**Rich Web Application Technology**

*Lab 1 Problem 1*

In terms of their primary functions, websites are used to convey information to their users whereas web applications are usually used to perform some form of data processing typically using a server. In addition to this, a websites content can typically be statically generated in advance before being sent to the user through some form of web browser. In contrast, a web applications content is generally dynamically generated in reaction to some user input and is also highly interactive. Looking at the technologies used for websites and web applications, websites tend to use primarily HTML and CSS to serve and style their content, and use JavaScript sparingly to enhance the user experience but this can usually be performed by CSS nowadays. Web applications also use HTML and CSS for styling and serving their content but this is fast becoming a thing of the past. JavaScript and its subsequent frameworks and libraries tend to be used a lot more frequently to process, validate, and fetch data from a server to serve to the users and to save data back to the server. For this reason, web applications tend to be more complex than websites. A website generally does not require authentication in order to serve content to its users, whereas a web application tends to require authentication to serve its content.

An example of a website would be a site like [TU Dublin](https://www.tudublin.ie/) as it conveys information to the user in the form of images, text, video, and audio that is generated statically in advance. On the other hand, [Gmail](https://www.google.com/gmail/about/) is considered a web application as the content is dynamically generated for each user depending on their authentication details.