Reviews of Low-tech Magazine

Low-tech Magazine is a website created by Marie Otsuka and Roel Roscam Abbing that is powered primarily by solar energy. It employs a variety of low-tech techniques, such as static page generators, plain text files, and CSS style sheets, but does not utilise databases (Decker, 2018). These strategies greatly minimise the amount of energy and resources necessary to operate the website, resulting in a more environmentally friendly website. Low-resolution graphics and basic typography make the site load faster and suited for low-bandwidth conditions. The author's original objective while building this website was to lower the energy consumption of site visitors. While the expansion of the internet and digital technology has brought us numerous advantages, it has also been accompanied by a rise in the energy and resource consumption of digital products, which is producing major environmental issues. To accomplish sustainable digital development, we must therefore identify digital technology solutions that are low in carbon emissions and energy consumption. To explore how computing technology may be used for sustainable development, some scholars have proposed the concept of "computing within boundaries" (Valk, 2022). To achieve sustainable development, he contends, computing technologies must be used to increasingly localised and decentralised ecosystems in order to reduce energy and resource usage. In addition, he advises the use of low-power equipment, the creation of low-energy software, and the utilisation of renewable energy sources. In Low-tech Magazine, the practical implementation of these techniques is demonstrated. The project uses low-energy technologies like static web page

generators and plain text files, and it gets most of its energy from renewable sources like solar power. These strategies have resulted in a significant decrease in the website's energy and resource use. Unfortunately, the initiative faces some obstacles and restrictions. Initially, the low-tech website design may have some restrictions, such as in terms of the website's functioning and user experience. Second, a low-tech website might not be able to accommodate certain extensive access requirements. However, there may be expenditures involved with adopting low-tech methods, such as server and website maintenance expenses. Reflecting on the project, we must acknowledge that the design of low-tech websites, while capable of reducing energy use, does not entirely solve the issue of Internet energy consumption. We must investigate further technical and non-technical techniques to lower the Internet's energy use. At the same time, we need to realise that goals for the environment and sustainability can't be met just by designing a single website. They need to be worked on by people all over the world. Low-tech Magazine is a really exciting initiative that use low-tech design approaches to reduce the energy and resource consumption of websites and create a more sustainable website operation. This initiative gives valuable insights and suggestions for examining how we may attain digital sustainability. But, we must also recognise that low-tech design is not a panacea and that additional technical and non-technical techniques are required to lower the Internet's energy usage in order to achieve global sustainability.

Reference list

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