

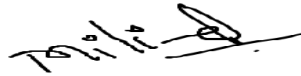
Subject:- Web Designing & Internet Applications

e-Content-L6: Designing the Ideal Navigation bar

SIR CHHOTU RAM INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
CH.CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY MEERUT
Self Declaration

“ It is hereby declared that E-Content submitted herewith, related to B.Tech 3rd Sem AG , Subject:- Web Designing and Internet Applications ,”**L-5” Designing the Ideal Navigation bar**” are meant for academic purposes and for enhancing the teaching and learning. Any other use for economic/commercial purpose is strictly prohibited. The users of the content shall not distribute, disseminate or share it with anyone and its use is restricted to the advancement of individual knowledge. The content being related to teaching & learning of under graduate courses are prepared with the help of existing literature available in different forms through offline and online portals. The content of the course are authentic and best of my knowledge.”

Compiled by



(Milind)

Dept. of Computer Sci. Engg
SCRIET,C.C.S University, Meerut
Mob:9410031124
Email-milindccsu@yahoo.com

Designing the Ideal Navigation Bar

So, with conventional best practices out of the way, how can you design a nav bar that's perfect for your brand? This comes down to a series of questions that you'll have to ask of your website, your brand, and your market.

➤ Start with a plan

The first step is to lay everything out and get a feel for which navigational elements are most crucial to your website. Look at your sitemap and get a feel for how many pages you have and how each page connects to the others. Wait to design your nav bar until you have these elements lined out, as they'll form the foundation for which links to include in your top-level navigation.

➤ Select a style

Navigation bars can rest anywhere on your website, usually sitting at the top, left side, or right side of your page. There's no "correct" choice for where to place it, as each style has its own advantages.

- **Horizontal Top:** Horizontal nav bars resting at the top of the page are the most common style— classic, popular, and intuitive for your readers. It's also amenable to responsive web design, great for pages that need to be viewed on differently sized screens.
- **Horizontal Bottom:** You can also include your nav bar at the bottom of your page. This is less common and is generally done when you want to place high-value, attention-grabbing images front and center.

Of course, there are additional concerns beyond this initial choice. For example, should you have your nav bar fixed at the top of the page or not? Fixed navigation bars typically work better for long-form pages where users will need to do a lot of scrolling, so keep that in mind as you consider how your nav bar will fit in your page.

- **Vertical Left/Right:** Nav bars that run the vertical length of your page are more modern than horizontal options, and they're able to accommodate more links. While horizontal nav bars work best fewer options, vertical nav bars give you more room and flexibility to build out options.
- **Hamburger Menu:** Made popular on mobile applications, hamburger menus are another option. They keep navigational options collapsed until users hover over the menu; this is ideal for mobile browsing where space is limited. However, as they obscure navigation options, they're not the best option for desktop experiences.

➤ Consider which elements to include

Now that you've selected a style, go back to your sitemap and select which categories to include. Here, you'll need to make further decisions, such as whether to include submenus for each option.

It can be tempting to create extensive submenus in the interest of giving information to readers, but tread lightly—users may get overwhelmed with too many categories.

Establish navigational cues

As we mentioned above, part of creating a great nav bar is creating an intuitive experience. Use navigational cues, such as including your primary brand logo in the top left corner of the page, and making the icon redirect users to your homepage. Most readers expect this, and it's annoying when a website ignores it.

You can alter your nav bar design to provide cues to readers as they browse. For example, highlight the active page in a different color or use subtle color gradients to indicate which pages the viewer has already visited. These are great final touches for helping readers orient themselves—regardless of where the nav bar lives.

➤ Building the Perfect Navigation Bar

There's no such thing as the perfect nav bar—but there are nav bars that may be perfect for your brand. Every nav bar should be designed with the website's target audience in mind. Any of the above strategies can be effective, but it's up to you and your design agency to figure out how best to leverage these elements.