

Different Types of Websites

1. Static Websites

A static website contains Web pages with fixed content. Each page is coded in HTML and displays the same information to every visitor. Static sites are the most basic type of website and are the easiest to create. Unlike dynamic websites, they do not require any Web programming or database design. A static site can be built by simply creating a few HTML pages and publishing them to a Web server. Since static Web pages contain fixed code, the content of each page does not change unless it is manually updated by the webmaster. This works well for small websites, but it can make large sites with hundreds or thousands of pages difficult to maintain. Therefore, larger websites typically use dynamic pages, which can be updated by simply modifying a database record. Static sites that contain a lot of pages are often designed using templates. This makes it possible to update several pages at once, and also helps provide a consistent layout throughout the site.

Requirements: HTML and CSS.

Best tools to create static websites: Notepad++ (Editor).

Difficulty: Easy (1 person can do it, it can take up to 1 week depending on the content).

2. Dynamic Websites

Dynamic websites contain Web pages that are generated in real-time. These pages include Web scripting code, such as PHP. When a dynamic page is accessed, the code within the page is parsed on the Web server and the resulting HTML is sent to the client's Web browser. Most large websites are dynamic, since they are easier to maintain than static websites. This is because static pages each contain unique content, meaning they must be manually opened, edited, and published whenever a change is made. Dynamic pages, on the other hand, access information from a database. Therefore, to alter the content of a dynamic page, the webmaster may only need to update a database record. This is especially helpful for large sites that contain hundreds or thousands of pages. It also makes it possible for multiple users to update the content of a website without editing the layout of the pages. Dynamic websites that access information from a database are also called database-driven websites.

Requirements: HTML, CSS and Javascript.

Best tools to create dynamic websites: Notepad++ (Editor), Wordpress (CMS), Dreamweaver (WYSIWYG).

Difficulty: Easy (1 person can do it, it can take up to 1 week depending on the content).

3. Blogging Websites

Short for "Web Log," this term refers to a list of journal entries posted on a Web page. Anybody who knows how to create and publish a Web page can publish their own blog. Some Web hosts have made it even easier by creating an interface where users can simply type a text entry and hit "publish" to publish their blog. Because of the simplicity of creating a blog, many people (often young kids and adults) have found a new presence on the Web. Instead of writing confidential entries in a book that no one is supposed to see, people now can share their personal feelings and experiences with thousands of people around the world. Blogs are typically updated daily, monthly, or anywhere in between. "Blog" may also be used as a verb, as in "Wow, Matt sure blogged a lot last week."

Requirements: HTML, CSS and Javascript.

Best tools to create blogging websites: Wordpress (CMS), Blogger (Blog).

Difficulty: Easy (1 person can do it, it can take up to 1 week depending on the content).

4. File Sharing Websites (peer-to-peer “P2P”)

Peer-to-peer file sharing is the distribution and sharing of digital documents and computer files using the technology of peer-to-peer (P2P) networking. P2P file sharing allows users to access media files such as books, music, movies, and games using a specialized P2P software program that searches for other connected computers on a P2P network and locates the desired content. The nodes (peers) of such networks are end-user computer systems that are interconnected via the Internet. Peer-to-peer file sharing technology has evolved through several design stages from the early networks like Napster, which popularized the technology, to the later models like the BitTorrent protocol.

Requirements: HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP, MySQL, jQuery, AJAX.

Best tools to create “P2P” websites: Eclipse (IDE), NetBeans (IDE), Aptana Studio (IDE).

Difficulty: Hard (it takes a team of experienced developers to create this; it can take up to 1 year).

5. Social Websites

These websites build online communities of people who want to interact with other people socially or meet people who share their interests. The best known website of this type is probably FaceBook.com. There is also LinkedIn.com, and let's not forget the old MySpace.com, just to mention a few. For sharing and discussing mutual interests, there are online forums for practically any subject you can think of. Forum websites can be a great source of information and help for the small business person. (I'm sure there is a forum dedicated to your type of business. Just do a web search for something like real estate web forum.) Now you can see this is where we start to get into the idea of "hybrid" sites. Photo Sharing sites might also be considered community building sites, much as Blogging sites are. Can Dating Sites be considered Community Building Sites, or are they E-commerce Sites. All this is up for discussion.

Requirements: HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP, MySQL, jQuery, AJAX.

Best tools to create photo sharing websites: Eclipse (IDE), NetBeans (IDE), Aptana Studio (IDE).

Difficulty: Hard (it takes a team of experienced developers to create this; it can take up to 1 year).

6. E-commerce Websites

E-commerce (electronic-commerce) refers to business over the Internet. Web sites such as Amazon.com, Buy.com, and eBay are all e-commerce sites. The two major forms of e-commerce are Business-to-Consumer (B2C) and Business-to-Business (B2B). While companies like Amazon.com cater mostly to consumers, other companies provide goods and services exclusively to other businesses. The terms "e-business" and "e-tailing" are often used synonymously with e-commerce. They refer to the same idea; they are just used to confuse people trying to learn computer terms.

Requirements: HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP, MySQL, jQuery, AJAX.

Best tools to create community websites: Wordpress (CMS), Drupal (CMS), Joomla (CMS), Eclipse (IDE), NetBeans (IDE), Aptana Studio (IDE).

Difficulty: Hard (it takes a team of experienced developers to create this; it can take up to 1 year).