VCE IT APPLICATIONS

UNIT 3 OUTCOME 1



ONLINE COMMUNITIES

REVISION NOTES

**Unit 3 Outcome 1**

On completion of this unit the student should be able to apply stages of the problem-solving methodology to create a prototype website that meets an online community’s needs, and explain the technical requirements to support the hosting of this website.

**Key Knowledge**

**1. Types, purposes and functionality of websites** that support information exchange within online communities

**2. Types of networks** and the functions of their key hardware and software components

3. Capabilities of **wired and wireless communications** technology to support local and remote communications

4. **Hardware and software requirements for setting up websites** on servers, including operating system, web server software, protocols, security and proxy servers

**5.** Stages of the **problem-solving methodology**

**6. Types and purposes of online communities** including social, work-based, project/interest-based that support the purposes of collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective identity

**7. Needs of online community members** that affect the nature of their websites, including access requirements (open or closed)

**8. Non-technical constraints** on website solutions, including privacy, copyright and human rights requirements and social online protocols

**9. Design elements** that influence the functionality and appearance of websites

**10. Design tools** for representing website solutions

**11.** Functions of **web authoring software** used to manipulate data

**12. Manual and electronic validation** techniques

**13. Formats and conventions** applied to websites in order to improve their effectiveness for intended users

**14.** Methods and techniques for **testing** that the solutions perform as intended

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| **1. Types, purposes and functionality of websites** that support information  exchange within online communities |

1. For each of the following types of websites **describe** how the site functions and the purpose of the site (e.g. exchange information, manage shared knowledge, etc.)

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| **Website** | **Function & Purpose** |
| Blog |  |
| Chat Room |  |
| Forum |  |
| Social Networking |  |
| Wiki |  |

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| **2. Types of networks** and the functions of their key hardware and software components |

**1. Describe** how a LAN is different to a WAN

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**2. Describe** how a Client/Server is different to a Peer to Peer network

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**3. Explain** how a Router is different to a Switch

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**4. Explain** the purpose of a Network Interface Card

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**5. Explain** the advantage of using a Wireless Access Point compared to a cabled network

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| **3.** Capabilities of **wired** and **wireless** communications technology to support local and remote communications |

For each of the following transmission media **describe** how the media functions and list the approximate data transfer rate, distance signals travelled and whether the signal is susceptible to interference

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| **Transmission Media** | **Function** | **Data Transfer Rate** | **Distance Travelled** | **Interference** |
| Fibre Optic |  |  |  |  |
| Twisted Pair |  |  |  |  |
| Microwave |  |  |  |  |
| Satellite |  |  |  |  |
| Radio Waves |  |  |  |  |
| Infra-Red |  |  |  |  |

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| **4.Hardware and software requirements for setting up websites** on servers  including operating system, web server software, protocols, security & proxy servers |

**1. Explain** how a Web Server is different to a Proxy Server

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**2. List** three features of Network Operating System

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**3. Describe** two functions of Web Server Software

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**4. Explain** how Encryption works and what threat it attempts to stop

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**5. Describe** how data is transferred differently on an Ethernet network compared to a TCP/IP network

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| **5.** Stages of the **Problem-Solving Methodology** |

**1. Draw** the Problem-Solving Methodology diagram

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**2. Explain** how Functional Requirements differ from Non-Functional Requirements

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**3. Explain** what a Solution Constraint is

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**4. Explain** how a Technical Constraint is different to a Non-Technical Constraint

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| **6. Types and purposes of online communities** including social, work based, project/interest based that support the purposes of collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective identity |

For each of the following scenarios indicate the type of online community and the main purpose of the community

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| **Scenario** | **Type** | **Purpose** |
| Members of a Walking Club want to be able to share information about walks around Melbourne |  |  |
| A group of Accountants needs to collate the financial information of a company |  |  |
| Supporters of a football club want to set up a site where they can communicate and feel part of a group |  |  |
| Members of the group want to post personal information about themselves along with photos and videos |  |  |
| Telstra created a customer only area where customers can view their bills, make payments and email the support department |  |  |
| The School has used the School logo and motto on every edition of the online newsletter |  |  |

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| **7. Needs of online community members** that affect the nature of their websites, including access requirements (open or closed) |

**1. Explain** how a website for an online community of teenagers may differ to an online community for older people

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**2. Discuss** reasons why a online community may wish to have part of their site closed access

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Melbourne Golf Club wishes to have a website that has a home page and then provides general information to visitors such as course details and contact us. They would also like to have a private member section where newsletters and bookings can be made.

**Draw** a site map for the site (showing both open and closed access)

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| **8. Non-technical constraints** on website solutions, including privacy, copyright and human rights requirements and social online protocols |

**1. Complete** the following table defining each term and giving an example how an online community can manage the situation

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| **Issue** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| Privacy |  |  |
| Copyright |  |  |
| Human Rights |  |  |

**2. Explain** what a Social Online Protocol is:

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**3. List** five Issues that Social Online Protocols need to be developed for:

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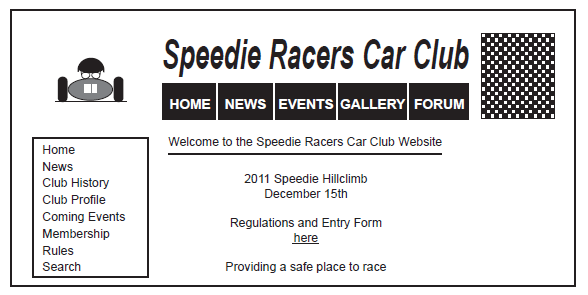
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| **9. Design elements** that influence the functionality and appearance of websites |

**1. List** Seven Design Elements

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**2. Describe** two appearance design elements that have been incorporated into the design above

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**3. Describe** two functional design elements that have been incorporated into the design above

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| **10. Design tools** for representing website solutions |

**1. List** two Design Tools for Appearance suitable for Web Authoring

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**2. List** two Design Tools for functionality suitable for Web Authoring

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To login to the Melbourne Car Clubs forum user’s first need to go to the site homepage, and then navigate to the member’s page, then enter a username and password to gain access to the Forum, gallery and chat pages

**3. Draw** a site map showing the structure of the webiste

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| **11.** Functions of **web authoring software** used to manipulate data |

1. Describe the following Web Authoring functions

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| --- | --- |
| **Function** | **Description** |
| Cascading Style Sheet |  |
| Relative Hyperlinks |  |
| Absolute Hyperlinks |  |
| Meta Tags |  |
| Alt Tags |  |
| Forms |  |
| Buttons |  |

**2. Explain** a technique used for laying out the structure of a web page

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| **12.** Manual and electronic **validation** techniques |

**1. Explain** what validation is?

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**2. List** when validation occurs

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**3. Discuss** how manual validation is different to electronic validation

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**4. Identify** one manual validation method & one electronic validation method that can be used in Web Authoring

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| **13. Formats and conventions** applied to websites in order to improve their effectiveness for intended users |

**1. Define** the term Format

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**2. Define** the term Convention

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**3. List** five Conventions followed in Web Authoring

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| **14.** Methods and techniques for **testing** that the solutions perform as intended |

**1. Define** the term “Testing”

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**2. Explain** how “Informal Testing” differs from “Formal Testing”

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**3. Explain** how Testing help improve the “Effectiveness” of a website

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**4. Indicate** in which stage of the Problem-Solving Methodology that tests are create

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**5. Indicate** in which stage of the Problem-Solving Methodology the tests are carried out

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