
- File reference to CSS, placed in HTML <head> section
  - <link rel=“style sheet” type=“text/css” href=“books.css”>
- Media specific style sheets
  - <link rel="stylesheet" type=“text/css” media="screen" href="website.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" type=“text/css” media="print, embossed" href="print.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" type=“text/css” media="aural" href="speaker.css">

Document Object Model

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- HTML document actually describes a tree structure
  - ...that becomes manifest as "real" tree only within browser
- So far: how can I describe such a tree for input into rendering engine?
- Dynamic HTML: *manipulate* tree representation while being displayed
- Document Object Model (DOM) =
  platform and language neutral interface that allows programs and scripts to dynamically access and update content & structure of HTML documents
  - More later, with ECMAscript
  - Intro: http://www.w3schools.com/htmldom/default.asp
  - Definition: http://www.w3.org/TR/DOM-Level-2-HTML/

Web Design: Key Design Elements

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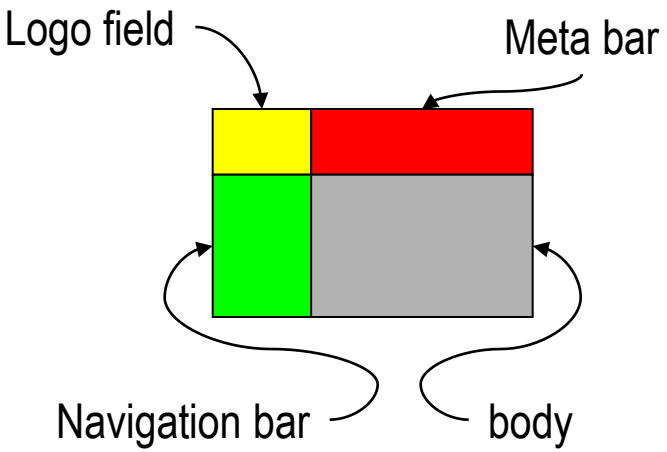
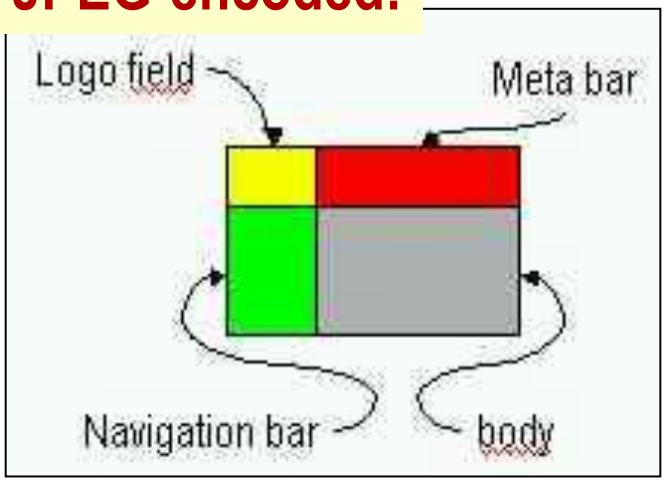
- Title & key phrase & logo
  - Logo: preferrably no shades, simple symbol
- Overall look & feel
  - Describe targeted CD in one sentence
- Colors: primary / secondary / background
  - Define as RGB values, PANTONE, RAL, …; HTML!
  - Image formats: JPEG, GIF, PNG
- Fonts & typesetting
  - serif or sans-serif; max 2!
- Window subdivision
  - Scalable with window size!



JPEG-encoded:



Web Design: Common Pages

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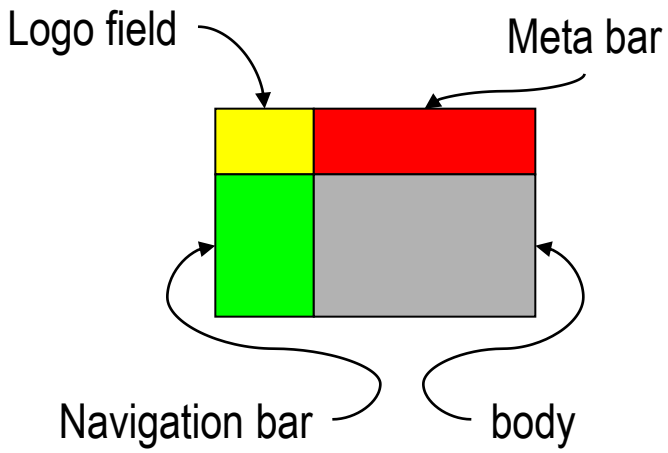
- Navigation bar:
  - News
  - About
  - The service offered
    - *Products*
    - *Solutions*
    - *Services*
  - Links to related information sources
- Meta bar:
  - Search
  - Sitemap (for larger sites)
  - Contact / webmaster
  - Imprint



Web Design: Home Page Variants

- „front door“ home page approach
  - Have nice & appealing impression first, information area later
- „information rich“ home page approach
  - Give information to client with minimal mouse clicks
- Mixed approaches

Trendy Looks

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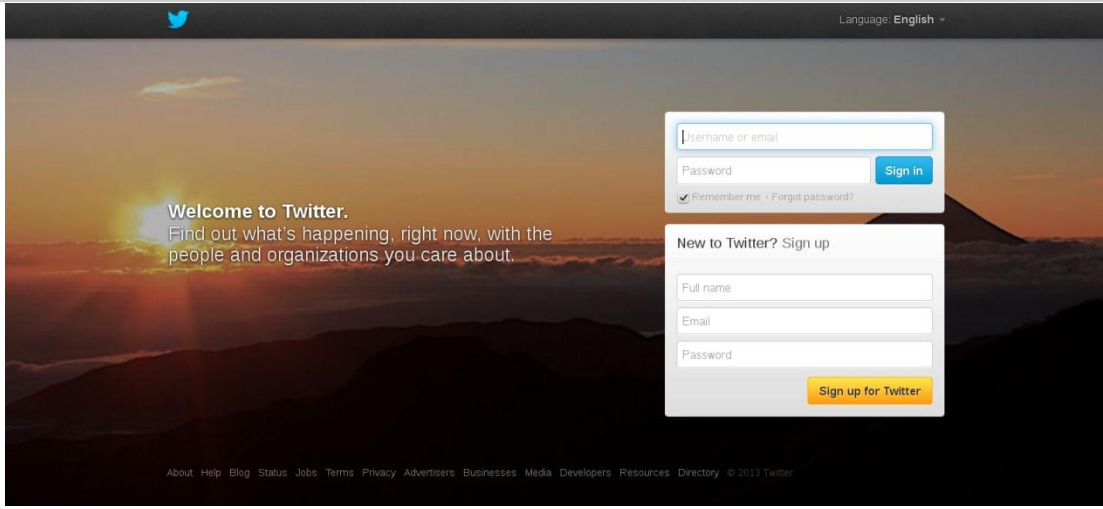
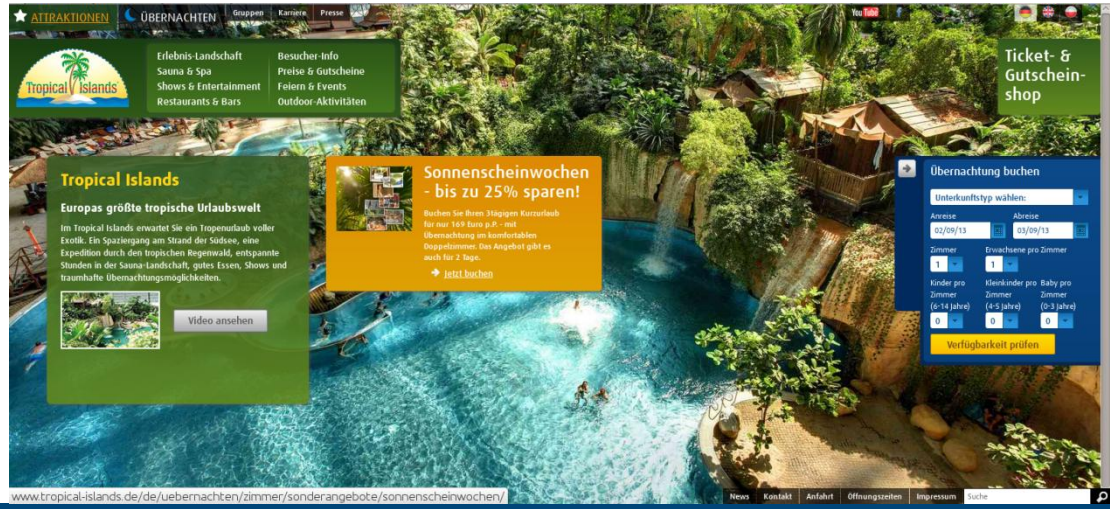
- 3D effect with background
- Preferred action prominent
- Ancillary navigation at rim
  - black band at top
  - Fly-in





Web Design: Good Style

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- Browser independent – test it!
  - HTML checkers
  - at least Firefox & Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Suitable for handicapped clients?
- Use CSS to separate layout from contents & structure
- Use tools, such as jQuery http://jquery.com/
  and Twitter Bootstrap http://getbootstrap.com/
- ...see homework and www.webdesign.org for more links