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Comparing Website Design

The two sites I chose to use are two that I use every day. First is <https://www.twitch.tv>, which is a streaming site used mostly for people who stream themselves playing various video games. The other site I chose is <https://www.wzstats.com>, which is a website that tracks stats for the video game that I play the most called Call of Duty: Warzone. These sites are different in what the offer, but also in how they are presented and designed. They are also different in that Twitch is a huge site that does a lot of ecommerce, and Wzstats is a newer website that is limited in the amount of money it makes.

Twitch is a great website, that is designed very well. It has a lot of functionality that is laid out in an easy-to-understand manner, and it all makes sense the first time you visit the site. It allows for easily discovering new people to watch, and a great way to make your way back to your favorite streams. Aesthetically it is designed to look great, everything is very readable, and there is a lot of white space to break up the page and separate features.

Wzstats is a site that has a lot less functionality than a site like Twitch. Wzstats’ focus is giving you the data you need to see to help you improve your game. It is not a very complex website, but they lay the data out in a way that makes sense, gives you the relevant information without much searching. Aesthetically Wzstats looks good but is a very basic design interface.

With regards to Perceivability, Twitch is developed very well. When you first visit the site, you immediately know exactly how to find specific streamers via the search bar, find streamers based on your favorite game, or find the most popular streamers. Wzstats is slightly less perceivable but still is easy to see how to use the site and find your stats. The search function to find your profile is very easy to understand, and within seconds of being on the site, you can be on your way to finding the data you need.

When it comes to operability, both sites are good in their own ways. On Twitch, every feature works the way you would expect it to. There are a lot of features, but they all work in the expected way, and its easy to use. When you’re looking for the top streamers of a certain game, it takes maybe 3 clicks to find a list of streams to check out. Wzstats is also good, however, its due to their lack of complexity in what they offer. Wzstats offers much fewer features, but the features the do have work immediately. Within a few clicks you can find your profile or see the profile of top players around the world. You can also set your account as a favorite so that you can come directly to that page the next time you visit the site.

Both sites are understandable immediately when you visit the site. However, Wzstats could be made better. The site has quite a few ads on it which make your eyes have to search a bit for the buttons you are looking for. Once you see past the ads, the buttons are very well designed to be simple and aesthetically pleasing. Twitch has great understandability. The colors on the site create great contrast that is very readable, and the whitespace guides your eyes to different features.

Operability is where the sites start to differ. Twitch the site operates every single day, no matter when you visit the site. However, a lot of the site’s functionality is based on streaming and the experience can vary a lot based on your own internet connection, the sites servers, and the streamers output. Wzstats does not have much variation from day to day because its just pulling data from the server for some statistics and not live streamed video.

In choosing these two sites at the start of this research assignment, I thought I was choosing one site that was not as good, and one site that was better. However, I learned that both sites have strengths in different aspects, and weakness as well. Twitch has a much larger pot of money to pull from for development and site maintenance and it shows, but because of Wzstats’ simple site structure and low complexity, they do what they do very well.