What is a Responsive Website?

A responsive website is a website designed to automatically adjust its layout and content to fit different screen sizes and devices, like desktops, tablets, and smartphones, ensuring a consistent and optimal viewing experience regardless of the device used to access it; this is achieved through techniques like flexible grids, responsive images, and CSS media queries.

Key points about responsive websites:

- Adapts to different screens:
  The website automatically rearranges its elements to fit the screen size of the device being used, whether it's a large desktop monitor or a small mobile phone.
- Improved usability:
  Users can easily navigate and interact with the website on any device without needing to pinch or zoom excessively.
- Single codebase:
  Responsive design typically uses a single set of code that adapts to different screen sizes, simplifying development and maintenance.
- CSS media queries:
  A core component of responsive design, media queries are CSS rules that apply different styles based on screen size or other device characteristics.

Additional:

"Resolution switching" refers to the practice of dynamically serving different sized versions of the same image to a user based on their device's screen resolution, allowing the browser to choose the most appropriate image size for optimal viewing quality on various displays, typically achieved using HTML attributes like "srcset" and "sizes" within an <img> tag; essentially, providing a higher resolution image for high-resolution screens and a smaller one for lower resolution screens while maintaining the same visual content.

Revision #5
Created 2025-04-14 16:28:14 UTC by Patrick Obrecht
Updated 2025-04-29 20:18:00 UTC by Patrick Obrecht