

Software Development 3.4

Anna Legaspi

Daily Mail

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html>

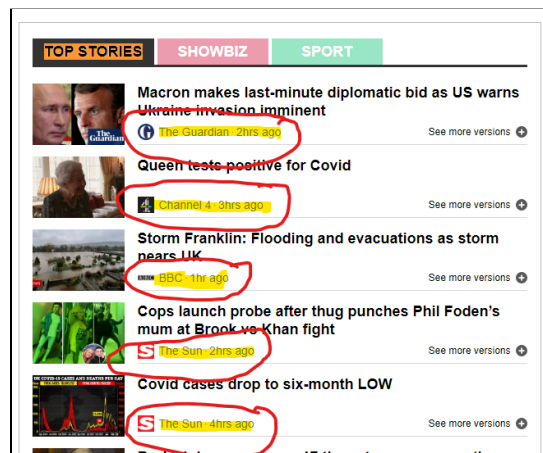
I can identify any quality problems with websites and how to respond to them. The candidate should review several websites and identify quality issues documenting possible solutions.

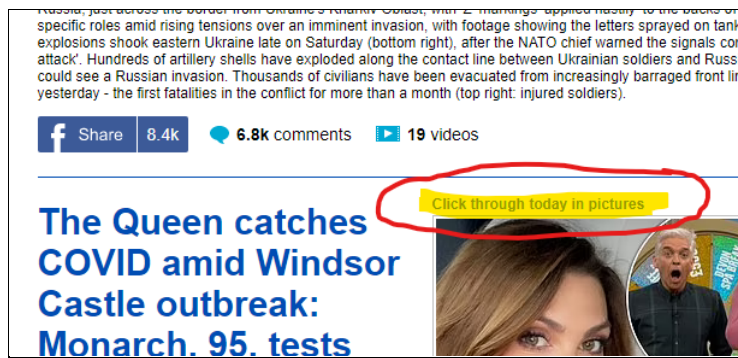
In the previous units, I explained that it is important to make sure that a website is easily accessible to the public, especially for those people who have visual impairment. To achieve this, text size and colour contrast should be considered. I've done a test on the [Daily Mail](#) website and have found issues that are worth raising to the webmasters.

I've completed a test on <https://wave.webaim.org/> which picks up website accessibility issues and have found the following.

Contrast errors

There were 62 instances where there is low contrast between the background and the text. This can be difficult to read for some people with visual impairment. It is important to note that the smaller the text the higher the contrast needs to be. Examples of contrast errors are highlighted in yellow and circled in red below.





Very small text

There were 39 instances where very small text was displayed. Again, this will be difficult to read for people with visual impairment.



Although not specifically detected, I found the text used for the actual write up (non-headers) were too small and compact anyway.



Mr Edwards (top) gained fame from setting up new music platform SB.TV - helping to launch a string of UK music careers including Dave, Jessie J and Ed Sheeran (pictured with Mr Edwards, bottom, left) He was an ambassador for the Prince's Trust, a charity headed by the Prince of Wales, and in 2014 he was awarded an MBE for his services to music. His manager said that Edwards died on Sunday morning. His cause of death has not yet been confirmed. Tributes to Edwards have flooded social media with many expressing their condolences to his mother, the Loose Women panellist Brenda Edwards who finished fourth in the second series of the X Factor in 2005. Loose Women's Denise Welch said: "My heart aches for my friend Brenda. I can't bear it. Jamal Edwards was a wonderful son and brother." Pictured bottom right: Mr Edwards pictured with Prince William and Prince Harry at a Buckingham Palace event in 2014.

Share 114 40 comments

Woman pedestrian, 71, is killed after being hit by BMW which was being chased by police



The woman pedestrian, 71, died in Manchester after a BMW motorist crashed into her. An officer on patrol had attempted to stop the car with emergency equipment but the motorist carried on.

1 share



Say hi to a letterbox overflowing with post.

Share 279 103 comments 1 video

Royal charity spent 98% of its cash raised in one year on paying just 10 staff, probe reveals



The Queen's Commonwealth Trust (QCT) brought in £796,106 from donors but paid out £787,314 in staff costs to its ten employees in the 12 months to March 2021.

Share 61 734 comments

Motorists face £1,000-a-year 'poll tax on wheels' for driving to work as councils eye plan to make firms pay for parking spaces

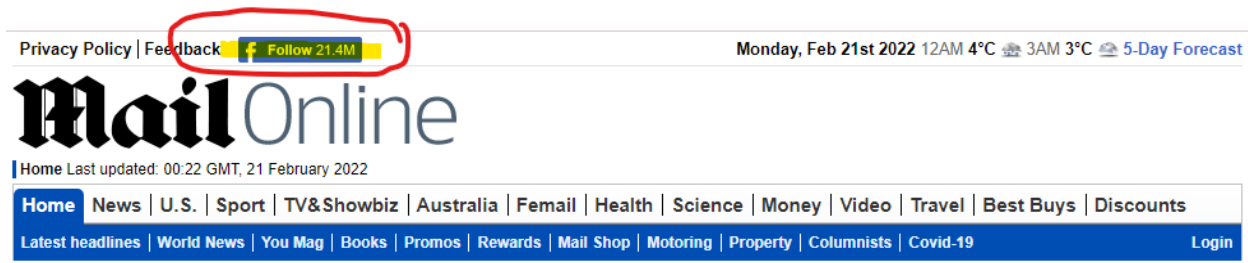


A Daily Mail audit found 'workplace parking levies' are being considered in more than a dozen towns and cities in England to cut down on congestion while boosting finances for public transport projects.

407 comments 2 shares

61 Missing alternative text

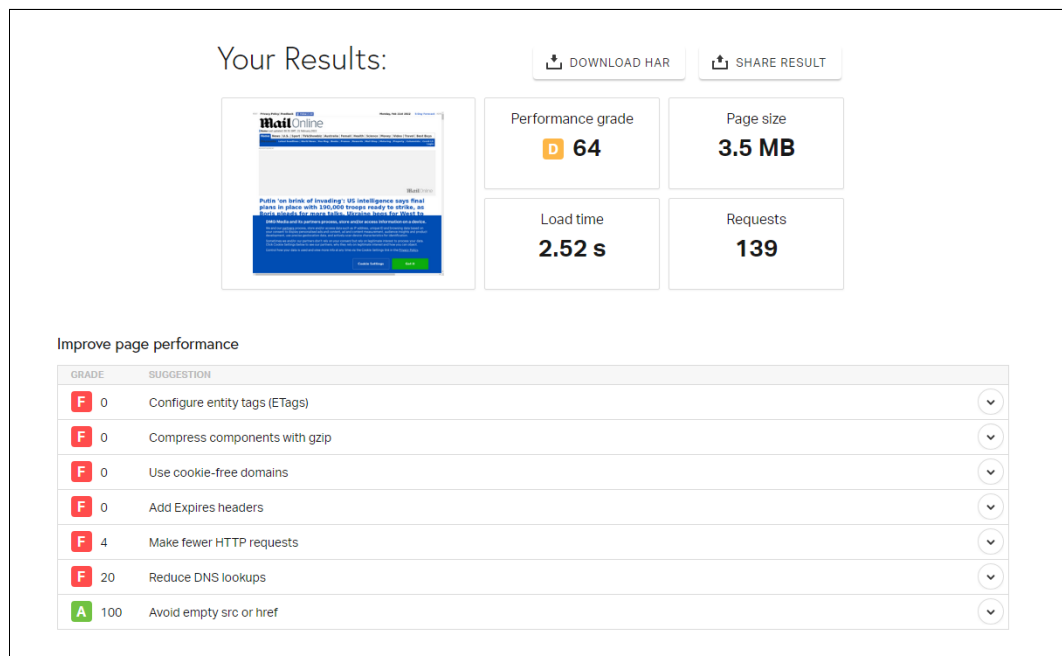
In the event that an image doesn't display in a browser properly, alternative text is important. There are 61 instances where images don't have alternative text. An example is a Facebook button.



In addition to the issues, there are also other issues I've also come across when I validated the website. The overall feel is very condensed and cluttered. There are too many things happening at the same time. I imagine that Daily Mail might be trying to emulate the feel of newspapers, but reading articles online is different since there is practically unlimited space to work with and not printing on paper!

Loading times

Another test I've also conducted is the load time of the website. To do this, I used the website Pingdom. Overall, the Daily Mail scored 64/100 with a lot of improvement suggestions mentioned. I've come across the following issues.

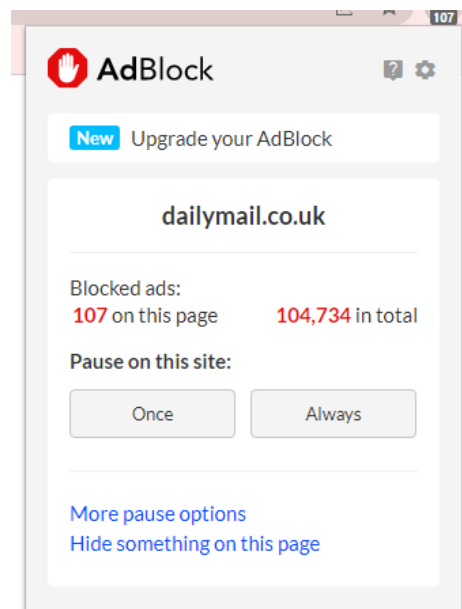


As mentioned before, the page feels cluttered which is supported by the amount of **HTTP requests** on the website. This means that there are too many components within the page and the more there is, the longer it will take to load up.

Another issue that can improve the loading time is by **compressing components**. This can be done by either scaling the images and making them smaller or by using Gzip to compress a file or even a set of files.

Another way is by utilising **Caching techniques**. Caching is when components of a website are remembered by a browser. This means that the browser will not need to redownload all components every time, therefore loading times will be faster.

Most monetised websites use Ads and Daily mail is also one of them. It's okay to have ads on websites, but excessive ads can also impact loading times of a website. Daily mail had 107 ads loaded in their home page as captured by my Adblock extension.

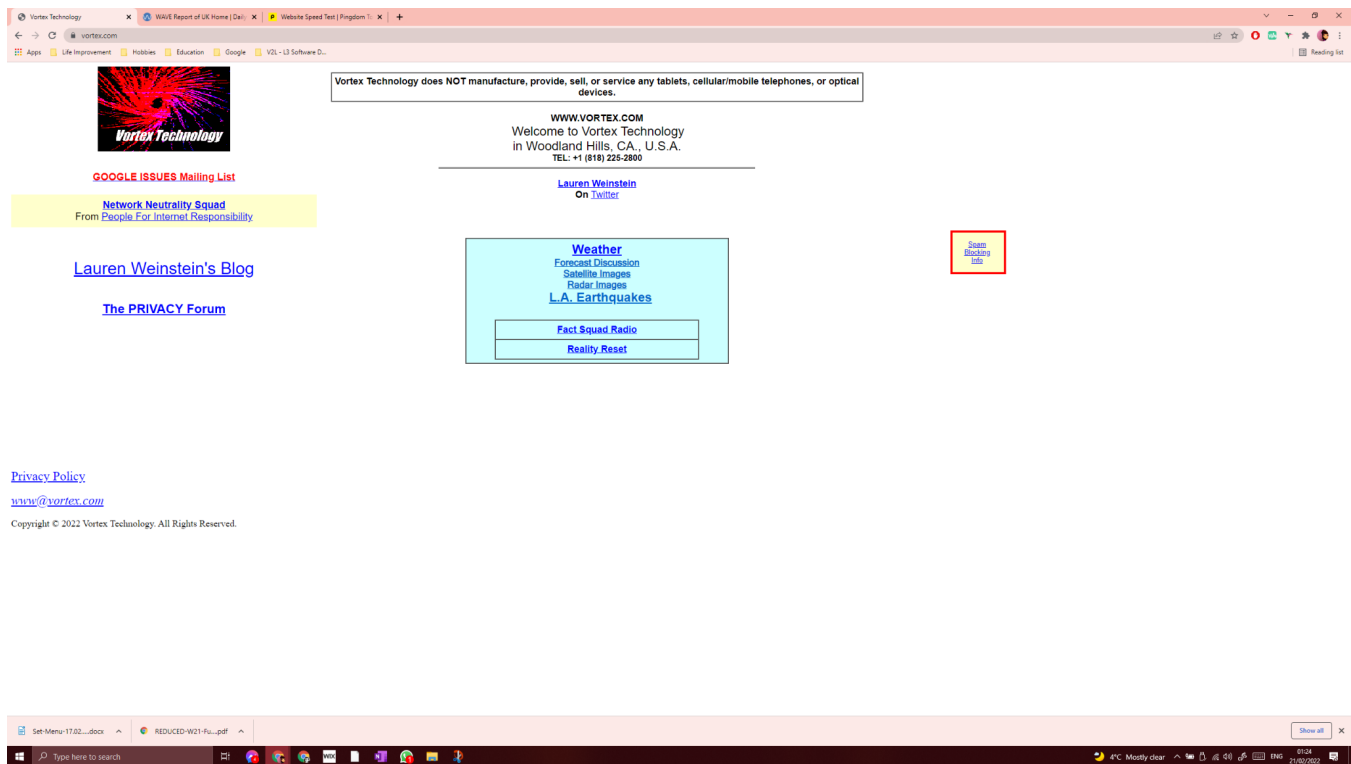


If I wished to share my feedback with Daily mail, I found that I am able to communicate with them via the **Contact us** link at the footer of the web page which in itself isn't easy to locate since you have to scroll all the way down to get to the link.

Vortex

<https://www.vortex.com/>

Similar to Daily Mail, I've also critiqued another website which is not as popular and is mentioned in a blog as one of the top 20 worst websites online. Similar to Daily mail, I've used both WAVE and Pingdom to detect any issues and possible improvements. The website page appears as below.



Since Vortex is a much smaller website, I've also found less errors and issues. The issues that were found were the lack of the language attribute for the page, the lack of a page header and a few empty links. The website can be improved by fixing these and removing any unnecessary code.

There are positives to the website where it loads very quickly since there is not much content within the site itself. There are no ads at all or excessive HTTP requests. Vortex.com isn't slow to load, but the design isn't aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The look and feel of the whole website is not friendly at all. Although I can see that the website is using tables, it is not used appropriately. It looks as though a bunch of components have been thrown on the site like a collage. There is no rhyme or reason to the placement of items.

I tried to find a way to contact the webmaster if I wanted to provide my feedback and there is a way to get in touch with them either via Twitter or telephone.

Your Results:

DOWNLOAD HAR

SHARE RESULT



Performance grade

A 99

Page size

11.3 KB

Load time

1.00 s

Requests

3

Improve page performance

GRADE	SUGGESTION	
B 89	Add Expires headers	▼
A 100	Avoid empty src or href	▼
A 100	Put JavaScript at bottom	▼
A 100	Reduce the number of DOM elements	▼
A 100	Avoid AlphanumericLoader filter	▼
A 100	Make favicon small and cacheable	▼
A 100	Avoid HTTP 404 (Not Found) error	▼

