Report

The two websites that I compare are:

https://dougblack.io/index.html,

http://www.visiondummy.com/

Both websites are professional portfolios but relating to different technical areas, one is close to the current research state-of-art topics and the other one is more focusing on some practical programming tips and suggestions. In fact, the reason I choose these two websites is because I personally have benefited from the information that is shared on their sites.

Compare and contrast the sites

The biggest similarity between both sites is that they are very clean and clear. They may even seem to be bare minimum compare to other personal blogs/sites. However, that helps tremendously for users like me, who are mostly curious about the technical information they provided, when accessing their websites. The first website feels more like describing who is the author and what is his personality. The second website is more about what the author understands and what he considers could help others to understand. Personally I would like my website to be a mix flavor of the two.

Identification of the strengths and weaknesses of presenting each site's content (not the content itself).

For the first one, it is from a programmer who has been working in the industry for a while. Thus, very likely he tries to provide more information for not just general users but also employers. And you can see very clear objectives on his subtopics: his interests, his hobbies, his projects, and his resumes. I also like the black text with white background configuration. Most importantly, it looks very clean to anyone who reads the site. (As of the author's coding style.) I think this would be the top 2 features that I would like my website to have: clean and clear. However, the author might consider his Github page more informative than his personal website so the overall organization of all his site is not the best.

The second website presents a slightly different flavor. The author tries to help those who are generally interested in a particular research field. Therefore, all designs and configurations are for the convenience of people to access those articles. You won't need to click too many times to get to where you would like to go. Moreover, there is a comment page that you can see questions people had posted previously so it allows user to check whether their questions have been asked before. Those feedback are also helpful for the author as well. Nevertheless, I would like some more interactions between the articles and user. For example, users can change parameters in some examples he presented and see how the plot would change accordingly.

Describe 2 scenarios (use cases) in which the website might be used by different people.

Scenario 1: For potential employers, the website can be used to help them evaluate my proficiency in coding or the technical knowledge I have for the subjects that they are interested in.

Scenario 2: For people who are generally interested in the similar area that I am currently in. The website could help them gaining better understanding for the field and maybe directions of where they want to go.

Peers

Yixiang,

I was shocked at how little navigation there was on Doug's website. Usually I'm clicking around forever trying to find everything, but his website had very few pages. I actually really liked his homepage, so I was disappointed about some of the overall design. I liked the blog section after you clicked on an actual post, but the list of posting itself was literally just a list, and I feel like he could add more to spice it up. I also personally don't like the font he uses in all lowercase on the home page, though it isn't hard to read of anything.

The other website is definitely a different flavor. The comments and replies board on that website are a great way for the researchers visiting to find information. Something about this site reminds me of a website I've seen before, but I can't recall exactly what it is. It just seems very old school. Also the 'donate' QR code to his bitcoin account is so strange. I'm not a researcher so I don't know generally accepted things to post, but that honestly seems weird.

From Cassandra Allen