

M2R5 Web Designing & Publishing

Introduction to Web Design

Topic Reference | Web Development vs. Web Design: A Comparison | September 11, 2026

Topic Summary

Topic: Web Development vs. Web Design: A Comparison

Book: (M2-R5) Web Designing & Publishing

1 Web Development vs. Web Design: A Comparison

Differentiate between web design (visuals, user experience) and web development (coding, functionality) and their roles in website creation.

Key Points:

While often used interchangeably, **web design** and **web development** are distinct but complementary disciplines crucial for creating a complete website. They represent different skill sets and focus areas within the broader field of web creation.

Web Design:

- **Focus:** Primarily concerned with the aesthetic appeal, layout, and user experience (UX) of a website. It's about how the website *looks* and *feels*.
- **Key Responsibilities:** Creating wireframes and mockups, designing user interfaces (UI), selecting color schemes, typography, imagery, and ensuring overall visual consistency and branding.
- **Skills:** Graphic design, UI/UX principles, creativity, understanding of user psychology, familiarity with design software (e.g., Adobe Photoshop, Figma, Sketch).
- **Outcome:** A visual blueprint and interactive prototype of the website.
- **Analogy:** The architect and interior designer who plan the look and feel of a house.

Web Development:

- **Focus:** Primarily concerned with the functional aspects of a website, making it operational and interactive. It's about how the website *works*.
- **Key Responsibilities:** Writing code (HTML, CSS, JavaScript for front-end; Python, PHP, Java, Node.js for back-end), database management, server configuration, implementing dynamic features, and ensuring website performance and security.
- **Skills:** Programming languages, problem-solving, logical thinking, understanding of algorithms, database management, server administration.
- **Outcome:** A fully functional, interactive website.
- **Analogy:** The construction workers and engineers who build the house according to the architect's plans, ensuring plumbing, electricity, and structure are sound.

In many projects, designers and developers collaborate closely. Designers create the vision, and developers bring that vision to life through code. Some individuals possess 'full-stack' skills, capable of handling both design and development.

Exam Tip:

Clearly distinguish between the roles and responsibilities of a web designer and a web developer. Provide examples of tasks for each.