

GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

BBC's Matt Clark on dynamic websites

Hi, I'm Matthew and I help build the BBC Sport website.

I'm part of a team that includes developers, testers, journalists and designers, and together we build the whole site.

When you start off building a website, you normally do it using HTML, and you make some really nice pages - but they're static, and updating the HTML all the time can be a pain. If you use a programming language such as PHP or Ruby, you can use databases to bring in the right content at the right time. On our BBC Sport website the vast majority is dynamic. The stuff that stays the same on the page, such as the heading and the colours and so on, it will be static. But all of the content that may change on the page, all the headlines and pictures and so on, that will be dynamic.

Different parts of the page will work in different ways, and typically each part of the page has its own database query to get that part. So you may have a story section and a photo gallery section and a football scores section, and each of them will be their own database query.