Best Practices and mobile-friendly design are important considerations when beginning the design of web application.

First Post

Research and explain at least 3 best practices when it comes to designing web application. Also, select one best practice and find a website that does not meet this standard. Provide the URL and explain the issues related with design. Also, provide links to any references used in your research.

**Post**

W3 schools has an excellent write up on this very topic (see below for reference links). They even created flash cards to take away the high level key points. In reviewing their documentation on this subject I have selected the following three items to discuss as I see them as deal breakers if not executed properly:

1. Response Time
2. Interface Flexibility
3. User Interface

Response time is extremely crucial for the success of website. If the website takes too long to load users will often exit the site before it finishes due to frustration. A well designed website should load quickly and function as quickly as possible to keep the user focused and engaged on what the website has to offer. Per W3 schools here is how to optimize the mobile website response time:

* Aggregate static images into a single composite resource (sprites).
* Include background images inline in CSS style sheets.
* Keep DOM size reasonable.
* Minimize perceived latency.
* Optimize for application start-up time.

Interface flexibility should allow the mobile website to play nicely with a variety of browsers such as Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Dolphin, Opera, UC, etc… These in turn will be interfacing with several different operating systems such as Android, iOS, Windows, Blackberry, etc… W3 schools breaks this down into the following to improve mobile website interface flexibility:

* Design for multiple interaction methods.
* Ensure text flows.
* Prefer server-side detection where possible.
* Use client-side detection when necessary.
* Use device classification to simplify content adaptation.
* Support a non-JavaScript variant if appropriate.

My final topic of discussion will be focused on User Interface. First impressions will make or break a website’s longevity and if the UI is confusing, clunky or down right inoperable you can guarantee the user will exit quickly and will likely never return to the site again. W3 schools cites these following items to aid the UI experience for the users:

* Ensure the user is informed about use of personal and device information.
* Enable automatic sign-in.
* Offer users a choice of interfaces.
* Don’t change focus when dynamically updating page sections.
* Make telephone numbers "click-to-call".

In researching the internet for examples of a poor UI I came across <http://www.drivingskills.on.ca/#1>. When viewing this on your mobile device it left justifies the entire page leaving a large void on the right side. In addition there is no clear navigation menu for the website and also breaks a cardinal rule taught in Rasmussen’s HTML class about underlined words. This confuses the user as they appear to be clickable links. Also the contrast between the text and the background color could use some tweaking to help readability.

Reference:

<https://www.w3.org/TR/mwabp/>

<https://www.w3.org/2010/09/MWABP/>

Reply

Hi Devante,

The site you provide definitely needs some cleaning up. I agree the site navigation is terrible. You have to scroll to the bottom of the page to get details of their preferred cites of service. On each page it loads a colorful picture of the interior of a home with three large buttons (Interior Painting, Exterior Painting, and Wallpaper Installation) that appear to be clickable but they are not. Another issue I noticed was with the three boxes in the middle of the page that are clickable (Home Advisor, Quote, and Painter by the day) but they all take you to the same website. The Home Advisor box should be the only clickable area. Overall this site is really needing a navigational hierarchy facelift.