Building Web Pages

Webpages can be built by hand using HTML or by using a Content Management System (CMS) like Mahara or Wordpress. Both these methods would require the web developer to have a clear idea of its design, i.e. how the webpage should look, where the different components should be displayed and other design aspects like colour, font size etc.

The difference between these two methods are:

1. Using CMS will not require the developer to know usage of HTML tags.
2. Updating old pages or creating new pages will be much easier if one uses CMS. Users without knowledge of HTML and CSS will be able to do these tasks.
3. Hand coding webpages using HTML will be prone to error.
4. Websites build using CMS are relatively secure since most CMSs are mature products
5. Learning curve for HTML and CSS will be steeper for beginners than learning curve for CMS usage.
6. For developers with strong knowledge of HTML, CSS and other web technologies, hand coding websites will give much flexibility for customization rather than with CMS.

In a workplace where multiple people with limited programming experiences may be managing content on a website, using a CMS would be preferred for the following reasons:

1. People can create or manage content easily by clicking on few links, inputting text and clicking on a button or a link to save the page. This is much easier to learn than programming in HTML and CSS.
2. CMS allows multiple people to work on different web pages at the same time. For example, a person in HR department can work on updating HR related page while another person in different department can work on a page related to his/her department.
3. Users will not need to know of the complexities of servers, uploading files to servers, etc. They can add content, click on “Save” and rest will be done for them by the CMS.
4. For styling their pages, users can use existing templates from the CMS.