

CMT112

WEB APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

COURSEWORK

COURSE WEBSITE FOR MSc COMPUTING & IT
MANAGEMENT



C1450690

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These would be hyperlinks, but Preview lost its hyperlink function with Mountain Lion. I could have kept them in by using an online converter, but that meant getting rid of the custom font, which was also used on the site. I chose to keep the fonts, as the document is not too large.

INTRODUCTION

I have tried to keep this website as simple as possible. It consists of a home page, a page for the course description, one for the modules and another for the teaching staff.

I chose not to feature too much information, as to not saturate the user's attention, and have instead provided links to external websites, namely the School of Computer Science & Informatics website. This website features key basic information, and in a sense acts as a portal to more complete sites.

Each page consists of one HTML file, and a corresponding CSS file. The staff photos featured are located in a directory named 'staffphotos', and the remaining photos used are stored in the 'photos' folder.

The colour scheme is in tune with the Cardiff University colours, using mainly dark red and white, as well as some black.

The website is accessible through the following links:

<https://project.cs.cf.ac.uk/MezeretN/>

<https://users.cs.cf.ac.uk/MezeretN/>

HOME PAGE

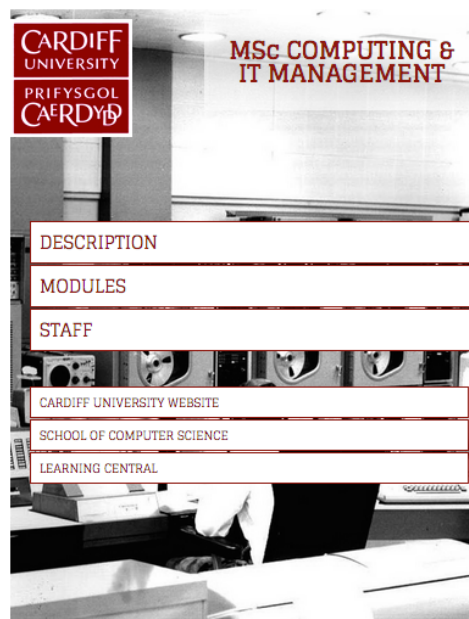
I have decided to use a photograph as a background for my homepage. I assume it is part of the public domain as I have found it on a free wallpaper site.

(http://www.wallpapervortex.com/wallpaper-40772_technology_old_computers.html#.VEzfZYusU-M)

As this photo is landscape orientated, it was tricky to use it as background on smaller, portrait orientated screens.

To circumvent this problem I uploaded a vertically cropped version of the photo, and using the “*display:none;*” function in CSS and a media query, made the appropriate background appear depending on size of the window viewing the site.

This screenshot shows the cropped background (and shrunk, re-positioned text) when the browser size is reduced.



The university logo and course name have been placed in the top corners using the “*position:absolute;*” command in the CSS file.

Cardiff University’s Twitter feed is embedded in the bottom right corner. Twitter has a tool for this called the Widget Creator; I simply had to specify my preferred dimensions and colours and was provided with the HTML code.

The rest of the home page simply consists of two lists, one providing an internal navigational tool and the other providing useful external links.

DESCRIPTION PAGE

As for the Modules and Staff pages, the Description page features a header. I have used a horizontally cropped version of the homepage photo, and have superimposed the page title and navigation tool on it.

This page simply reuses the information feature on the actual course description page.

(<http://courses.cardiff.ac.uk/postgraduate/course/detail/p074.html>)

However, I have added a link to a section at the bottom of the page where the user can download some useful documents such as timetables, programme handbooks and coursework cover sheets. All the downloadable content is located in the ‘DLC’ directory.

Course Documents - Click to Download

[Autumn Timetable](#) for lectures, lab sessions, etc.

[Spring Timetable](#) for lectures, lab sessions, etc.

[Programme Handbook](#) and the [Programme with Placement Handbook](#) has information on the School and the programme.

[Project Handbook](#) holds information on choosing and completing your project and submitting your dissertation. Check the [MSc Project Timeline](#) for further information to help you select and prepare for your project.

[Study Guide](#)

A [Coursework Cover Sheet](#) should be signed and attached to the front of all work handed in for assessment.

[School MSc Project Demonstration Form](#) should be completed before you demo your project, this should be within two weeks of your submission date

[Back to top](#)

The course description expectedly contains a list of modules. Using a format similar to that of the navigation tool, I have provided links to the corresponding module on the Modules page.

Business and IT Management

[Web Application Development](#)

[E-Commerce and Innovation](#)

[Information Processing in Python](#)

[Information Modelling and Database Systems](#)

MODULES PAGE

Below the header, this page starts off with a list of the modules, all links to their respective position on the page.

The information featured for each module is a snippet of the information featured on each module's actual page. I have included at the end of each module description a link to that page. This allows my Modules page not to be overly crowded yet still provide easy access to all necessary information.

CMT103 - Information Processing in Python

Taught by: Dr C. Walker

Outline Description of Module

The aim of this module is to introduce techniques to extract, store and process information using the Python programming language. To achieve this, students will be introduced to fundamental data structures and algorithms, the design and use of databases, regular expressions and the basics of HTML.

On completion of the module a student should be able to

1. Use Python to extract, manipulate, store and analyse information from a range of sources.
2. Apply regular expressions.
3. Contrast common algorithms for searching and sorting.
4. Contrast, select and use data structures appropriate to a given problem.
5. Design, implement and utilise relational databases.

[More Information](#)

[Back to top](#)


I have also included a “Back to top” link for ease of navigation.

Unfortunately, seeing as the change from Computational Systems to Web Application Development has yet to be registered by the university websites, I was unable to include CMT112 on the Modules page.

STAFF PAGE

The aptly named Teaching Staff page features the members of staff responsible for teaching the various course modules.

Each member has his own <div>, which contains the name of the module they teach, their email address and a link to their personal page.

	<p>Mrs N. Edwards Lecturer: E-Commerce & Innovation Email: n.edwards@cs.cardiff.ac.uk Personal site</p>
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For every other profile, the photo and text have been floated on opposite sides.

I have used the information available on the module page.

(<http://www.cs.cf.ac.uk/currentstudents/msccomputingitmanagement1314/>)

For the modules I have not yet attended, it is unfortunately possible that I have featured the module leader instead of the lecturer.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

MEDIA QUERIES

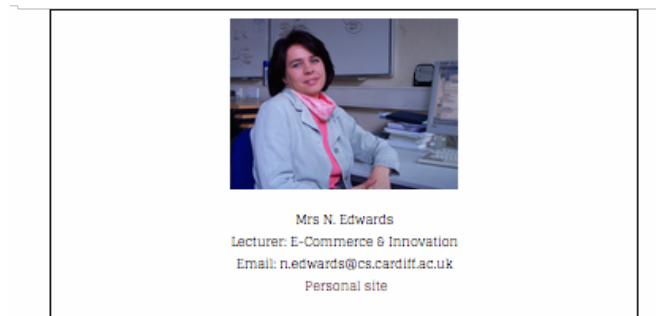
Each CSS file contains a media query, altering content whenever the site is viewed from a screen less than 800 pixels wide.

This makes the website look slightly more awkward when viewed on a mobile device, but still very readable and navigable.

As mentioned earlier, a different background photo is displayed for the home page, and the font size and padding of the lists is reduced. The twitter feed is also removed to avoid clutter.

For the remaining pages, the media query also simply reduces the size of the various pieces of text.

The Staff page has an extra query which cancels the float inside of the profiles, displaying the text centred underneath the photograph.



OTHER NOTES

The font used is from Google Fonts, from a family called 'Glegoo'.

All the HTML used on this site has been validated as HTML 5 by the W3C Markup Validation Service (<http://validator.w3.org/>).

All the CSS used on this site has been validated as CSS Level 3 by the W3C CSS Validation Service (<http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>).

I have used 'Graceful Degradation' instead of 'Progressive Enhancement' as it felt most natural to me for this project. I realize however that the result is far from ideal when viewed on mobile. Improving in this domain is amongst my objectives for the course.

I was tempted to use other HTML or CSS functions such as <iframe> or flexbox, but chose against it in order to not make the website unnecessarily complex or gimmicky.