Assignment 3 – Bad Website Redesign

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The website I have chosen to redesign is wh40k.lexicanum.com/wiki. This site serves the Warhammer: 40000 community as hub of information with regards to everything from gameplay rules to in universe lore. The currently layout of the website is very utilitarian and dull, using a mostly gray-scale colouring scheme and content blocks organized in an uninteresting manner.

My redesigned website will intend to improve the viewability and flow of the website, while maintain the functionality that is usually associated with a wiki-style domain. The navigation bar on the side of the page will remain in its current position on the left of the page, but will be enlarged and remain fixed in its position so it will remain static as the user scrolls through the content. This is done to keep the pathways to other sections of the site open and easily accessible if the user wishes to navigate away to a different page. As this is a redesign of the main page, the primary content displayed will be of different news articles that will related to updates in the community. This can range from new articles being posted on the site, new features being added, or inform the user of community news outside the web page, such as new releases or rules changes. Next to this will be the secondary content of the page, which will display links to other sections of the site that could not be categorized into one of the sections on the navigation bar (labelled as “other portals” on the regular page). This will bring more attention and traffic to potentially under visited pages by advertising them to the user when their page loads. Additionally, this section will include the “How can I serve?” and “Supported by” tab, to still maintain the original functionality of the page. To the right of the page will be a new addition, the recently viewed tab. This will allow the user to maintain a limited history of their previously articles or pages within the domain. Above the history section will be the user log in. Here, the user can enter their login information and from there will be allowed to add articles or pages into a favourites list for easy access in the future.

The gray-scale design of the original website is rather dull and uninteresting to look at, but fits the theme of the universe pretty well. To add some contrast, I would add a subtle image to the background to break up the monochrome wall. The colour palette will still be very limited, but what colours that are used will be very diluted and washed out to pop out too much. The main colour in this new theme aside from the gray is a very muted, gray-green colour (#ABC6B2) that is prevalent in other media that relates to the game and its community. Each of the content blocks will be aligned with along the top edge with its surrounding parent block, or with a neighboring block inside of the parent, while leaving enough room between each other as to prevent clutter on the page.