Hand-Code Websites vs CMS Websites

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| Hand-Code | CMS |
| Able to satisfy special needs  More control  It is the traditional way of building a website where you have to write code from scratch and code out everything from front-end to back-end development. You have to know the basic to advanced programming languages completely otherwise, you cannot build a website with hand-coding as per your or your client’s requirement. It is needless to say that hand-coding takes a lot more time in comparison to CMS and you can do anything you want with no restriction when you do hand-coding.  The best part of manual coding is that you will have full control over what you are doing. You can create your own template, and use that on other projects. There are certain high paying projects available where you have to code manually to make the development because the requirements are different from usual. With hand-coding, you have the ability to control everything, and therefore, you can use shortcut methods to boost the speed that you might not be able to do with a CMS. Moreover adding more features in the future is also going to be easy.  Unique designs – As every artist has a unique difference, the same is with web developers. They would design unique websites as the design is always written from scratch.  Not limited to content – Using hand-coding, a web developer can even build a content management system.  More functionality – With enough knowledge a developer can add and modify any functionality on a website.  Limitless – Developers can play with the programming alnaguage and possibilities are infinite.  Need for extensive knowledge  Pricey and time-consuming  On the contrary, if you are doing hand-coding, you should be ready for hours of debugging. With a CMS tool, the chances of making mistakes are almost zero, and that is exactly why most begineers get used to using CMS tools. However, due to the lack of proper knowledge, they fail to make the bigger projects where the vast knowledge of web development technologies are required.  Thorough testing is required – Some developers do self-testing, but still, in-depth testing is required to ensure security and performance.  Less Portability - A developer can make modifications to the website only through a single dedicated computer. | There are templates  Independence and convenience  This is a tool to build a website from a basic structure that comes with it. It makes uses of themes and templates that are suitable to your website categories. These templates have a lot of inbuilt features that are usually present in the respective website niche. You can create a website without any technical knowledge. Therefore, you do not need to learn the programming languages beforehand, and if you have some basic knowledge, you can tweak things here and there. The tool is also user-friendly and totally uncomplicated in most cases.  There are many reasons why people use CMS over hand-coding. The first reason is that it is super convenient, and it is totally dragged and drop-based development. There is no programming knowledge required and therefore, anyone who has used computer and browsers before, they can do it with ease. Moreover, there is no chance of errors as everything is being written in the background automatically by the tool and those code snippets are verified beforehand.  Moreover, the development time is minimal as there are dedicated templates available for different niches of websites. Not just that, multiple people can work on the same website quite effortlessly. More importantly, some of the CMS toold let you edit the background coding to add new features and edit something on the template as per your requirements.  Easy to use – The interface provided in a CMS is easy to use and even a begineer can install a CMS to create a fully working and appealing website.  Reliable – Unless your website requires something complex, CMS is reliable.  No coding required for simple functionalities – Simple functionalities are available for simple websites without any coding. Although, if you know a little coding then options are unending.  Difficult to satisfy specific requirements  Vulnerable to hackers  You do have some customisation restrictions. Furthermore, the security issues can also bug you in the long run as you do not really know where the loopholes are.  Websites look similar – As many people use templates in CMS for their website, there are chances of identical-looking websites and a lot of them do look the same.  Custom code is needed for complex functionality – A bigger website may require custom code for better functionality and performance. |

One can always choose HTML, CSS, PHP and JS to create excellent looking websites if you want to go with the hand-coding. But you need to make sure that the website runs fast and search engines are able to recognise the website. The latest features and trends in website technologies, like Angular and Bootstrap can also be used. The only thing to keep in mind is that these technologies will require experienced developers.

If you have very little idea about programming, you have no other option other than going for CMS. For general websites with no complications, you can go for CMS, but you need to involve a lot of third-party apps and plugins for new features that the template does not have provision for. However, if the website is something quite innovative in features, you have no option other than hand-coding. This is because neither the available templates nor the plugins or third-party apps can help you in such advanced development.

The right way to building a website is to make use of both of them. You should use the CMS tool wherever applicavle to get the basic things done quickly. Then where the CMS tools’ usage ends, you should go for hand-coding to get the desired features. Therefore, as a website developer, you should have knowledge of using both to create a website as per your requirement.

At last, it can be said that the most important thing to consider before creating a website for yourself is the purpose of the website. After that, you need to learn about the technologies you think are best for your requirements. This will allow you to decide between a CMS or the Hand-Coding approach.