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JavaJam

HTML & CSS

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Examine the site map in Figure 2.31. What type of site organization is used for the JavaJam website? Is it the most appropriate organization for the site? Why or why not?

The JavaJam site uses hierarchical organization. The style typically present as an index site that branches out to other sites (Music, Menu, Jobs). Ours is currently shallow since we only have two rows of sites, but this style can also feature deeper organization where pages branch further away from the index. This is the most appropriate for our use since ideally a user would land on the menu page and be directed to another page should they need it. For instance, a user applying for am job would go to the jobs page from the index, and someone looking up the menu would be directed to the menu page.

For our purposes, this organization type is the most practical. Linear and random don’t really make sense for this business or its goals. There is no linear structure to the site. For example, a user wouldn’t need to see the menu before music or job before the menu. Random would be of no benefit and would likely frustrate users looking for specific information.

Review the recommended web design practices from this chapter. Use the Web Design Best Practices Checklist (Table 5.1) to evaluate the JavaJam site that you created in earlier chapters. Cite three design practices that have been well implemented. Cite three design practices that could be implemented in a better way. How else would you improve the website?

Going through our site, the three areas that are best accomplished at this time with regards to the checklist are:

* Consistent navigation area. We don’t change the navigation are between pages, and this provides a consistent experience for users regardless of what part of the site they are on.
* Balance of white space on the page. The layout of the page is structured so that there is ample white space between design elements and all elements are easy to read.
* Above the fold. The page has all pertinent information presented above the fold. Each page features exactly what is needed as to prevent a content overload.

The three areas that could use improvement:

* No meta tag for viewport. We haven’t done any work yet to optimize the site for mobile devices and the page will likely not render well on smaller devices.
* Repetitive information size. The repetitive information takes up a little too much space on our page. I’m assuming this will improve as we add other design practices to our page like replacing the nav area with sprites, changing the top header to graphics, etc.
* Media queries. We use no media queries which contributes to the lack of responsiveness to the page.

A large improvement to the page would be replacing the h1 text with a logo. The images are currently implemented using HTML as opposed to CSS which contributes to the lack of response on mobile. I think the site would improve a bit with some of the CSS formatting being updated. Some of the text alignment seems a little off compared to professional sites I visit every day.