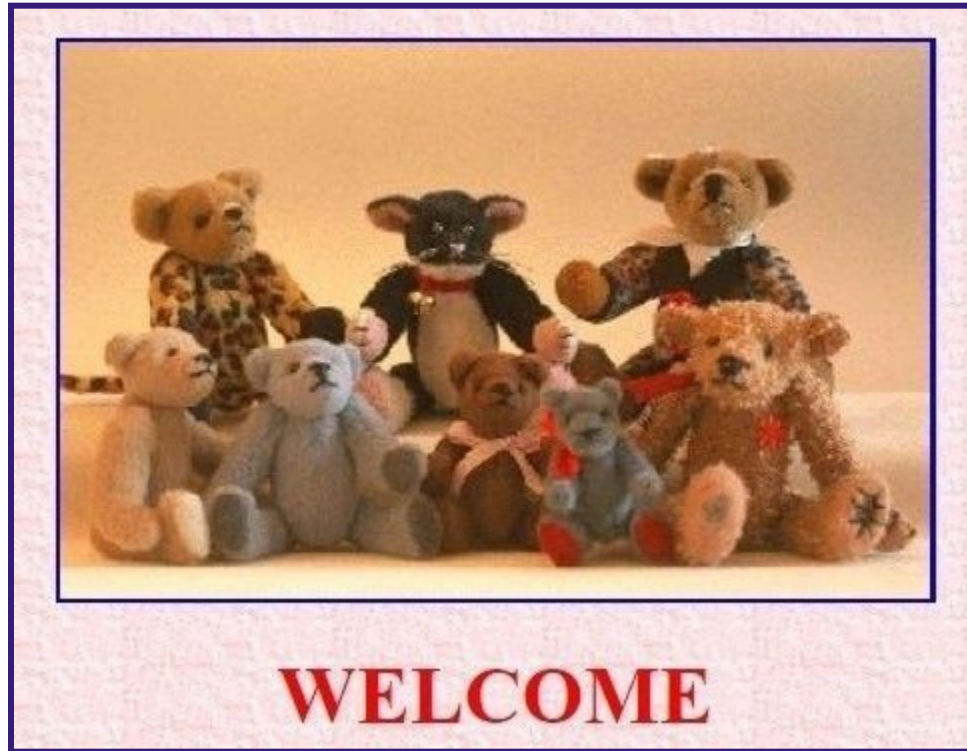# HALs Masterpost

Finally, [this must be the place](#).

This document will always be a work in progress. Community and compassion drives progression, feel free to message me helpful links and advice. Many of these links are not mobile responsive as they are designed for desktop. A lot of webmasters for these sites tend to keep them optimised for desktop (this may be due to authenticity).

Websites and The Internet

From [Wikipedia](#), the free encyclopedia: **IndieWeb** is a community of people building software to enable personal independently hosted websites to maintain their social data on their own web domains rather than on large, centralised social networking services.

The IndieWeb is based on 10 core principles.

1. Own your data
2. Use & publish visible data for humans first, machines second.
3. Make what you need.
4. Use what you make.

5. Document your stuff.
6. Open source your stuff.
7. UX and design is more important than protocols, formats, data models, schema etc
8. Modularity
9. Longevity
10. Plurality

and an informal eleventh: "Above all, Have fun."

The Internet in the 1990's to early 2000's was known as Web 1.0, "Static Web", or read-only web. It used to be a much quieter place, social media and blogs didn't exist yet. Surfing the net was adventurous and thrilling, never knowing what you'd stumble upon next! Every site was lovingly crafted "by hand" using HTML (HyperText Markup Language) and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). Your website was (and still can be) a dedicated spot online to showcase whatever you wanted. Unfortunately, the internet has given the A-OK for large corporations to blast you with ads and collect your data, doing everything to keep you engaged despite toxicity and making you pay for services that were once free.

THE SMALL WEB IS KILLING
SOCIAL MEDIA PROFITS!

VISIT
YESTERWEB.ORG
SO YOU CAN HELP

From my own personal perspective, reviving the Web is about promoting positive values such as creativity, humanity and togetherness. Also I really enjoy old web aesthetics. Using the internet used to be an exciting and fun endeavour. Let's bring that back! My aim with this PDF is to let you know that these skills are not out of reach and you deserve to carve yourself a space on the internet, provide you sources to get stuck in, and for me to share my findings with others. *You* have the freedom to choose how you spend your time on this earth, **not** a corporation or an algorithm.

Do you want a place that is uniquely yours? Do any of the ideas in this document resonate with you (check out the Web Manifestos section for more)? Still not convinced?

Old Websites Were Cooler, Actually
The small web is beautiful
Why YOU Should Make a Website!

I'd love to spend dedicated time working on my website (health, time management- I could go on). You can make a basic site in just a few hours, but I want to pour lots of time and attention into mine. *I'm fully aware that perfectionism limits action.* This masterpost is for myself too, but it'd be rude **not** to share what I've compiled. Having everything in one collective document is helpful.

“What would I even put on a website?”

The best part about making your own site is that you can do whatever you like! Focus on a specific subject or make it a collection of *all* your interests. Share your art! Make a shrine for one of your interests! Create a collection of your favourite blinkies! *Want to start a new hobby?* Making a site is one, but here is a Wiki list of hobbies, and a Reddit list here! Maybe you could write about your experience in trying some of these out in a virtual diary?

Web Manifestos:

melonking manifesto
reclaiming online social spaces - manifesto on cultivating online experiences in web-zine format
sadgrl internet manifesto
yesterweb internet manifesto - sadly defunct

HTML/CSS/JavaScript and Guides

32-Bit Cafe - An incredible Web-Weaving resource. Start here to personalise and use the internet differently!
Getting started with the web - Learn web development | MDN - Mozillas HTML/CSS resources
Home - Accessible Net Directory - Teaches how to make your site accessible, and provides a list of safe indie sites for disabled people.
HTML Guide | The Cave of Dragonflies
HTML, CSS, and JavaScript Tutorials, References, and Articles | HTML Dog
Learn to Code - for Free | Codecademy
Melon's Thoughts
Neocities - Tutorials - Make a NeoCities, learn HTML/CSS (send me your site, I want to see)!
Petrapixel - Personal site with resources!
Sadgrl.online - Web creation resource
W3Schools Online Web Tutorials - Free coding tutorials!

[99GIF shop](#) - 90's web graphics
[blinkie maker | generate blinkie gifs with custom text!](#)
[Bluesky](#) / [Mastodon](#) - Decentralised Social Media *(HAL isn't on these)*
🌿 [garlic](#) 🧄 [garden](#) 🌿 - What a webring is and how to make one!
[IndieWeb](#)
[Internet Archive: Digital Library of Free & Borrowable Texts, Movies, Music & Wayback Machine](#) - READ ONLY since 09/10/24. Removal of books/articles has affected the site from 04/09/24. **Please continue to support the archive during this time. It is integral to the internet.**
[Internet Button Archive](#) - 90's internet buttons
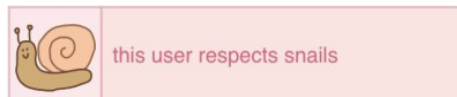[Marginalia Search](#) - Results that Google won't show you.
[One Terabyte of Kilobyte Age Photo Op](#) - See how GeoCities sites looked like *(some sites may be NSFW)*
[Project Gemini](#)
[SCM Music Player - seamless music for your website](#)
[SpaceHey — a space for friends.](#) - "Retro" themed online social media.
[The Old Net](#)

this user respects snails

General rule, when surfing the net, please use an [adblocker](#). **Think before you link!** Here are some tips from *KeeperSecurity*:

1. Hover your mouse over the link.
2. Use a URL checker.
3. Don't enter any data.
4. Don't click on anything on the site.
5. Disconnect from the internet.
6. Do a full scan of your device using antivirus software.
7. Keep an eye on your accounts.

(no relation to HAL, not even mutuals just found this post on Tumblr)

If you are going to browse the indie web or make your own website, I also have some more personal tips as a webmaster myself (I am not an expert and I am just a small hobbyist, so take me with a grain of salt!)

if you are making your own site:

- get expressive! truly make whatever you want! customise your corner of the internet to your heart's content! you have left the constraints of social media where every page looks the same. you have no character limit, image limit, or design limit. want to make an entire page or even a whole website dedicated to your one niche interest that no one seems to be into but you? go for it! want to keep a public journal where you can express your thoughts without worry? do it! want to keep an art gallery that looks exactly how you want? Heck yeah! you are free now! you will enjoy the indie web so much more if you actually use it for the things you can't do on websites like twitter, instead of just using it as a carrd bio alternative or a place to dump nostalgic geocities gifs.
- don't overwhelm yourself! if you've never worked with HTML/CSS or JS before, it may look really intimidating. start slow, use some guides, and don't bite off more than you can chew. Even if your site doesn't look how you want quite yet, be proud of your work! you're learning a skill that most people don't have or care to have, and that's pretty cool.
- keep a personal copy of your website downloaded to your computer and don't just edit it on neocities (or your host of choice) and call it a day. if for some reason your host were to ever go down, you would lose all your hard work! and besides, by editing locally and offline, you can use editors like vscode (very robust) or notepad++ (on the simpler side), which have more features and are more intuitive than editing a site in-browser.
- you can use ctrl+shift+i on most browsers to inspect the HTML/CSS and other components of the website you're currently viewing. it'll even notify you of errors! This is useful for bugfixing your own site if you have a problem, as well as looking at the code of sites you like and learning from it. don't use this to steal other people's code! it would be like art theft to just copy/paste an entire website layout. learn, don't steal.
- don't hotlink images from other sites, unless the resource you're taking from says it's okay! It's common courtesy to download images and host them on your own site instead of linking to someone else's site to display them. by hotlinking, every time someone views your site, you're taking up someone else's bandwidth.
- if you want to make your website easily editable in the future (or even for it to have multiple themes), you will find it useful to not use inline CSS (putting CSS in your HTML document, which holds your website's content) and instead put it in a separate CSS file. This way, you can also use the same theme for multiple pages on your site by simply linking the CSS file to it. if this sounds overwhelming or foreign to you, don't sweat it, but if you are interested in the difference between inline CSS and using separate stylesheets, w3schools has a useful, quick guide on the subject.
- visit other people's sites sometimes! you may gain new ideas or find links to more cool websites or resources just by browsing.

If you are browsing sites:

- if the page you're viewing has a guestbook or cbox and you enjoyed looking at the site, leave a comment! There is nothing better as a webmaster than for someone to take the time to even just say "love your site" in their guestbook.
- that being said, if there's something on a website you don't like, simply move on to something else and don't leave hate comments. this should be self explanatory, but it is really not the norm to

start discourse in indie web spaces, and you will likely not even be responded to. it's not worth it when you could be spending your time on stuff you love somewhere else.

- take your time! The indie web doesn't prioritise fast content consumption the way social media does. you'll get a lot more out of indie websites if you really read what's in front of you, or take a little while to notice the details in someone's art gallery instead of just moving on to the next thing. the person who put labour into presenting this information to you would also love to know that someone is truly looking and listening.
- explore! by clicking links on a website, it's easy to go down rabbit holes of more and more websites that you can get lost in for hours.
- Seeking out fan sites or pages for the stuff you love is great and fulfilling, but reading someone's site about a topic you've never even heard of before can be fun, too. I encourage you to branch out and really look for all the indie web has to offer.

RANDOM LINKS (idk where to put these):

14 Energy-Saving Cooking Tips When You Are Chronically Ill

Aesthetic Pomodoro Timer | Study With Me - Pomodoro Timer useful for study and/or neurodivergent folk who struggle with time management

Beginner's Guide to Medieval Arthuriana – @queer-ragnelle on Tumblr

Busy Beaver Button Museum

Cowboy Frank - Charming personal site, information on LGBT and cowboys, with a *large* archive of gay magazine scans from 70's-90's

CS50: Introduction to Computer Science | Harvard University - Free Harvard Course

Degrowth basics – @probablyasocialecologist on Tumblr

Didion.pdf - Joan Didion's essay: *On Keeping a Notebook*

Home of the Arthurian Preservation Project

Home - LGBT Foundation - UK LGBT Resource

Home - Reasons to be Cheerful - David Byrnes news site focused on positive stories, most surrounding environmental topics

INSTITUTION: Durham University | Durham University - Durham Universities Reading List

LESLIE FEINBERG - *Stone Butch Blues* free PDF

Linguistness' Masterlist for Language Learning

maia :3 - Website belonging to Maia Arson Crimew, a Swiss hacktivist
New to Solarpunk? Start Here! : r/solarpunk
Radiooooo - Ad-Free Radio Time Machine!
Resources for Mending Clothes - Upcycleability
Stretching for Back Pain Relief | Spine-health
Study Masterpost – @makabunni on Tumblr
Teddybears - Reddit to cheer you up!
text/me/gif generators – @syn4k on Tumblr
I Love Being Trans! (don't read their guestbook, it's rife with trolling, the site itself is fab)
You feel like shit. - An interactive self-care guide
Your phone is why you don't feel sexy - Article by Catherine Shannon
Zine Making

Remember this the next time you fall asleep to a TikTok playing on an endless loop: one day your heart will stop beating. The only thing that's eternal is love.

Catherine Shannon

Additional Notes:

HAL was recommended *How To Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy* by *Jenny Odell*, and *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* by *Shoshana Zuboff*. Other topics to update this masterlist with may include:

- Hacking (even if I don't know how currently, it's interesting to learn about)
- Indieweb/personalweb/"Old Internet"/Web 1.0
- Media archives
- Media Literacy, Critical Thinking and the rise of "anti intellectualism"
- Music Mixes
- Old internet graphic pulls, shrines and collections.
- Privacy/data usage. How much do you REALLY know?
- Queer art and support
- Right to information and education.
- Surveillance Capitalism
- Wiki deep-dives/Internet rabbit holes/Web Crawling/Surfing

"just… learn to change the oil in your car, know how to darn a hole in your favorite sweater, take no for an answer sometimes, accept when you don't know something, think critically, discern when to stand up for yourself and when to back down, possess integrity, hold yourself gracefully, be comfortable with eating alone and even more comfortable with being put in awkward positions, develop rituals and habits, observe as much as but hopefully more than you judge, talk freely but listen actively, if you offer unsolicited advice be willing to also receive it, apologize for interrupting I don't care if you grew up culturally doing that it's respectful to maintain awareness of the world you weren't raised in, shop with a grocery list rather than by the seat of your pants, pick your friends up from and drop them off at the

airport, have hobbies that hone your craft, speaking of honing your craft: take your creativity seriously by continuously challenging and sharpening it, this one can be endlessly trying but working to cultivate a healthy relationship with what troubles you rather than resorting to castigating yourself upon approaching that which is unfamiliar, never show up empty handed to someone's home for the first time, and help them clean up at the end of the evening, but leave as soon as you start wanting to go home so you don't tinge the otherwise enjoyable time you had with irritation, date yourself, do the dishes before bed, also make your bed every morning,

and clean parts of your home everyday, always seek knowledge beyond traditional education, move your body as much as it allows so you may sustain some sort of secure relationship with it as you age, judge the capacity as much as you do the intent, have a curiosity-driven mindset, know that you and the world you live in are mutable, value different perspectives but remain steadfast in your principals and beliefs, write by hand as much as you type, take initiative without prompting, seek help when and where necessary, learn to be financially literate, have friends who are significantly older than you (some of my dearest friends are in their 50s and 70s), learn from failures and setbacks by acknowledging and growing beyond your limitations, be the friend you wish(ed) you had by building and maintaining meaningful connections, embrace opportunities for personal and professional growth, recognize both the importance of compromise and when to choose discord over maintaining the peace, express gratitude regularly" - podencos

Physical Media

Be a preserver and observer. Tune into The Spilt Milk Podcast (episode airs 01/12/24) to listen to me and Vincent talk about physical media. Here are some ideas on how to embrace more physical media/analog living:

- Allow yourself a balance between physical and digital
- Allow yourself to "be bored". This one is tricky, the addition and urge to grab your phone is real
- Board games with family/friends
- Buy an alarm clock
- Buy CD's/DVD's
- Cancel subscriptions you don't use
- Cook using a cookbook not an online recipe
- Create things!
- Delete social media apps
- Don't let your mind be swayed by influencers/advertising
- Gardening or spending time in nature
- Get your information from people and books, no more "hey Alexa!"
- Have a themed day/week based on an interest
- Have a week or month of only consuming media physically.
- Is there an analog alternative? Wallet, timer, calculator, flashlight, etc.
- Journal
- Learn and relearn things
- Listen to music with radios, CD players, cassettes or turntables/hi-fi.
- Look into getting a dumbphone or stripping down your current device
- Make physical backups of documents
- Only allow essential notifications
- Physical activities or hobbies
- Physical hobbies
- Plan in-person meet ups
- Plan trips ahead of time (you'll see the world differently, you survived before Google Maps).
- Plan your days with a physical calendar, planner or post-its
- Puzzles
- Re-Think your morning routine
- Read physical books, go to your local library
- Screen time limit
- Shop secondhand
- Tea/hot drink grounding
- Time period of no social media.
- Use airplane mode
- Use old technology like cameras, watches and consoles.
- When you can, use cash not card
- Write letters instead of sending a text
- Write on paper

Understand that you will be inconvenienced, and that's okay. *Inconvenience isn't bad.*