

What is a well-designed web application?

At the era of fast-growing internet speed and quick interactions, everything has become fast and is expected to be fast. We know for instance that a user would relatively spend 27 seconds at most before he leaves a page if it hasn't loaded. Performance is therefore a big factor of attractiveness and a well-designed application. But I believe the normal user can be lenient to some extent when it comes to this specific point because today's society values aesthetics, simplicity and user-friendliness more than ever thanks to the possibilities offered by today's technologies. These three qualities would be in my sense the most important and what define the most a well-designed application because it arouses trust and comfort in a large range of people just like a good piece of clothing, magazine, operating system etc. And everything has to be well-balanced; people are tempted today to make fancy animations here and there thinking it'd look amazing for example but it's quite the opposite. I strongly believe that's one of the big reasons Amazon, Apple products, Netflix, Airbnb and so on are so popular and great to use.

In that sense, I think an application like [Curio](#) is well-designed. The web application, despite not being as rich in terms of features and design as its smartphone counterpart, has a great, pretty yet simple design that is very user friendly. The information is easily accessible thanks to an easy navigation and a smart combination of icons and menu. I could easily get to the podcasts I bookmarked, listened to or even find those which belongs to the categories I like. It also encourages users to explore and discover new topics and contents by selecting a good set of podcasts every day depending on a few criteria.

Now, the web version of Curio is quite limited in terms of features to promote the mobile one and the design of some elements could also be improved to be less simple and provide more information on the content which is very short at the moment. The app stops the user from listening to a podcast after a delay of 27 seconds and it's a very unfortunate thing as many people, just like me, would love to listen to some of them while working on their computer, either at home or during a break at work while reading mails. There are times when a smartphone comes in handy and vice versa. There are also a few elements like redundant menus and poor layouts but it could have been worse by using repeated fancy or useless animations, menus with convoluted categories and an audio player only accessible from a specific page. Overall, the user experience and interactions are great.