Lab 1 - Basic HTML/CSS and the DOM API

1. *During the introductory video for this module, you have learned about the differences between websites and web applications. Describe with your own words what these differences are.*

Websites are pages which primary purpose is to convey information to the user. The content displayed to the user is usually static, meaning it stays the same once the page loads. Since the page has all the information it needs on load it usually does not have to communicate with a server to fetch more information, or to send information back to the server. This makes a web site much easier to create compared to a web application. As a result we can use HTML and CSS to do this. We can also use JavaScript however, it is not always needed.

Examples of websites include a contact page for a college, no new information is required after load by the user, and all the contact details are displayed on load.

On the other hand, a web application can have many purposes. They are designed to be more like a piece of software you would install than a website you may load. The user will often have to navigate the application and input information before the web application will display new content. Unlike a web site, a web application is connected to a server to fetch this new information and serve it to the user. To do this HTML and CSS are still used to display the information, however, considerably more JavaScript is used to enhance the user experience and communicate with the server. An example of a web application is a shopping site like Amazon which fetches new products and displayed them based on your search input.