

A Brief Explanation of How Websites Work

Websites are universally used for sharing information, data, and content. However, how a website is created and thus accessed by anyone is less well-known by the average web surfer. Below is a simple breakdown of the backend structure of a single website.



WHAT THE END-USER SEES

This is the end product – a completely finished website. Anyone can access it by typing its URL into their favorite web browser. However, the real magic is happening beneath the surface, unseen by the average user.

HERE IS WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON

1 HTML

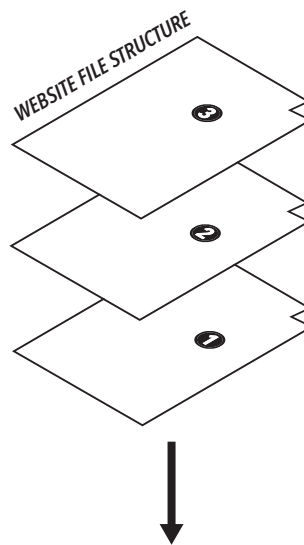
HTML stands for "Hyper Text Markup Language" and is the backbone structure for web pages. Browsers read HTML tags to render the content of the page.

2 CSS

CSS stands for "Cascading Style Sheets" and describe how HTML elements are displayed on the browser. For example, CSS covers everything from font size to aligning content.

3 JAVASCRIPT

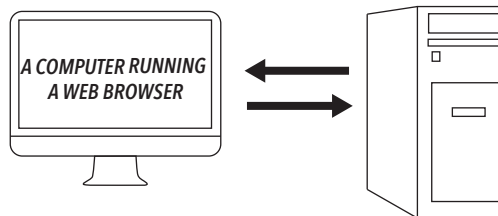
JavaScript, or JS, is the programming language of HTML and the web. It adds interactivity to otherwise static websites.



WEB SERVER

ACCESSING A WEBSITE "ONLINE"

Before a website can be accessed online, the files must be uploaded to a server. Then when a web browser can connect to the server and request the specific URL, and the server sends back the requested page.



Madison's Style Guide

Headline – Avenir Next Cond Bold, 21 pt

TITLE – Avenir Next Cond Demi Bold, 12 pt

LABEL – Avenir Next Demi Bold Italic, 8 pt

Body copy – Avenir Next Regular, 10 pt