

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

Issue 1:

The old website design only used half of the view, which left the other half blank so the web design does not look good even though the first half seems neat and concise.

Issue 2:

Old websites are text-heavy, which can be overwhelming to students, which may lead to misreading the information and affecting the student's learning progress. For instance, on the website www.cs.toronto.edu/~ahchinaei/teaching/20165/csc148/, the developer put all the course information in one single home page with a small font, which may cause a lack of readability.

Issue 3:

The way old websites organize the information is classical, which displays the text in a paragraph from up to down. In particular, for example, the test tabs of utsc.utoronto.ca/~bretscher/b20/, need some more separators to categorize each piece of the announcement about the midterm, i.e midterm rooms and time, midterm preparation, past midterm practices...

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

To fix issue 1:

We made use of all the space of the user view, made the website look aligned, and still held every necessary information

To fix issue 2 and issue 3:

We added a modern design and replaced the outdated and classical table design to make the website more appealing. Besides, we broke up the text and added some icons, images, and gifs to improve readability and user experience.

In terms of color scheme, even though it still looks simple, concerning bright themes, it still increases the visibility, and creates a high contrast, making text and images easier to read. Additionally, grabbing user attention is also one of our goals when remaking the course website.

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

Issue 1:

An issue that we faced while designing our website was designing elements of the website. As we had a certain design in mind, creating the elements in HTML and CSS caused us to redesign multiple times. While creating our pages in HTML and CSS, we addressed this problem by experimenting and changing the elements such as padding, margin, text decoration, etc.

Issue 2:

In the process of the conversion to responsive web design, we had a problem with the text-overflow from their containers. First, we tried to figure out the root of the problem and we found out that it was caused by adjusting the sizes of div tags and fonts with fixed height, width, and font sizes that we used initially. To address this challenge, we used the relative length units for the containers and texts to adjust to the size of the viewport automatically.