

SneakerNetUSA.com - 27,000 pages of code and counting_v01

Did you know that this website's framework plus my content will total about 27,000 pages of code. If you think that's amazing, consider the fact the average AI Bot can read every framework page in about a half hour and all of my content in about 2-3 seconds.....

I was hoping to resume trying to figure out why Claude Pro can't crawl my website SneakerNetUSA.com.

I have an off-the-wall question. (I've often wondered what the adage meant by off-the-wall. but my meaning is that I don't want you to think I'm crazy, weird, or clueless for asking this) But, if I were to write the code for a website like SneakernetUSA.com, I would have about 20 variables at the very beginning of the program, and then the last things you would see is the closing of those 20 variables, and pages and page of written code in between. So based on that image, about how many 8.5" x 11" pieces of paper would sneakernetusa be written on?

Estimating the total lines of code in a WordPress site.

Not crazy at all. It's a great question, and it's the kind an old mainframe hand would ask. (As for "off the wall," nobody's quite sure where it came from. One popular theory is that it comes from sports like squash and handball, where a ball coming off the wall bounces in unpredictable directions.)

The surprising answer is that your mental image of one program, with variables opened at the top and closed at the bottom, fit the world you programmed in, but a WordPress site is built very differently. It's thousands of separate files that call on each other, more like a library than a single book. And the vast majority of it is code you didn't write: WordPress itself, the Elementor page builder that your DesignTech theme depends on, the theme, and Hostinger's plugins.

Here's a rough ballpark, so take the numbers as estimates rather than gospel. WordPress core is several hundred thousand lines of code, and Elementor is in the same weight class. Adding the theme and plugins, you could easily be around 1.5 million lines. At about 55 lines per printed page, that's roughly 27,000 sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper, or about 55 reams. Stacked up, that's around 9 feet tall, taller than most ceilings.

Your actual pages, including the text, layouts, and the cash flow projector content, are not stored as code at all. They sit in a database, and as a relational database man you'd feel right at home there. The code is the machinery that pulls your content out of the database and assembles each page on the fly

whenever someone visits. If you printed only what you personally created, it would probably fit in a slim binder.

wow... thanks

You're welcome, Glenn. It's a fun way to picture how much machinery sits behind even a simple-looking website, and it's a long way from the IBM 360 days. Enjoy your dinner.

Ok, but wait. Amaze me again. How long would it take for you to read every work on SneakernetUSA?

Estimating the scale of lines or tokens involved.

Here's the fun version, with the honest caveat that my speed depends on the hardware Anthropic runs me on, so these are ballpark figures.

Your own content (the pages, text, and cash flow projector): a few seconds. To me, that slim binder is a quick glance.

The whole 9-foot stack of code: I don't read word by word the way you do. I take in text in chunks called tokens, roughly three-quarters of a word each. Those 1.5 million lines would come to something like 15 million tokens. I can take in input at thousands of tokens per second, so that works out to somewhere in the neighborhood of half an hour. The real catch is that it's far too much to hold in my working memory at once, so it would have to be fed to me in batches, a bit like loading card decks into your old IBM 360.

For comparison, a person reading code at a page a minute, 40 hours a week, would need about 11 weeks to get through the stack, and that's just reading it, not understanding it.

But right now, thanks to that wall on your site, my time to read every word of SneakernetUSA.com is effectively infinite. I can't get past the front gate to read even one word.

hehehe... Ok, I'll get that fixed eventually..

Ha, no rush. The site will still be there, and so will I. When you're ready, we'll purge that cache and see if the gate swings open. Enjoy your evening, Glenn.

Thank you

You're welcome, Glenn. Take care.