

Design and Develop a Website

EXSM 3928: Module 6

Learning Outcomes

What is the purpose of this module?

- **Develop** and share a **personal website**
- **Describe a process** for building a personal website
- Recognize and describe challenges moving from **design to development**
- Organize a development project with **assets and folders**

Module Resources

Related Topics

How can we design for all types of users?

How do I start to design my website?

How do I use GitHub Pages?

How do you host your website on Google App Engine?

How do you make sure your website works properly?

How do you set up a local testing server?

How do you upload your files to a web server?

How does the Internet work?

How much does it cost to do something on the Web?

What HTML features promote accessibility?

What are browser developer tools?

What are hyperlinks?

How do I start to design my website?

This article covers the all-important first step of every project: define what you want to accomplish with it.

Prerequisites:	None
Objective:	Learn to define goals to give direction to your web project.

Summary

When starting with a web project, many people focus on the technical side. Of course you must be familiar with the technique of your craft, but what really matters is *what you want to accomplish*. Yes, it seems obvious, but too many projects fail not from a lack of technical know-how, but from lack of goals and vision.

So when you get an idea and want to turn it into a website, there are a few questions you should answer before anything else:

- What exactly do I want to accomplish?

In this article

Summary

Active Learning

Deeper dive

Conclusion

Complete beginners start here!

▼ Getting started with the web

[Getting started with the web overview](#)
[Installing basic software](#)
[What will your website look like?](#)
[Dealing with files](#)
[HTML basics](#)
[CSS basics](#)
[JavaScript basics](#)
[Publishing your website](#)
[How the web works](#)

HTML — Structuring the web

[► Introduction to HTML](#)
[► Multimedia and embedding](#)
[► HTML tables](#)

CSS — Styling the web

What will your website look like?

[Previous](#)
[Overview: Getting started with the web](#)
[Next](#)

What will your website look like? discusses the planning and design work you have to do for your website before writing code, including "What information does my website offer?", "What fonts and colors do I want?", and "What does my site do?"

First things first: planning

Before doing anything, you need some ideas. What should your website actually do? A website can do basically anything, but, for your first try, you should keep things simple. We'll start by creating a simple webpage with a heading, an image, and a few paragraphs.

To begin, you'll need to answer these questions:

1. **What is your website about?** Do you like dogs, New York, or Pac-Man?
2. **What information are you presenting on the subject?** Write a title and a few paragraphs and think of an image you'd like to show on your page.
3. **What does your website look like,** in simple high-level terms? What's the background

In this article

[First things first: planning](#)
[Sketching out your design](#)
[Choosing your assets](#)
[In this module](#)

CSS Tools: Reset CSS

The goal of a reset stylesheet is to reduce browser inconsistencies in things like default line heights, margins and font sizes of headings, and so on. The general reasoning behind this was [discussed in a May 2007 post](#), if you're interested. Reset styles quite often appear in CSS frameworks, and the original "meyerweb reset" found its way into [Blueprint](#), among others.

The reset styles given here are intentionally very generic. There isn't any default color or background set for the `body` element, for example. I don't particularly recommend that you just use this in its unaltered state in your own projects. It should be tweaked, edited, extended, and otherwise tuned to match your specific reset baseline. Fill in your preferred colors for the page, links, and so on.

In other words, this is a starting point, not a self-contained black box of no-touchiness.

If you want to use my reset styles, then feel free! It's all explicitly in the public domain (I have to formally say that or else people ask me about licensing). You can grab [a copy of the file](#) to use and tweak as fits you best. If you're more of the copy-and-paste type, or just

```
*/

[type="search"]::-webkit-search-decoration {
  -webkit-appearance: none;
}

/**
 * 1. Correct the inability to style clickable types in iOS and Safari.
 * 2. Change font properties to `inherit` in Safari.
 */

::-webkit-file-upload-button {
  -webkit-appearance: button; /* 1 */
  font: inherit; /* 2 */
}

/* Interactive
===== */

/*
 * Add the correct display in Edge, IE 10+, and Firefox.
 */

details {
  display: block;
}

/*
 * Add the correct display in all browsers.
 */

summary {
  display: list-item;
}

/* Misc
===== */

/**
 * Add the correct display in IE 10+.
 */

template {
  display: none;
}

/**
 * Add the correct display in IE 10.
 */

[hidden] {
  display: none;
}
```

Module 6 Demonstration

Module Discussion

Has learning HTML, CSS, and JavaScript affected your design process? How so? If not then describe your design process.

Module 6 Prompt

Module 6 Assignment

- See eClass for details

