

Lab Assignment 1: “99.9% of Websites Are Still Obsolete”

(designing with web standards by jeffrey zeldman)

Purpose:

Be able to identify effective web design through structure, presentation and behavior of various websites.

Assignment:

The web is filled with millions of web pages most of which are bad. This assignment will focus on gathering a set of tools that will allow you to determine whether a site falls into the 99.9% category of bad web design. You will then visit several sites that focus on several categories that web sites may fall in to find out if they have adequate structure, provide a unique presentation and work under different user conditions one might find in the field of web design.

Part 1:

- Identify at least four major browsers.
 - Identify two lesser known browsers.
 - Identify three major search engines
 - Locate the URL of the W3C XHTML validator
 - Locate the URL of the W3C CSS validator
 - Create an HTML page that lists the following items
 - Browser name and Version number
 - Which operating system can it be used for
 - URL where browser can be downloaded (if available)
 - Brief description/history of browser
 - Provide a link to the W3C validation check for XHTML
 - Provide a link to the W3C validation check for CSS
 - Three search engines and their respective URL
- NOTE: You do not need to use a style sheet at this point in the class.*
- Upload page to the following location:
 - www.csulb.edu/~lastname/cecs310/lab_assignments/labassign_01/
 - Using the Firefox browser
 - Visit its extensions site
 - Download and install the latest version of the web developer toolbar

Part 2:

- Using whichever search engine you want, find at least three sites from the following categories:
 - Social Networking
 - Non-Profit organization
 - Corporate/Business
 - Education
 - Professional Blog

- Write about your findings
- Questions to answer:
 - Site Name and URL
 - Does this site validate (XHTML and CSS) according to the standards set by the W3C?
 - What are some similarities and differences of the site when viewed in two browsers of your choice?
 - Does the site offer the best user experience? What would you change? What would you keep?
 - Look at the source code. Is there outdated markup? Do they use CSS for presentation and XHTML for Structure?
 - Does the site validate? What are some reasons the site fails validation?

EXTRA CREDIT

You may take your findings and create a webpage out of your research. You are not required to have a style sheet, creating a valid XHTML page with no CSS is adequate.

Submission Procedures:

Email Research to instructor (jminjare@csulb.edu)

1. Submit URL to Part 1 web page
2. Attach web site findings as a .pdf document
 - a. Title: lastname_labassign01.pdf
3. Submit Extra Credit web page (if needed)

Due Date:

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 by 9:30 AM