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Link Verification Tools

When maintaining a larger website, you will often have many links that are either used as references or to other pages in the project. Once a link is broken due to the file being removed or having its name being changed, there is often no way to know without visiting the link. This can often become tedious, especially for larger websites as there will be more links that you have to keep track of. This is why there are utilities that can keep track of these links without having to manually click and inspect them.

One of the easiest-to-use link checkers is W3C Link Validator which is available online for free. This tool allows you to copy complete code and check the links to make sure that none are broken. If you design a simple, smaller website, then this tool’s simplicity will be enough. Another tool offered is Google Search Console. It allows web designers to monitor the performance and appearance of their website in Google searches along with link validation. Compared to W3C Link Validator, Google Search Console offers more features at the cost of its ease of use.

While these tools are useful for manually inspecting a website for broken links, they lack automation so there will be more maintenance required from the programmer. However, there are tools that can schedule audits to check the website even when they’re away. One of the best tools for this is Screaming Frog SEO Spider. It provides detailed reports, helps identify broken links in real-time, and offers additional SEO insights, making it one of the best-paid options for website owners wanting to monitor broken links. You can also use it for free, but this lacks the option to schedule audits.