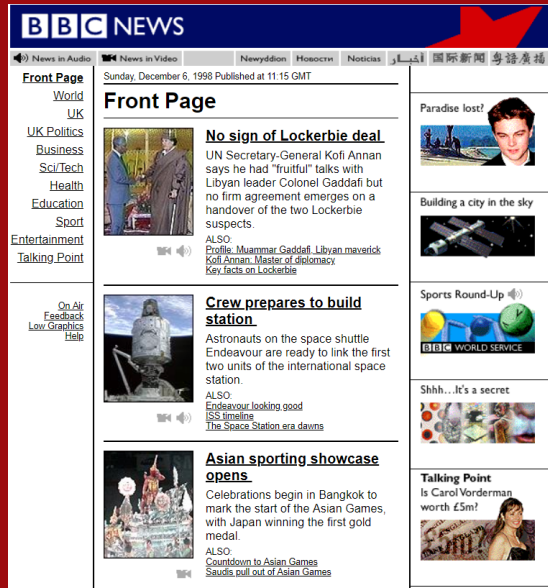# HISTORY OF BBC NEWS

Original (1997-1999)

BBC News's first centralised website was launched on 4th November 1997. Prior to this, the BBC had created several news websites to commemorate special events such as the 1995 Budget, the 1996 Olympics, the 1997 general election and the funeral of Princess Diana.

Even in it's least advanced version, the site relied on a database driven system for delivering content but it was designed so "the public were miles from the database". The website would serve mostly pre-built websites to users with only minor elements generated per user request.

The first site, featured a sidebar on the left which contained various subsections of news such as World, UK, Health and Education. The main page also prominently featured special events on the right such as One Hundred Years of C.S. Lewis and World Aids Day. Within articles this would be replaced by internet links to external sites, intended to provide background information such as websites of institutions like the Internal Monetary Fund (IMF). This is the only BBC News site generation to use blue instead of red as the colour of its banner. It also is one of the few websites from this era that isn't dated in terms of colours and layout.

Red and vanilla (1999-2003)

A few elements were shuffled around for this design: the search bar was placed more prominently on the right sidebar instead of at the bottom of the page, more complex headings were introduced for items on the right sidebar. This generation also introduced a red banner and the use of vanilla colour on certain elements which had on the previous design been grey. Meanwhile headline text was changed from black to a dark shade of blue.

Third time's a charm (2003-2008)

For this major redesign, the page was made significantly wider to accommodate bigger, higher resolution screens. This allowed a greater number of stories to be seen without scrolling the webpage. The special features section was moved to a box scrolling most of the length of the page. The use of colours was more varied with the introduction of yellow for sports content and a green grey colour for special features.

Continent by Continent (2008-2010)

This redesign sought to update and unclutter the BBC News website into a cleaner form. The grey BBC I banner was replaced by a bolder black BBC banner which blended in better with the new colour scheme which relied on the familiar red with more modern shades of blue. In the International version, the left sidebar now had an interactive world map, in which users could select their continent to view pertinent news. Fonts were made clearer and the page was yet again made wider. The right sidebar was merged with the main content of the website but still existed as a noticeable design line.

Cleaner (2010-2015)

The 2010 revamp was the first major change in the layout of the BBC News website. The left sidebar was completely displaced by three horizontal bars at the top: one for other BBC services, one for categories of news such as continents and topics such as Business and Entertainment and the last for BBC Blogs such as Editor's Blog, Also in the News and other more general content. The body of the site was in a sense shifted to the left with the right now being taken over by a Watch/Listen videos widget and a Features and Analysis section which in international markets would also contain ads.

Adapt to the display (2015-)

The 2015 changes were primarily designed to adapt to the growing use of popularity of mobile phones and tablets to consume news. The BBC News website was now made under the principles of responsive web design meaning visual elements would change position to make sure there was not a need to scroll horizontally any longer on smaller displays. The design was made flatter: blue writing was dropped in favour of black and there were fewer borders around visual elements. The site now also contained more pictures beside stories on the home page.

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