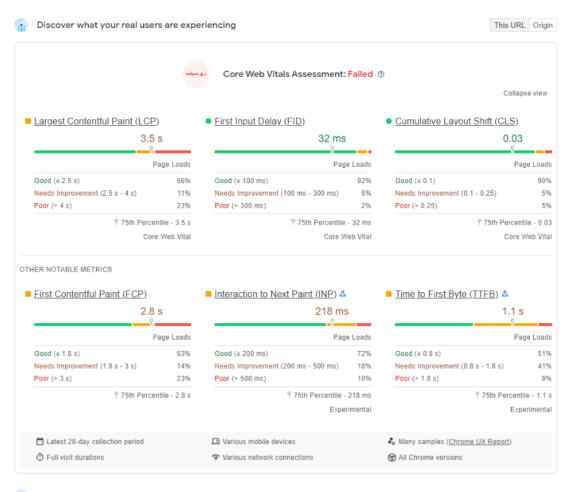
Analysis of theskillsnetwork.com

Partial audit by SEO Expert Oleksii Shereta 27/07/2022

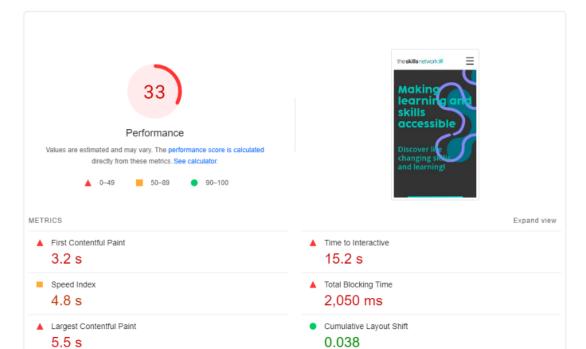
I analyzed the website "theskillsnetwork.com" and after my analysis, I provide the following information:

Performance

In general, if a user has a quick internet connection, there are no issues with the speed of the pages, but if the client's connection is slow (for example 3G connection) then it is possible to see performance issues, primarily caused by Images optimization, Cache Policy, and 3-Party dependencies. In my opinion, the website's performance can be significantly improved, which may lead up to 2x loading time speed-up. As PageSpeed Insights states, current performance "Needs improvement".



Diagnose performance issues



Current metrics

FCP and LCP

PageSpeed shows that the website's FCP and LCP are 3.2 and 5.5 seconds, accordingly. This is a violation of the maximum values, recommended by Google, the recommended values are 2.5 and 1.8 seconds, respectively, meaning that the website needs to be about 2 times faster to achieve Google's recommendations. Various steps need to be taken to fix these metrics, some of them are described later in the analysis.

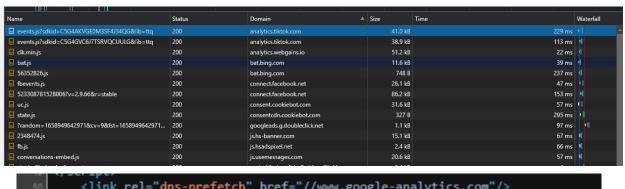
TTFB

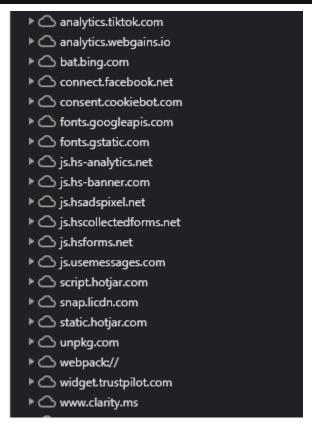
Time-to-first-byte is a metric that identifies the time, required for the website's server/backend, to respond to a client's request. Current TTFB equals 1.1 seconds, which is a quite large value. A good value of TTFB should be less than 200 milliseconds. It is strange to see such value — in general, theskillsnetwork.com is a fast website, yet it has such a large TTFB value. I suspect that there is some sort of issues related to hosting, server or backend. Due to technical reasons, I cannot investigate this further, as I simply do not have access to the server.

What causes these performance issues?

o set budgets for the quantity and size of page re	esources, add a budget.json file. Learn more.	
Resource Type	Requests	Transfer Size
Total	153	2,710.9 Kit
Script	36	1,239.2 Kil
Image	53	1,161.4 Kil
Font	3	188.6 Kil
Other	55	52.6 Kil
Stylesheet	3	51.4 Kil
Document	3	17.5 Kil
Media	0	0.0 Kil
Third-party	102	1,294.5 Kil

The main page of the website is quite "heavy" — there are 153 requests (up to 170) with a total network payload of 2.7 MB. As it is possible to see, the main causes are images — 1161 KB and JS Scripts — 1239 KB. It is relatively easy to understand what to do with the images — they simply need to be optimized.





But, it is a more complex situation with the JS scripts. I cannot see that the website loads a lot of 3rd-Party JS files, and they all have a significant influence on the page's load time, yet I cannot

identify which JS files are not important. If it is possible, I would try compressing them, deferring their load, or even further, eliminating all non-critical JS files.

Cache Policy

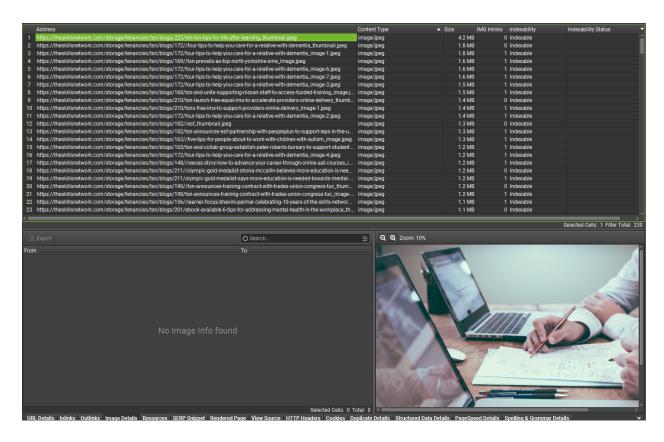
URL	Cache TTL	Transfer Size
278/international-womens-day_featured_image.png (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	216 KiB
homepage/two-professionals.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	199 KiB
photo/woman-standing-with-laptop-and-holding-drink.png (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	151 KiB
263/the-great-resignation-how-the-pandemic-has-catalysed-cpng (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	138 KiB
cocogoose/Cocogoosewoff2 (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	106 KiB
259/how-to-select-a-skills-development-partner_featured_impng (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	97 KiB
homepage/male-professional-and-female-graduate.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	46 KiB
lms/lms-laptop.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	24 KiB
general/calculator.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	22 KiB
outline/woman-giving-a-presentation-b+w.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	17 KiB
carousel/C-P-D-Member-The-C-P-D-Certification-Service-Collpng (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	16 KiB
carousel/A-S-I-C.png (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	16 KiB
general/handshake.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	15 KiB
carousel/Association-of-Employment-and-Learning-Providerspng (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	15 KiB
carousel/Cyber.png (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	14 KiB
general/monitor-lightbulb.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	12 KiB
general/pile-of-books.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	12 KiB
general/worldwide.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	12 KiB
carousel/Quality-International-Study-Abroad-Network.png (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	11 KiB
carousel/Association-of-Accounting-Technicians-Approved.png (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	9 KiB
carousel/European-Union-European-Social-Fund.png (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	8 KiB
general/shopping-basket.svg (theskillsnetwork.com)	None	7 KiB
187 1 1 A 187 P 184		7175

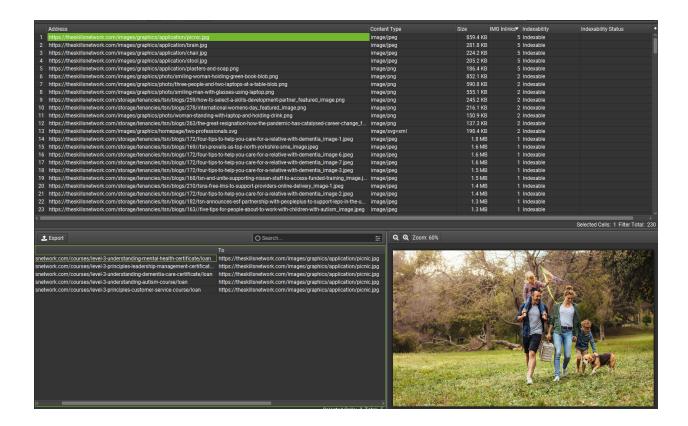
Right now, most of the images do not have Cache TTL — which means that these images will not be cached. Caching is a powerful method of optimization, which can significantly improve the performance of a website, and I would recommend adding Cache Policy to all suitable static files, such as Images, JS, CSS, fonts, etc. The TTL value needs to be selected carefully, and it may be different for each particular file. But, even 15 minutes TTL would increase the page's speed, and at the same time, will not cause any harm.

Images optimization



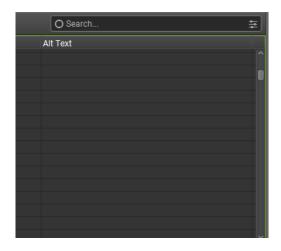
Currently, there are 1411 images on your website, and 230 of them are non-optimized — some of them are stored in PNG format, some have improper dimensions and others are simply not compressed. Yet, all 1411 images can be optimized (at least all images that are not SVGs) and it will positively influence the page loading speed.





Thankfully, most of these non-optimized images are located on blog and course pages, thus they do not have a large effect on landing pages. Yet, these images still have a huge performance effect on the Course pages, which as far as I understand, are very important for your business. Having slow pages not only drives customers away but also may lead to the downgrades of the website's position in SERP, as Google values fast well-optimized websites. From my point of view, these images need to be converted to modern formats (for example, WEBP or AVIF), compressed and resized.

ALT attribute



Besides compressing and optimizing images, it is also very important to provide ALT attributes for all images. Right now, there are 891 images without an ALT — it may significantly reduce a website's position in SERP, as Google values websites with good Accessibility. In my opinion, this issue needs to be fixed to improve both Accessibility and organic search.

Minifying and compressing the code

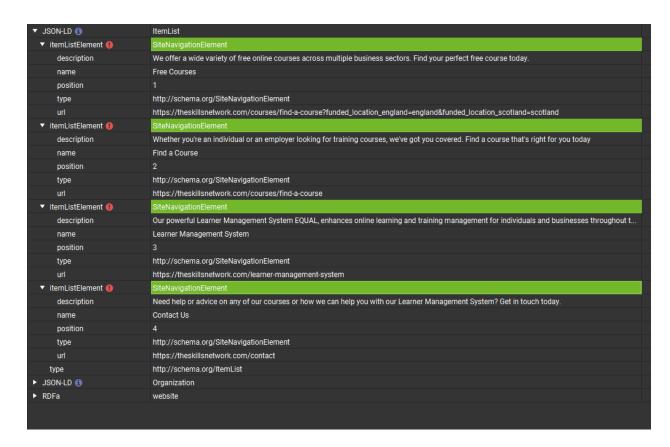
Besides image optimization, I would also recommend minifying the code, and adding text compression (for example GZIP) to the Backend. Ideally, minification and compression need to be added to every single page, so it's a good idea to implement it using some kind of "Middleware".

Structured Data / Scheme

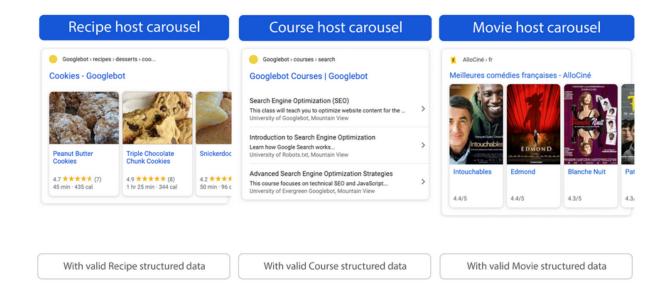
▼ Structured Data		
All	437	100%
Contains Structured Data	431	98.63%
Missing	6	1.37%
Validation Errors	431	98.63%
Validation Warnings	245	56.06%
Parse Errors	0	0%
Microdata URLs	0	0%
JSON-LD URLs	431	98.63%
RDFa URLs	427	97.71%

I identified that most of the pages on the website have SD — this is already great. Also, I found that one "ItemList" is shared across all pages, and the type is the same on 431 pages:

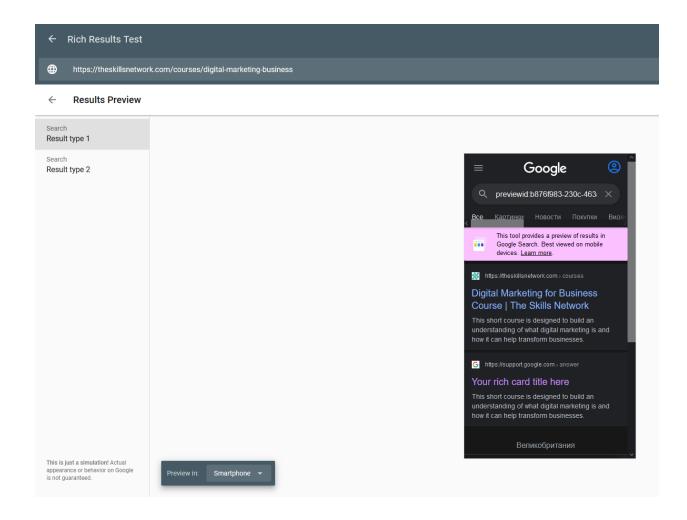
380	nttps://tneskiiisnetwork.com/apout-us/our-partners	4	U	8	5 itemlist	Urganization	PostalAddress	Sitenavigation	website
387	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/digital-bootcamps-blog	4	0	8	5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
388	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/flexi-job-apprenticeships-why-they-a	4	0	8	5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
389	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/the-generational-divide	4	0	8	5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
390	https://theskillsnetwork.com/enquire?apprenticeship=true		0	8	5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
391	https://theskillsnetwork.com/policies/privacy-policy				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
392	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/the-great-resignation-how-the-pand				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
393	https://theskillsnetwork.com/funding-streams/workforce-development-fund				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
394	https://theskillsnetwork.com/courses/all-courses				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
395	https://wmcabootcamp.theskillsnetwork.com/?campaign=bootcamp-blog&marketing=blog				4 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	
396	https://theskillsnetwork.com/funding-streams/skills-support-for-the-workforce				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
397	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/employee-focus-chloe-raper-celebra				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
398	https://theskillsnetwork.com/courses/level-3-principles-leadership-management-certificat				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
399	https://theskillsnetwork.com/courses/level-3-understanding-mental-health-certificate/loan				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
400	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/hey-greater-london-weve-got-you-co				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
401	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/reeces-story-how-to-advance-your-c				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
402	https://theskillsnetwork.com/courses/find-a-course?programmes=true				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
403	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/meet-our-software-implementation				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
404	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/tsn-recognised-as-2019-large-busin				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
405	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/free-ebook-available-6-tips-for-addr				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
406	https://theskillsnetwork.com/learnerfind/application?course=level-2-allergy-awareness-tra				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
407	https://theskillsnetwork.com/funding-streams/traineeships				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
408	https://theskillsnetwork.com/funding-streams/16-to-19-tuition-fund				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
409	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/the-skills-network-appoints-new-chi				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
410	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/aat-syllabus-change-what-you-need				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
411	https://theskillsnetwork.com/insights-resources/blog/project-kestrel-goes-live-with-londo				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
412	https://theskillsnetwork.com/faqs				5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website
413	https://the skills network.com/in sights-resources/blog/tsn-and-collab-group-announce-two	4	0	8	5 ItemList	Organization	PostalAddress	SiteNavigation	website



And sadly, this type is implemented incorrectly — it means that all 431 pages have the same, incorrect SD. As I understand, this "ItemList"'s purpose was to create a "Carousel" of important links on each page, four pages to be exact: Free Courses, Find a Course, Learner Management System, Contact Us, perhaps, something like this:



This is a good idea, and if it's implemented correctly, it may increase the organic search. Sadly, right now, it does not work — I used the Google Rich Text tool to preview this SD and this is what I saw:



Why does it happen?

Well, sadly, the current implementation of "ItemList" will never work. Why? Google's documentation has the answer:

Send feedback

A carousel is a list-like rich result that people can swipe through on mobile devices. It displays multiple cards from the same site (also known as a host carousel). To enable a carousel for your site, add Carousel structured data in combination with one of the following supported content types:

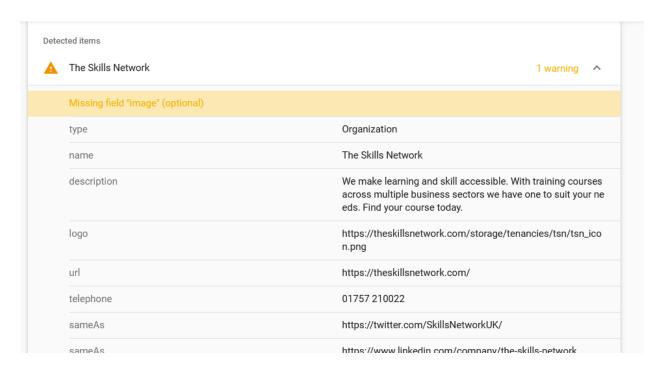
- Course
- Movie
- Recipe
- Restaurant

Carousel only supports **Course**, **Movie**, **Recipe**, **and Restaurant** types. The Carousel works like this:

Google gets the list of items that were specified in the "ItemList". After this, the Googlebot analyzes each link and scrapes its SD — if **all the links have the same SD type**, **and this type is supported**, then Google may create a Rich snippet with this data.

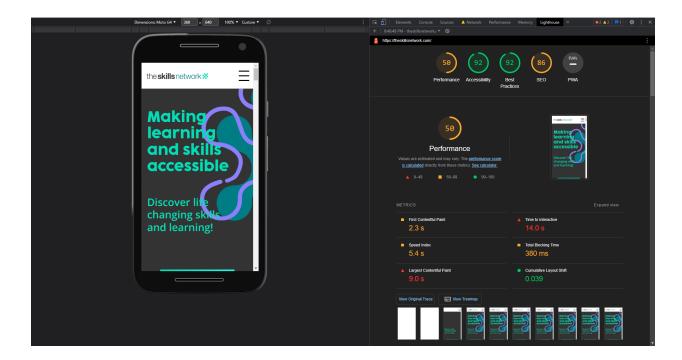
Right now, all 4 links that are specified in the "ListItem" type are not of support types, so Google will never show them as a Rich Snippet. Instead of specifying these 4 links, I would recommend using the website's courses instead. Thankfully, "Course" is a supported type for Carousel, so it will work as expected and hopefully, Google will create a Rich Snippet for this page.

Besides "ItemList", there is an optional field that I would advise adding, for example, "Image" to the "Organization" type:



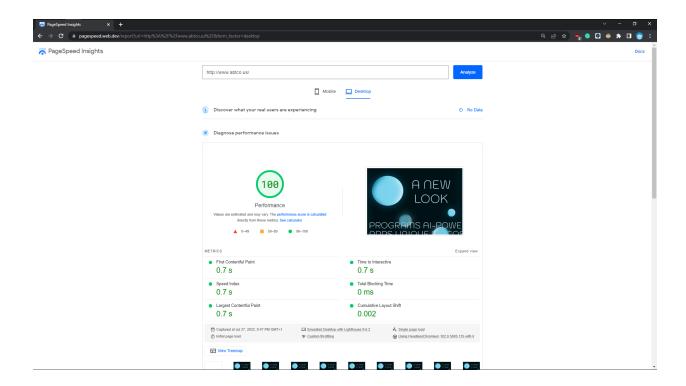
In the future, I would recommend adding FAQ and BreadCrumb type to some Blog articles and course pages, FAQ is a good optimization method, which usually boosts the organic search, while BreadCrumb provides a better visual representation of the URL in SERP.

Overall condition

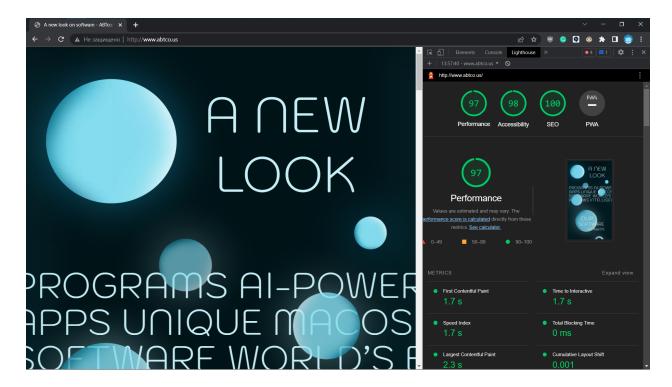


This is a Lighthouse report — it is possible to see that some metrics are in bad condition, while others are already well optimized. From what I know, SEO optimization was performed on this website, and it is reflected in the Lighthouse report. Still, there is a lot of work to do, and current metrics can be greatly improved — a 100% score is more than possible.

Take a look at the main page of this company, they implemented all SEO recommendations I gave them, and this is what their score looks like:



100% Performance score on a complex webpage with a lot of images and graphics — after a correct optimization, everything is possible.



100% SEO, **98%** Accessibility, and **97%** Performance on a real device — these are absolutely real metrics, which were achieved after following my SEO recommendations.

After my analysis, I was surprised by the condition of your website — in general, your website already has some optimization, and it has good SEO tags and Metadata. From my 3 months-long experience in the UK, theskillnetwork.com is one of the best websites I saw.

Theskillsnetwork.com can also achieve such metrics, and do even better — it just needs some SEO optimization, and good collective work with the developers.

Analysis and audit performed by Oleksii Shereta — SEO Expert. 27/07/2022