

## Assignment 2 design journal

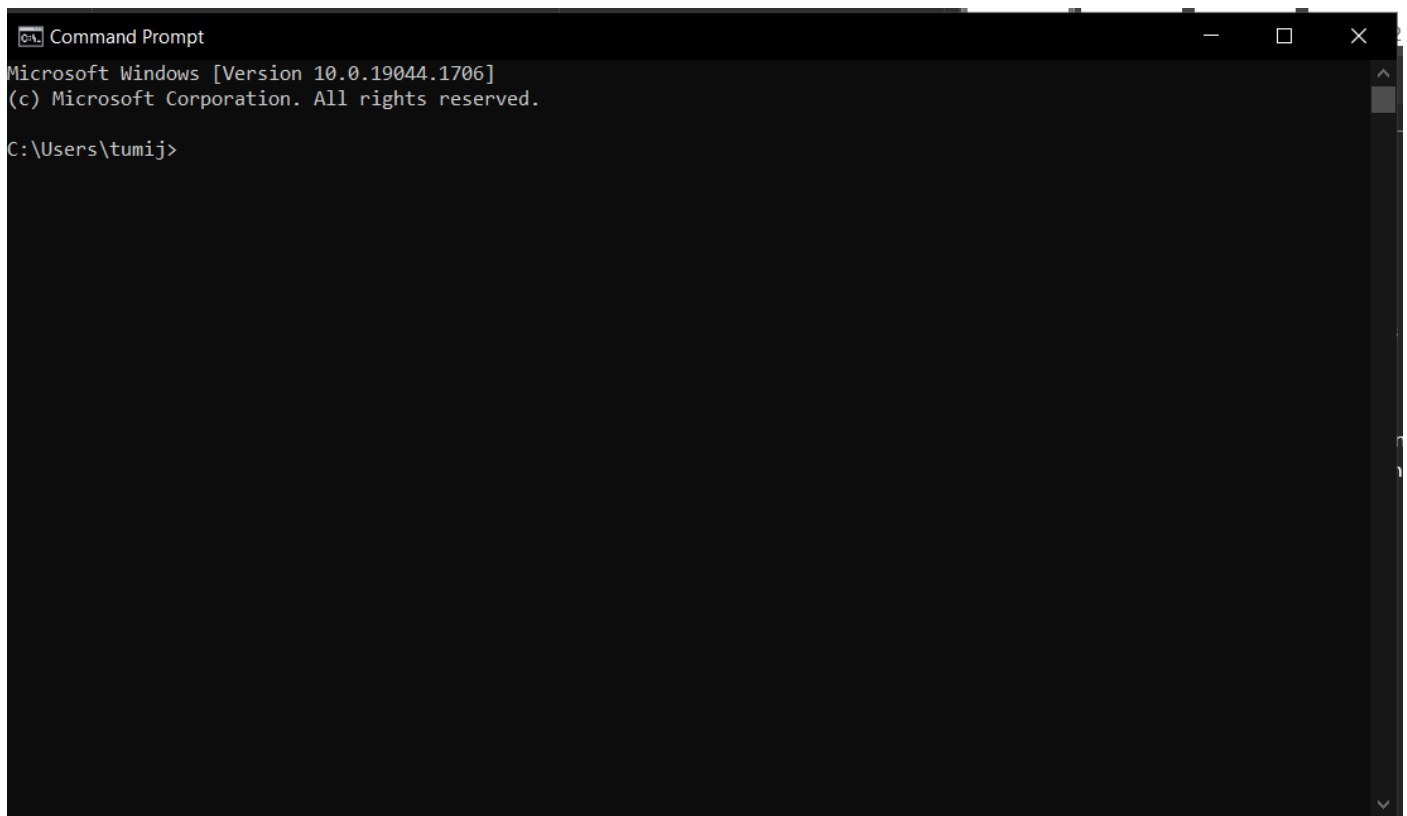
### The console

The console is an element I want to add to further the theme of coding. Often software engineers use the command console to navigate through a computer as it gives more control to the user.

So I decided to make a console that the user can use to navigate the web page.

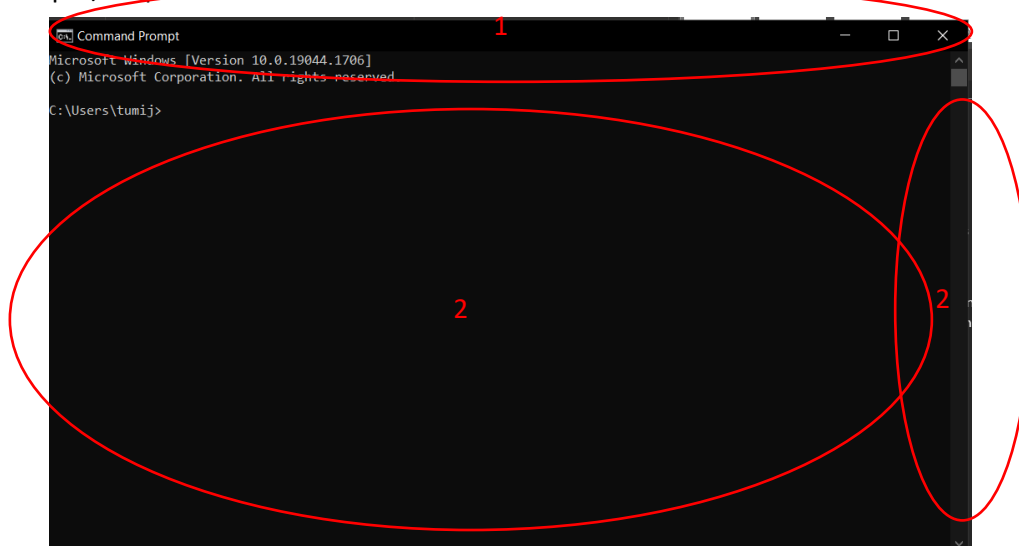
This will not be mandatory, but rather an extra tool that the user can use. It may become the main way for users to move about the web page, but the goal for assignment 2 is to make a working prototype of the navigation console.

First looking at the console of windows :

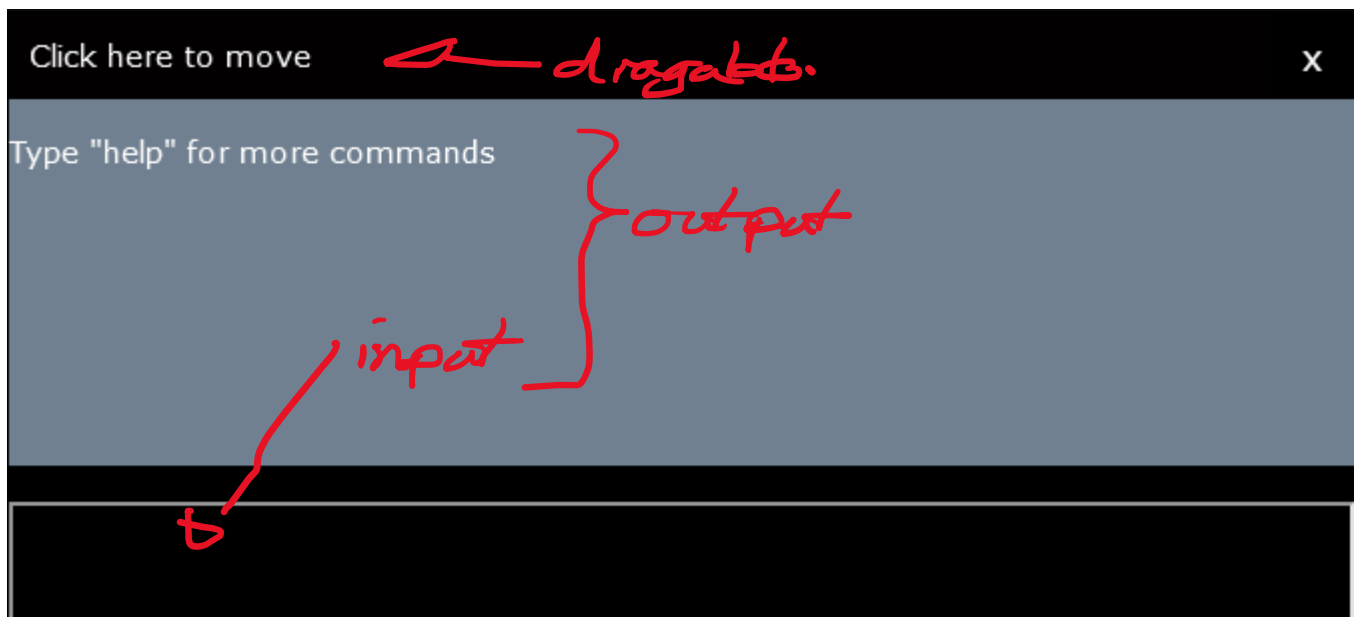


What is interesting is how they use different shades of black to show that each part has a different function.

1. Firstly the top bar is the darkest part of the console, and this is where you click to drag the window.
2. The main body is a lighter shade of black, this area is both the input and output of the console.
3. And lastly the Scroll bar on the right is the lightest shade, which clearly shows how the user would move up and down the input/output of the console.



This is my attempt at a console

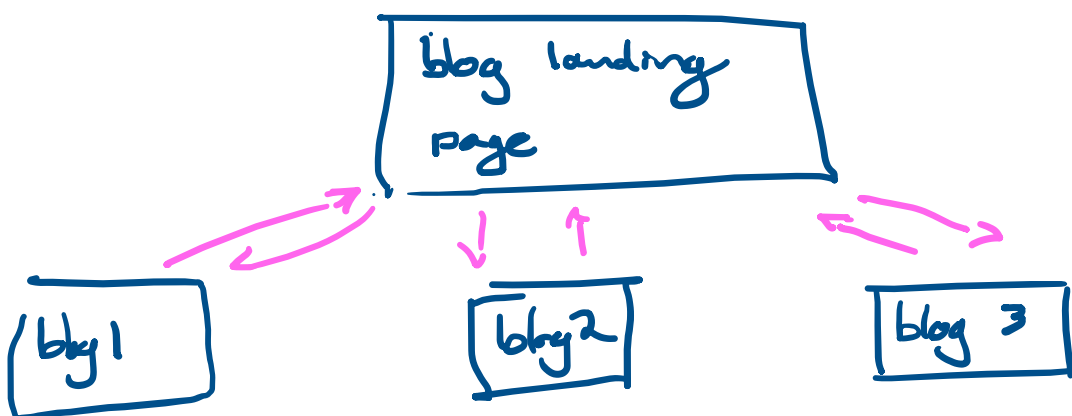


The window works perfectly. The user can type help to see more commands to move between pages. Now that the product is done, moving forward I would like to :

1. Improve the look to more closely resemble the windows cmd
  - a. Add a flashing underscore at the input,
  - b. make the input align with the bottom of the text at the output instead of the bottom of the whole window/panel.
2. Add themeing to more closely match the colour scheme of the main website
  - a. Make exit glow blue instead of red, and maybe use dark blue and black to colour it
3. Make it usable in mobile mode
4. Make it easy enough to use so that it can be the primary method to navigate the website
5. User test it thoroughly

### Navigating between blogs

This was a glaring problem in the first iteration of my website. Ill describe the problem with a wireframe user flow diagram.



As seen from the diagram the user must move to and from the blog landing page to navigate to each blog. What needs to be added is a link between the blogs so that the user can navigate between the without the landing page.

My first Idea was to create a next and previous button. With 3 blogs this is quite usable , but adding additional blogs will cause the use to loose themselves and needlessly move over unwanted pages to get to others.

My second idea went a lot better. It is to create a drop down menu that pops up when hovering over the blog page button.

The only draw back to this solution is that the user may not ever navigate to the summary page thinking that it is merely an access to the drop down menu.

I crudely fixed this by limiting the option to only when in pages that relate to blogs. Physically limiting the user leads to them feeling restrained in the website, which is not good at all.

Moving forward I will have to use design elements to let the user know that the “blog” button is a page. This can be done by consistent theming, but which ever solution I decide on, testing with users will tell me what works the best.

On that note, much more testing will have to be incorporated in my design process moving forward. This will be my personal major goal regarding the design of the final submission.