

For this discussion, visit a few websites and document features and interface characteristics that you particularly like (and dislike). Share the URL(s) with the class. When responding to your classmates' posts, discuss what you believe are particularly good characteristics for a Web site to have as well as characteristics it shouldn't include.

I'm a very big fan of simplicity, that why Google is my favorite site. I have specifically avoided using the personalization features of Google simply to prevent cluttering my screen with unnecessary information. The only problem with Google's simplicity is that it's so easy to forget the search engine offers so many valuable services, like translators, news, analytics, and online word processing software. Google's new chrome browser has become my new favorite because its collection of large screen snapshots make browsing more visual:

<http://www.google.com/chrome>

But, again, features like bookmarks and options are not intuitively available. This hiding of features is preferable to Yahoo's strategy. Yahoo was once a great site for its simplicity; however, it has since become so overloaded with advertising all the services it offers that the site has become very cluttered.

Myspace is easily the absolute worst website online. So many people have fled its total chaos of videos, music, menu options, and nonsense for Facebook's relatively more conservative design. Facebook, however, can easily become overwhelmed with clutter depending on how many add-ons one uses on their page.

One of the most remarkable Internet success stories, though, has to be craigslist, with its simple, undistinguished collection of menu options, mostly abbreviated, I am in wonder at how successful it has become:

<http://newyork.craigslist.org/>