

MPL Assignment 2

04/05

Q1 Define Progressive Web App (PWA) and explain its significance in Modern web development. Discuss the key characteristics that differentiate PWAs from traditional mobile apps.

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Solution:

A Progressive Web App (PWA) is a web application that leverages modern web technologies to deliver an app-like experience to users. It combines the best features of web and mobile apps, offering fast performance, offline capabilities & cross-platform support without requiring installation from an app store.

SIGNIFICANCE IN MODERN WEB DEVELOPMENT:

a) Improved User Experience:

PWAs provide a smooth, app-like interface with responsive design.

b) Offline Functionality:

Service workers enable caching, allowing PWAs to work without an internet connection.

c) Cross-platform Compatibility

A single code base runs on different devices (Desktop, mobile, tablet).

d) Cost-Effective Development

Eliminates the need to develop separate apps for Android & iOS.

e) No App Store Dependency

Users can install PWAs directly from browser, reducing installation barriers.

Key Characteristics Differentiation PWA from Traditional Mobile Apps

Feature	PWA	Traditional Mobile App
• Installation	Added to the home screen via browser	installed via app store
• Performance	Fast and lightweight	May consume more storage & memory
• offline Access	Works offline with cached data	Fully functional offline
• Updates	Auto-updated from the web	Requires manual updates via store
• Platform	Runs on browsers	Platform specific
• Development Cost	Lower	Higher

Q2] Define responsive web design & explain its importance in the context of Progressive Web Apps. Compare and contrast responsive, fluid and adaptive web design approaches.

→ Solution:-

Responsive Web Design (RWD) is a web development approach that ensures websites automatically adjust their layout, content and elements based on the user's device screen size, resolution and orientation. It uses flexible grids, media queries and scalable images to create a seamless experience across desktops, tablets and smartphones.

Importance of PWP in PWA:

a) Enhanced user Experience

PWA aims to work smoothly across devices & ensures consistent UI/UX

b) Improved Accessibility

Users can access PWA on any screen size without usability issues.

c) Faster Load time

Optimized layout and images improve performance, which is critical for PWAs.

d) SEO Benefits

Google prioritizes mobile friendly sites, boosting search rankings.

e) Cost Effective

A single responsive design eliminates the need for separate mobile and desktop versions.

Comparison of Responsive Fluid & Adaptive Web Design

	Responsive	Fluid	Adaptive
①	Uses CSS media queries to adjust layout based on screen size	Uses percentage-based layout for flexible scaling	Uses predefined layout for specific screen size
②	Highly flexible	Fully flexible	Less flexible
③	Optimized for all devices	Can be inconsistent on very large screens	May load unnecessary element for non matching screen size
④	Moderate Implementation	Simple Implementation	Complex implementation
⑤	Best for	Modern Website	Apps / website

Q3] Describe the life cycle of service worker including registration, installation, and activation phases.

→ Solution:

Life cycle of service workers:

it has three main phases

a) Registration

- The service worker is registered in the JavaScript code using `navigator.serviceWorker.register()`.
- This tells the browser where to find the service worker script and initiates its lifecycle

```
if ('serviceWorker' in navigator) {  
    navigator.serviceWorker.register('/service-worker.js')  
    • then (reg ⇒ console.log('Service Worker Registered' reg))  
    • catch (err ⇒ console.log('Service Worker Registration Failed'));  
}
```

b) installation

- After registration, the browser tries to install the service worker
- The install event is triggered where resources can be preloaded.
- If successful, the service worker moves to the activation phase; otherwise, it retries installation

```
self.addEventListener('install', event ⇒ {  
    event.waitUntil(  
        caches.open('v1').then(cache ⇒ {  
            return cache.addAll(['index.html', 'style.css',  
                                'script.js']);  
        })  
    )  
});
```

};

(C) Activation

- Once installed, the activate event is triggered.
- The old caches and outdated service workers are cleaned up in this phase.
- The service worker takes control of clients and starts handling fetch events.

```
self.addEventListener('activate', event => {  
  event.waitUntil(  
    caches.keys().then(keys => {  
      return Promise.all(keys.map(key => {  
        if (key !== 'v1') {  
          return caches.delete(key);  
        }  
      }));  
    });  
  });  
});
```

Q. Explain the use of indexed DB in the service worker for data storage.

→ Solution:-

Indexed DB is a client-side, NoSQL database that allows web applications to store structured data in the browser. When combined with a service worker, it helps enable offline functionality and efficient caching of data.

Use of indexed DB in a service worker:

- Unlike Cache API, which mainly stores request/response objects, indexed DB allows storing structured data like JSON objects, user preferences and application states.

(b) Offline Support

Enables users to access and modify data even when offline. The data can later sync with the server when online.

(c) Efficient Caching

Stores large amounts of data that don't need to be re-fetched from the network, reducing load times.

(d) Background Sync

Works with Background Sync API to sync data once the internet is available.

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