

CSCB20 Assignment 2 Report:

What issues and problems did you notice with some of the previous websites?

Some big issues we took note of was that in one of them, there was too much white space, it made the website look unfinished and unprofessional. As well, the lack of color added to this issue, failing to engage users visually, resulting in a dull and uninviting aesthetic. Poor spacing between the header, body content, tables, and images hindered readability and cohesion, while within tables, thick borders and inconsistent spacing compounded the problem. Additionally, the absence of header buttons or a menu compounded the cluttered appearance, as all content was crammed onto a single page, making navigation cumbersome. These issues collectively detracted from the user experience and necessitated a more thoughtful approach to design and layout. On the previous CSCB20 website specifically, our group didn't find the slanted text very appealing. The lack of photos of the course team made the website seem less inviting and some of the text sections disrupt the logical flow and organization of information. The tutorial header boxes should be filled in, and the table photo under the tests section requires clarification on the meaning of "1" and "2". A color change effect when hovering over links is necessary and should be implemented to guide and provide visual feedback to the users. Lastly, adjusting the dark blue color scheme to fit the screen dimensions will ensure a cohesive and harmonious design.

How did you address these issues in your redesigned course website?

In redesigning the course website, we prioritized simplicity and minimalism to avoid overwhelming users with visual clutter. To improve clarity, we implemented color gradients to signify differences in course grade weighting and distinguish between various course materials like lecture slides and worksheets, along with their corresponding solutions. Adding a hover feature provided visual guidance, enhancing user experience. Incorporating photos of the course team infused a personal and welcoming atmosphere. A "submit here" button was introduced on the assignments webpage for student convenience. Round borders were used consistently throughout the design to maintain a visually appealing yet straightforward aesthetic. Breaking the syllabus into box containers on the homepage made it more accessible and easier on the eyes for users to navigate. These adjustments collectively aimed to enhance usability, clarity, and engagement across the redesigned course website.

What are some challenges that you and your team members faced? How did you go about addressing these challenges?

Throughout our project, we encountered various challenges that tested our problem-solving skills and teamwork. Initially, as newcomers to GitHub, we faced difficulties with code collaboration, particularly with issues arising from simultaneous editing of the same CSS file. To mitigate this, we divided the file into three separate ones, allowing us to work more efficiently. During our brainstorming sessions, disagreements emerged regarding website design and formatting. However, through thorough discussion and consideration of user needs, we reached a consensus that incorporated elements from everyone's ideas, ensuring inclusivity and addressing our design concerns. Recently, we encountered a critical issue where the website wouldn't run, causing considerable stress. We sought assistance from TAs and peers, eventually discovering that a problematic JSON file was the culprit. Upon its removal, normal website functionality was restored. These challenges underscored the importance of effective communication, adaptability, and persistence in overcoming obstacles during our collaborative project journey.