

TOPIC 13

Web Design

Planning, Designing, and Building Websites Using Recognised Authoring Tools

Senior Four | ICT | Author: Emmanuel Gidudu

Lesson Overview

- 1.1 Key Web Terminology
- 1.2 Categories of Websites
- 1.3 Website Authoring Software and Hosting Companies
- 1.4 Planning a Simple Website (Up to 4–6 Pages)
- 1.5 Designing the Page Layout and Key Design Principles
- 1.6 Adding Content — HTML Tables and Forms
- 1.7 Running, Testing, and Improving Your Website
- 1.8 Saving a Website and Keyboard Shortcuts
- Using Mobirise CMS to Build the XY High School Website
- Class Exercises 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and Homework Assignment

Quick Check: What Do You Already Know?

Answer TRUE or FALSE. Answers revealed at the end of the topic!

- 1. A website and a webpage are exactly the same thing. [T / F]
- 2. Every webpage you see in a browser is built on HTML. [T / F]
- 3. A static website changes its content automatically based on user actions. [T / F]
- 4. Mobirise requires you to write code to build a website. [T / F]
- 5. GitHub Pages offers free hosting for static websites. [T / F]
- 6. The <a> tag in HTML is used to create a hyperlink. [T / F]
- 7. In a URL, the 'https://' part is called the domain name. [T / F]

Introduction: The Internet and the Website

The internet has transformed how people access information, run businesses, and communicate.

At the core of this digital world lies the WEBSITE — a collection of interconnected pages that can be viewed by anyone with internet access.

In this topic you will:

- ✓ Learn the fundamental concepts and vocabulary of web design
- ✓ Understand how websites are planned, structured, and built
- ✓ Gain hands-on skills using recognised authoring tools (HTML/Notepad, VS Code, Mobirise)
- ✓ Design and build your own multi-page website

 **Think: Name ONE Ugandan website. What type is it? What is it used for?**

1.1 Key Web Terminology: Website vs Webpage

WEBPAGE

A SINGLE document displayed in a web browser. Written in HTML and may contain text, images, videos, links, and multimedia. It is ONE page.

WEBSITE

A COLLECTION of related webpages linked together under a common domain name. For example, www.kcb.co.ug contains many pages: Home, Contact, Products, and more.

Analogy — Think of a Physical School:

The school compound = the WEBSITE. Each classroom, the staffroom, the library, and the office = individual WEBPAGES within it.

Static vs Dynamic Websites:

Type	Description	Ugandan Example
Static Website	Content is fixed. Does not change unless the developer manually edits the HTML files. Every visitor sees the same content.	A simple brochure site for a local shop.
Dynamic Website	Content changes automatically based on user actions, database queries, or real-time data. Different users may see different content.	jumia.ug , nbs.ug , Airtel Uganda self-care portal.

1.1 Key Web Terminology (continued)

Term	Definition	Example / Analogy
Hyperlink	A clickable element (text or image) that takes the user to another page or website. Created with the HTML <a> tag.	On ura.go.ug , clicking 'Pay Taxes Online' is a hyperlink to the e-payment portal.
HTML	HyperText Markup Language — the standard language for creating and structuring content on webpages. Uses tags: <h1>, <p>, , <a>.	Every webpage you see in a browser is built on HTML.
URL	Uniform Resource Locator — the full web address of a specific resource on the internet.	https://www.mubs.ac.ug/admissions/apply
Web Server	A powerful computer that stores website files and sends them to users who request them.	The restaurant kitchen — it prepares and delivers the food (webpage).
Web Client	The device and browser that requests and displays web content.	Your laptop/phone running Chrome or Firefox.
Web Browser	Software to access and display webpages. Interprets HTML, CSS, JavaScript.	Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari, Opera Mini (popular in Uganda).
Web Hosting	Service of storing website files on a server so the site is accessible 24/7.	HostPinnacle Uganda, Afrihost, Bluehost, GitHub Pages.
CMS	Content Management System — allows users to create and publish website content without deep coding knowledge.	WordPress, Wix, Mobirise, Drupal, Shopify.

Anatomy of a URL

A URL (Uniform Resource Locator) is the full web address used to locate a specific resource on the internet. Each part has a specific meaning:

Part	Example	Meaning
Protocol	https://	Secure connection method (HTTP or HTTPS). The 'S' means encrypted.
Domain Name	www.mubs.ac.ug	The address of the web server — tells your browser which server to contact.
Path	/admissions/apply	The specific page or resource location within the website.
Full URL Example	https://www.mubs.ac.ug/admissions/apply	Complete address of the admissions page at Makerere University Business School.

 **Quick Practice: Break this URL into its parts:**

<https://www.ura.go.ug/taxes/register>

Basic HTML Structure You Must Know:

```
<!DOCTYPE html> <html> <head><title>Page Title</title></head>
<body><h1>Welcome</h1><p>Paragraph.</p><a href='contact.html'>Contact Us</a></body> </html>
```

➡ Class Exercise 1.1 — Web Terms Match-Up

Work through all four tasks as directed by your teacher:

1. Task 1 — Match each term to its definition (teacher provides on board): Website | URL | CMS | Web Server | Static Website.
2. Task 2 — Visit www.ura.go.ug on the school computers. Identify and write down: (a) the domain name, (b) three hyperlinks on the home page, (c) whether it is a static or dynamic website. Give reasons.
3. Task 3 — In pairs, list FIVE websites used by Ugandan businesses or government agencies. Classify each as static or dynamic. Share findings with the class.
4. Task 4 — Sketch a simple diagram showing the relationship between: a User (web client) → Browser → Internet → Web Server. Label each component.

Expected answers for Task 2: Domain = [ura.go.ug](http://www.ura.go.ug) | Dynamic (tax payments, personalised accounts, real-time data).

1.2 Categories of Websites

Websites serve different purposes. Understanding categories helps you decide what kind of website to build.

Category	Description	Ugandan Example
Blog	Regularly published articles/opinions in reverse chronological order.	chiefeditor.ug, Ugandan journalists' sites
Wiki	Collaborative site where users create/edit articles.	Wikipedia, WikiUganda
E-Commerce	Buy and sell products or services online.	jumia.ug, jiji.ug
News / Portal	Aggregates and publishes news and current events.	newvision.co.ug, monitor.co.ug, Nile Post
Educational	Learning resources, courses, and academic information.	mak.ac.ug, Khan Academy
Social Media	Connect, share content, and interact with others.	Facebook, Twitter/X, TikTok, WhatsApp Web
Government	Official public services, information, and policies.	gou.go.ug, ura.go.ug
Corporate/Business	Represents a company's brand, services, and contacts.	stanbicbank.co.ug, mtn.co.ug
Forum/Community	Discussion platform for questions and answers.	Nairaland (used in Uganda), Stack Overflow
Content Aggregator	Collects content from multiple sources in one place.	Reddit, Google News, Pulse Uganda



Scenario: What Category Would You Build?

In pairs, read each scenario and identify: (a) the website category, (b) static or dynamic, and (c) the CMS or tool you would recommend.

Scenario A

A group of S4 students at your school wants to publish articles about current events in Uganda, with new posts every week, allowing readers to comment.

Scenario B

A boutique clothing shop in Kampala wants to display its products online, allow customers to select sizes, pay with mobile money, and track orders.

Scenario C

The Uganda Ministry of Health wants a site with static pages about disease prevention, vaccination schedules, and hospital locations that rarely change.

Scenario D

A school's ICT department wants an internal site where teachers post homework, students submit assignments, and marks are published automatically.

1.3 Website Authoring Software

Authoring software refers to tools used to create, design, and develop websites. These range from visual drag-and-drop builders to professional code editors.

Software	Type	Description
Adobe Dreamweaver	Professional Code/Visual Editor	Industry-standard tool with both visual and code editing modes. Used by professionals.
Visual Studio Code (VS Code)	Code Editor	Free, lightweight editor by Microsoft. Widely used for HTML, CSS, JavaScript. RECOMMENDED for learners.
Notepad / Notepad++	Basic Code Editor	Simple editors for writing raw HTML. Excellent for beginners to understand code fundamentals.
Wix	Visual Cloud-Based Builder	Drag-and-drop builder — no coding required. Hosted on Wix's servers.
WordPress (with page builders)	CMS with Visual Editing	Use themes and plugins (Elementor, Gutenberg) to design pages visually.
Mobirise	Offline Visual Builder	Free, offline drag-and-drop builder. Bootstrap-based. Responsive by default. Used in this topic.
Sublime Text / Atom	Code Editor	Feature-rich editors used by many web developers. Atom has built-in Git support.

 **Discussion:** What is the difference between writing HTML by hand vs using a drag-and-drop builder? What are the pros and

1.3 Common Web Hosting Companies

Web hosting is the service of storing website files on a web server so the site is accessible on the internet 24/7. Hosting is usually paid monthly or annually.

Company	Website	Notes
HostPinnacle Uganda	hostpinnacle.co.ug	LOCAL — affordable hosting for Ugandan users and businesses.
Afrihost	afrihost.com	Reliable African hosting provider with good East Africa coverage.
Bluehost	bluehost.com	Popular international host, especially good for WordPress sites.
NameCheap	namecheap.com	Affordable domains and hosting. Good for beginners.
GoDaddy	godaddy.com	One of the world's largest domain registrars and hosting providers.
GitHub Pages	pages.github.com	FREE hosting for static sites — ideal for students and developers.
Netlify	netlify.com	Free hosting for static and simple dynamic sites — great for students.

Key Concept: Domain Name = the address (e.g. myschool.ug). Hosting = the space where your files live. You need BOTH to have a live website.

Content Management Systems (CMS) — Compared

CMS Platform	Description	Best For / Ugandan Context
WordPress	Most popular CMS globally. Free and open-source, with thousands of themes and plugins.	Ugandan NGOs, schools, blogs. Some UNHCR Uganda partner sites use it.
Joomla	Flexible CMS for complex websites. Free and open-source.	Government and institutional sites in East Africa.
Drupal	Powerful CMS for large organisations with complex content needs.	International organisations operating in Uganda.
Wix	Cloud-based drag-and-drop CMS. Good for beginners.	Ugandan small businesses and events companies.
Shopify	CMS designed specifically for online shops (e-commerce).	Ugandan online stores managing products and mobile money payments.
Mobirise	Free, offline drag-and-drop builder. Bootstrap-based, fully responsive.	Students and small organisations. Used in this topic.

 **Scenario: Your school has a limited budget. Which CMS would you recommend and why? (Consider cost, ease of use, and the features needed.)**

1.4 Planning a Simple Website (Up to 6 Pages)

Good design begins with thorough planning. Rushing into building a site without a plan leads to a disorganised, confusing result.

STEP 1 — Define Purpose and Audience

Ask: What is this website about? Who will visit it? What do I want visitors to DO?

Example: 'I am building a website for my school's Computer Club to share news, projects, and a contact form.'

STEP 2 — Plan the Site Structure (Site Map)

A site map is a diagram showing all pages and how they link. Example for a school website:

Page	Name	Key Content
Page 1	Home	Welcome message, school logo, navigation menu, brief intro
Page 2	About Us	History, photos, mission statement
Page 3	Academics	Departments, subjects, special programmes
Page 4	Admissions	Requirements, application steps, important dates
Page 5	News	Announcements, upcoming events, latest updates
Page 6	Contact	Contact form, email address, school location/map

Planning: Media Elements and Wireframes

STEP 3 — Identify Media Elements:

Media Type	Purpose	Example for School Website
Text	Provide information and descriptions	Club history, project descriptions, contact details
Images (.jpg, .png)	Make the site visually appealing	Club photos, project screenshots, school logo
Videos (.mp4)	Demonstrate or explain something	A short video of a project demo or school tour
Audio (.mp3)	Add ambience or information	A voice welcome message or background music
Animations (.gif, CSS)	Draw attention or show processes	Animated banner, loading spinner

STEP 4 — Sketch the Page Layout (Wireframe):

Before opening any software, sketch each page on paper. A wireframe shows WHERE elements will be placed.

- HEADER — site logo and name at the top
- NAVIGATION BAR — links to all pages (Home, About, Projects, Contact)
- MAIN CONTENT AREA — the primary information for that specific page
- SIDEBAR (optional) — secondary information, recent posts, or links
- FOOTER — copyright information, social media links, contact info

➡ Class Exercise 1.2 — Website Planning

Plan a 4-page website for a real Ugandan business or school club of your choice.

1. Task 1 — Choose a real Ugandan business or school club and complete a planning table with: Purpose, Target Audience, Page Names, and Media Elements needed for each page.
2. Task 2 — Draw a site map on paper showing how your 4 pages will link to each other. Use boxes for pages and arrows for links.
3. Task 3 — Sketch a wireframe for your Home page and your Contact page. Label all sections: header, nav bar, content area, sidebar (if any), footer.
4. Task 4 — Compare your wireframe with a classmate's. Discuss: What is similar? What is different? What improvements can you suggest to each other?

REMINDER: Good planning prevents poor performance. Professional web designers spend MORE time planning than building!

1.5 Key Web Design Principles

Good web page design follows established principles that make the site attractive, easy to navigate, and accessible.

Principle	Meaning	Practical Tip
Alignment	Elements should be lined up consistently to create order.	Align all text to the left or centre — avoid mixing alignments randomly.
Contrast	Use contrasting colours, sizes, or fonts to make important elements stand out.	Use dark background with light text, or vice versa, for readability.
Repetition	Repeat visual elements (colours, fonts, styles) across pages for consistency.	Use the same heading font and colour on every page.
Proximity	Group related items close together to show they are connected.	Keep navigation links together; keep contact info together.
White Space	Leave empty space around elements so the page does not feel cluttered.	Do not fill every centimetre — give content room to breathe.
Readability	Text must be easy to read — appropriate font size, colour, and contrast.	Use minimum 14px for body text. Avoid decorative fonts for paragraphs.

Design Best Practices for School Websites: Use 2–3 colours max | Clean readable font | Good contrast | Consistent navigation | Real photos over clip art.

1.6 Adding Content — HTML Tables

Tables organise data into rows and columns. Ideal for schedules, price lists, comparison charts, and results.

HTML Table Example:

```
<table border="1">
  <tr>
    <th>Name</th>
    <th>Subject</th>
    <th>Score</th>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Amina Nakato</td>
    <td>ICT</td>
    <td>87</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

Key HTML Table Tags:

- `<table>` — Creates the table container.
- `<tr>` — Table Row. Each row is one horizontal line of data.
- `<th>` — Table Header cell. Text appears BOLD by default.
- `<td>` — Table Data cell. Regular data in each row.
- `border='1'` — Adds a visible border around cells.

1.6 Adding Content — HTML Forms

Forms allow visitors to input and submit information — contact forms, registration forms, feedback forms.

HTML Form Example:

```
<form action='submit.php' method='post'>
  <label>Name:</label><br>
  <input type='text' name='fullname'><br>
  <label>Email:</label><br>
  <input type='email' name='email'><br>
  <label>Message:</label><br>
  <textarea name='message'></textarea><br>
  <input type='submit' value='Send Message'>
</form>
```

Key Form Input Types:

Type	Use
text	Single-line text (names, usernames)
email	Email with auto-validation
password	Hidden text for passwords
radio	Select ONE from several options
checkbox	Select ONE or MORE options
submit	Button to submit the form
textarea	Multi-line text (messages)
select	Dropdown list

 **Think: What happens if a user types text into an email field? What should happen? This is called FORM VALIDATION — important for data quality.**

1.7 Running, Testing, and Improving Your Website

After building, you MUST test before publishing. A broken website damages credibility.

Testing Checklist:

- ✓ Open every page in at least TWO different browsers (Chrome and Firefox) to check display.
- ✓ Click every hyperlink — ensure no broken links. A broken link sends users to an error page.
- ✓ Submit the contact form with test data. Check it accepts valid inputs and rejects invalid ones.
- ✓ View the website on different screen sizes — desktop, tablet, and mobile phone.
- ✓ Check all images, videos, and audio files load correctly.
- ✓ Check spelling and grammar on all pages.
- ✓ Check load speed — pages should open quickly.

Common Mistakes to Fix:

Broken image links (missing files) | Missing closing HTML tags (</div>, </p>) | Incorrect file paths | Forms that do not validate input | Text that overflows on mobile screens.

1.8 Saving a Website and Key Keyboard Shortcuts

Saving a Webpage in a Browser (Ctrl + S):

- Webpage, Complete — saves the HTML file PLUS a folder with all images and assets.
- Webpage, HTML Only — saves only the HTML file (no images).
- Webpage, Single File (.mhtml) — saves everything in one file.

Action	Shortcut	Action	Shortcut
Save file	Ctrl + S	Find and replace	Ctrl + H
Open file	Ctrl + O	Format document (auto-indent)	Shift + Alt + F
New file	Ctrl + N	Open terminal in VS Code	Ctrl + ` (backtick)
Comment/uncomment line	Ctrl + /	Preview HTML (Live Server)	Alt + L, Alt + O
Duplicate line	Alt + Shift + Down	Print page (in browser)	Ctrl + P
Move line up/down	Alt + Up/Down Arrow	Open browser developer tools	F12
Select all	Ctrl + A	Open new browser tab	Ctrl + T
Undo / Redo	Ctrl + Z / Ctrl + Y	Refresh browser	Ctrl + R / F5
Save page as (browser)	Ctrl + S	Zoom in / out in browser	Ctrl + Plus / Ctrl + Minus

🔑 Class Exercise 1.3 — Build a Simple HTML Website

Use VS Code or Notepad++ to build a 4-page HTML website based on your Exercise 1.2 plan.

1. Create 4 HTML pages. Each page must include: a heading, navigation links to all other pages, at least one image, and body text.
2. On your Contact page, add a form with fields for Name, Email, and Message, and a Submit button.
3. On your Projects page, add an HTML table showing at least 3 projects with columns: Project Name | Description | Year.
4. Save all pages in one folder. Open index.html (Home page) in Chrome. Test ALL navigation links.
5. Switch to Firefox and view the same pages. Note any differences in appearance between browsers.
6. Press F12 (Developer Tools) in Chrome. Check the Console tab for any errors and fix them.
7. Print your Home page using Ctrl + P. Save using Ctrl + S and select 'Webpage, Complete'.

Using Mobirise CMS to Build the XY High School Website

What is Mobirise?

Mobirise is a FREE, OFFLINE website builder that lets you construct pages by stacking pre-designed sections called BLOCKS — much like assembling Lego bricks. Because it is built on the Bootstrap framework, every site is automatically mobile-friendly (responsive).

Key Advantages for Beginners:

- ✓ No coding knowledge required — everything is drag-and-drop
- ✓ Pre-built blocks for headers, galleries, forms, footers, and more
- ✓ All sites are responsive out of the box — looks good on phones and computers
- ✓ Free to download and use for most features
- ✓ Works on both Windows and macOS
- ✓ OFFLINE — students can work without internet access during class

TEACHER NOTE: Pre-download the Mobirise installer on a USB drive or shared folder before the lesson to avoid bandwidth delays during class.

Mobirise — Installation and First Launch

Step	Action	Details
1	Download	Visit mobirise.com and download the installer for your operating system (Windows or macOS).
2	Install	Run the downloaded file and follow the on-screen prompts. Installation usually takes less than one minute.
3	Launch & Sign Up	Open the application. When the login dialog appears, click USE LIMITED VERSION. Register for a free account using a valid email address. You will receive an email with your password.
4	New Project	Click the top-left menu icon → Sites → Create New Site. Choose a template or Add Blank Page. A blank Home page opens — you are ready to build!

Understanding the Mobirise Interface — 6 Key Controls:

Control	Name	What It Does
Top-Left Menu Icon	Sites Menu	Manage pages, switch projects, access themes and extensions.
Red + Button (Bottom Right)	Add Block	Opens the block library — your main building tool. Find headers, galleries, forms, footers.
Blue Brush Button (Bottom Right)	Style Editor	Globally change colour scheme, fonts, and theme for the entire site.
Red Arrow Button (Bottom Right)	Preview	Preview your site in a browser window.

Project: XY High School Website — Page Plan

Before opening Mobirise, gather and organise all content. Good websites start with good content planning.

#	Page	Purpose	Key Content Needed
1	Home	First impression & overview	Header with school name & nav, welcome message, vision statement, quick highlights.
2	About Us	School story and values	School history, mission statement, leadership team (names and titles).
3	Academics	Curriculum overview	Academic departments list, description of special programmes.
4	Admissions	Guide for new families	Admission requirements, step-by-step application process, important dates.
5	News	Share updates	Latest announcements: Sports Day, Debate win, Parent–Teacher meetings.
6	Contact	Allow visitors to reach the school	Address, phone, email, and a contact form with notification email set.

Media Assets Checklist:

School logo (PNG, transparent background) | Hero image (school building or grounds) | Leadership team photos | Student activity photos (classes, sports, events) | Optional: Welcome video from the principal

Building the Website — Step by Step in Mobirise

1. STEP 1 — Create New Site: Open Mobirise → click USE LIMITED VERSION → Top-left menu → Sites → Create New Site → choose a template or Add Blank Page.
2. STEP 2 — Edit the Menu Bar: Click any menu item in the header. Delete the existing text and type your page name. To ADD a menu item, click a menu item then click the + icon that appears. To REMOVE, click the trash-can icon.
3. STEP 3 — Edit Text: Click on any text to edit it directly. Use the Text dropdown (Title 1, Title 2, Title 3, Text) to change text size. Use the Style Editor pane to adjust font and size.
4. STEP 4 — Change Text Colour: Click the text → click the black circle (colour picker) in the toolbar that appears → choose a colour from the gallery.
5. STEP 5 — Add a Logo: Select the header block → click the gear icon → turn ON the Logo toggle → click the Mobirise logo to replace it → Browse Computer → select your school logo file → click OK.
6. STEP 6 — Add New Pages: Top-left menu → Pages → + Create New Page → type the page name (e.g. Academics) → choose a theme. Repeat for all 6 pages.

Mobirise — Linking Pages, Images, and Media

Linking Pages (Hyperlinks in Mobirise):

- Go to the Home page → click on a menu item in the header (e.g. Academics) → click the Link button (chain icon) in the toolbar that appears.
- The 'Link to' dialog box opens → select the Pages tab → choose the correct page from the Site Pages dropdown → click INSERT LINK.
- Repeat for every menu item on every page. This is what makes navigation work!

Adding/Changing Images:

Click on any image block → click the gear icon → select Image radio button (under Background) or click the image placeholder directly → Browse Computer → select your image → click OK. Use the slider to resize.

Adding Video:

Click the red + button → find a Video/Media block → add it to the page → paste a YouTube/Vimeo link OR upload an MP4 file directly.

TEACHER NOTE: Linking pages via the menu is where students most commonly get confused. Students must click the menu ITEM, not the block itself. Demonstrate this live twice.

Mobirise — Populating Each Page

Use the table below as a quick-reference guide when building each page:

Page	Recommended Blocks & Key Actions
Home	Header block (school name, logo, nav). Hero/Intro block (welcome message, vision). Features block (quick highlights: 800+ students, est. 2005, motto).
About Us	Content block for school history & mission text. Team/People block for leadership profiles — upload photos, add names and job titles.
Academics	Lists or Features block for academic departments. Text block to describe special programmes and labs.
Admissions	Numbered List block for application steps (Step 1, Step 2...). Text blocks for requirements and important dates.
News	Cards or Blog block — ideal for news snippets with title, short description, and image. Create one card per announcement.
Contact	Form block — add a pre-built contact form. CRITICAL: click the gear icon on the form and enter the school email address for notifications. Add a Text block for address, phone, and email.

CRITICAL: On the Contact page, students MUST enter a notification email address in the form block gear settings — otherwise, no contact messages will ever be received.

Mobirise — Styling, Rearranging, and Publishing

Styling Your Website (Brand Consistency):

Click the blue Brush button (Style Editor) → Choose a preset colour theme → Select font pairing (one for headings, one for body text) → Adjust as needed. Changes apply to the ENTIRE site.

Rearranging and Removing Content:

Remove a block: Hover over it → click the trash-can icon. | Move a block: Hover → use arrow icons (up/down). | Remove a page: Top-left menu → Pages → hover → trash-can icon. NOTE: The Home page CANNOT be deleted.

Publishing Your Website:

Method	Cost	Best For	How It Works
mobirisesite.com	Free, instant	Testing & sharing drafts	Gives a temporary subdomain. Good for previewing. Not suitable as a permanent school site.
Local Drive Folder	Free	Backup & manual hosting	Saves all HTML/CSS/image files to your computer. Upload to any host later using FTP (FileZilla).
FTP Upload	Requires paid hosting	Live, professional school site	Purchase domain + hosting plan, enter FTP credentials, Mobirise uploads directly to the live server.

XY High School Website — Project Checklist

Tick each item as you complete it. Do NOT move to the next phase until the previous one is done.

Phase	Task	Done
Prepare	Gather all text content: welcome message, vision, history, departments, news, contact details.	☐
Prepare	Collect media: school logo, building photo, staff photos, student activity images.	☐
Build	Install Mobirise and sign in to a free account.	☐
Build	Create a new project and add all 6 pages: Home, About Us, Academics, Admissions, News, Contact.	☐
Build	Add a Header block to the Home page with school name, logo, and navigation menu.	☐
Build	Link each menu item to its corresponding page using the Link dialog.	☐
Populate	Fill each page with the correct content blocks (text, images, lists, forms).	☐
Populate	Add a Contact Form to the Contact page and set the notification email address.	☐
Style	Open the Style Editor. Choose a consistent colour theme and font pairing.	☐
Publish	Click Publish → Local Drive folder → test in browser. Share link with teacher.	☐



Scenario: Your School Wants a Website

Your school has decided to create a website to share news, publish exam results, display the timetable, and provide a contact form for parents. The school has a LIMITED BUDGET and prefers a free or low-cost solution. You have been chosen as the student representative on the website development committee.

Discussion Questions (in groups of 3):

1. What CATEGORY of website would the school website be? Explain your answer with reasons.
2. Would you recommend a STATIC or DYNAMIC website for the school? Justify your choice.
3. Which CMS would you suggest? Give at least TWO reasons for your choice.
4. Plan the website structure: list the page names and describe the content on each page.
5. Identify all media elements needed and WHERE they would be used on the site.
6. Which web hosting option would you recommend given the budget constraints? Why? (Hint: GitHub Pages or Netlify offer free static hosting.)

Homework Assignment

1. Task 1 — Website Analysis Report: Research and write a one-page report on any one Ugandan company website (e.g., mtn.co.ug, monitor.co.ug, or ura.go.ug). Your report must address: (a) What category is the website? (b) Is it static or dynamic? (c) What CMS do you think it uses and why? (d) Identify FIVE good design features and TWO areas for improvement.
2. Task 2 — Hosting Research: Find at least THREE web hosting companies operating in Uganda. For each, write: the website URL, the hosting package for beginners, and the approximate monthly cost.
3. Task 3 — Personal Profile Page: Using any website builder (Wix free plan or GitHub Pages), build a simple personal profile page with: your name, a short bio, your hobbies, ICT skills, and a contact email. Share the live link with your teacher.
4. Task 4 — Extension (Higher-Order): Research what FTP means. Write a step-by-step explanation of how a web developer would move a site from their local computer to a live server using FTP software like FileZilla.

DUE: Next ICT lesson. Tasks 1 and 2 in written form. Task 3 — share your website link via email or school platform.

Discussion & Extension Questions

Understanding:

- What is the difference between a website builder like Mobirise and writing HTML/CSS by hand? Advantages and disadvantages of each?
- Why is it important to plan your website CONTENT before you start building?
- What does 'responsive design' mean, and why does it matter in Uganda where most users access the web via smartphone?

Application:

- How would the XY High School website look different if designed for students versus parents? What changes in content and design?
- What additional pages might a school website need beyond the six we built? Justify each one.
- How would you improve the contact form to collect more useful information from visitors?

Extension (Higher-Order Thinking):

- Compare Mobirise to Wix. Create a comparison table of features, cost, ease of use, and control over code.
- How does the choice of colour, font, and imagery on a school website affect the school's reputation and first impression?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Block	A pre-designed section in Mobirise (e.g. header, gallery, form) added to a page.
Bootstrap	A popular front-end framework providing responsive grid layouts and UI components.
CMS	Content Management System — software allowing users to create and manage digital content without coding.
Domain Name	The human-readable web address of a site (e.g. www.xyhighschool.edu).
FTP	File Transfer Protocol — a method for uploading website files from a local computer to a web server.
Hosting	A service that stores website files on a server so they are accessible on the internet.
Navigation Menu	The set of links (usually in the header) that allow visitors to move between pages.
Responsive Design	A design approach where a website automatically adjusts its layout to fit any screen size.
Style Editor	The Mobirise tool (blue brush icon) that changes colours and fonts across the entire site.
Subdomain	A prefix added before a main domain (e.g. project.mobirisesite.com).
Wireframe	A simple sketch or diagram showing where elements will be placed on a webpage before building.

Opening Quiz Answers — Were You Right?

Statement	Answer	Explanation
1. A website and a webpage are exactly the same thing.	FALSE	A webpage is a SINGLE document. A website is a COLLECTION of related webpages under one domain.
2. Every webpage you see in a browser is built on HTML.	TRUE	HTML is the standard language for all webpages. CSS styles them and JavaScript adds interactivity.
3. A static website changes content automatically based on user actions.	FALSE	That describes a DYNAMIC website. A static site only changes when the developer manually edits the HTML.
4. Mobirise requires you to write code to build a website.	FALSE	Mobirise is a drag-and-drop builder — no coding required. It generates the HTML/CSS automatically.
5. GitHub Pages offers free hosting for static websites.	TRUE	GitHub Pages is free for static sites and is widely used by students and developers worldwide.
6. The <a> tag in HTML is used to create a hyperlink.	TRUE	The <a> tag with the href attribute creates clickable hyperlinks. e.g. Click here
7. In a URL, the 'https://' part is called the domain name.	FALSE	'https://' is the PROTOCOL. The domain name is the address like mak.ac.ug or mtn.co.ug.

End of Topic 13

Web Design

Topic Summary:

-  Websites are collections of webpages. Static sites are fixed; dynamic sites update automatically.
-  HTML is the foundation of every webpage. URLs have a protocol, domain, and path.
-  Websites are categorised by purpose: blogs, e-commerce, government, educational, and more.
-  Authoring tools range from raw HTML editors (VS Code) to visual builders (Mobirise, Wix).
-  Good design follows principles: Alignment, Contrast, Repetition, Proximity, White Space, Readability.
-  Always PLAN before building. A site map and wireframes prevent costly redesign later.
-  Test on multiple browsers and screen sizes before publishing. Fix broken links and errors.