University of Sheffield

COM1008 – Web and Internet Technology

Planning and design

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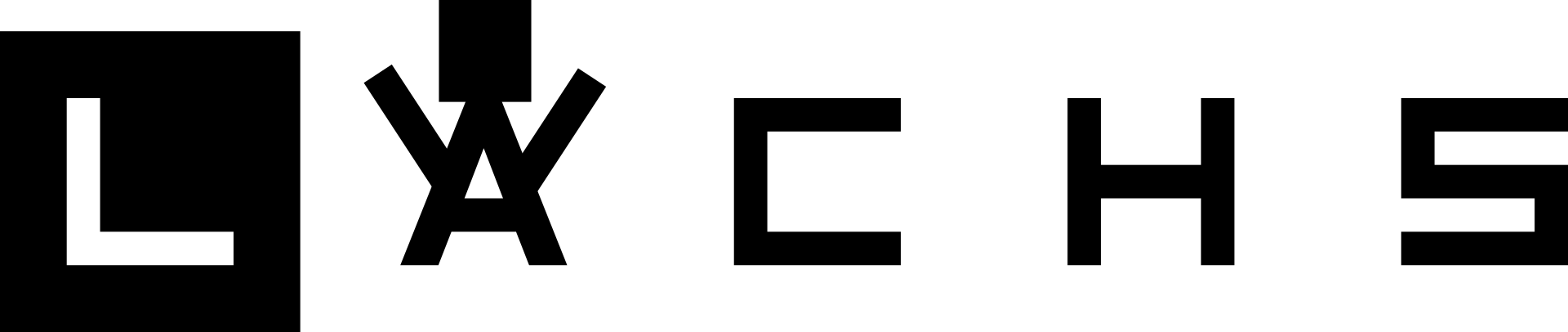
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# General Ethos

The site I aim to produce requires a fine balance between being a website for children and for adults. As a company that markets to children, it is important that the company I am creating the design for also creates an experience marketable to adults, as young children do not have their own sources of income. Hence, it should be my responsibility to prioritise the products of the company in a way appealing to children, while also ensuring that relevant areas of the site are quickly accessible to adults. I have decided to name my company Lachs Games.

The logo I have created is a simplistic design in one colour only, which means I can effectively tailor it to any means – it will be easy to replicate it at a low resolution, manipulate the colours to suit accessibility needs, and use either the L or the A mascot as a logo where suitable. In fact, I intend to use the L on more adult-oriented pages, with the A mascot serving as the favicon and appearing a lot more around the site where children are concerned. If I were to animate the logo (which I do not currently plan to), it would also be far easier with a mascot of that level of simplicity.



# Site Map

The site requires eight pages, all of which will be accessible from each other either by the main navigation bar or a listed site map at the bottom of the page:

* + Home
  + Our Founders
  + News
  + Recommendations
  + Our Puzzles
  + Sliding Block Game (other four proposed games will be dummy links)
  + Contact Us
  + Accessibility Statement

It is important to note that there are an additional four placeholder pages for other games that would be on the website, but for this assignment I will create only one.

After having written this document initially, I attended GreatUniHack 2016, in which I quickly picked up jQuery. To develop our web frontend, I used jQuery to create a single webpage that contains the contents of all other would-be websites that were necessary to us using the hide and show functions, along with transitions. This is what I have now done, meaning that the website consists of only two html documents, though one contains the content of all other would-be webpages.

This decision has meant that:

* overall load times of the website are down
* loading the website without CSS styles shows the content of the entire website, which can be especially handy when internet accessibility is low
* better-looking transitions can be implemented – the current page content slides down

My knowledge of jQuery, however, is somewhat limited; hence for the game, I have resorted to programming in pure JavaScript as taught in the lectures. Web development is something I consider interesting, so in future, learning to do such things in jQuery is not out of the question..

# Accessibility

# Design Mock-Ups

Having extensively browsed Google Fonts for something suitably similar to the logo, I will be using Press Start 2P[[1]](#footnote-2) for headings, and Open Sans[[2]](#footnote-3) as a clear and easily readable sans-serif font. While Press Start 2P admittedly seems like a gimmicky font to use, I feel that it is important for Lachs Games to display themselves as a company for a more modern age of board games and puzzles, hence their eager involvement in online games.

# Menu System

Apple’s mobile site, at the time of writing, has an interesting slideout menu. While in my previous experience with HTML and CSS I have not done anything of this nature, my new knowledge of JavaScript should help with making a menu of this type. The transition used by Apple, however, is something I would struggle to replicate, so I purely intend to replicate the functionality for mobile devices.

Due to the width of the font, a horizontal tab bar for the desktop would not be the most ideal solution, although I find that concept very well-used by sites such as reddit. In addition, displaying the list of links horizontally (with padding either side of course, or prefix/suffix brackets) has been messy in prior experience. For this assignment, I will attempt a table approach.

1. <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Press+Start+2P> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Open+Sans> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)