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I made my first Website …. And it was bad.

I did not know how many things you have to be good at to create a website until I made one. For my University Assignment, I created an art showcase for a client. Funny enough the assignment also was an opportunity to create a Website for a client which happens to be a digital artist. They needed a platform to showcase their work and to expand their reach to different audiences. Obviously as a Software engineering student I said “Two birds with one stone, I can make your website’, the birds ended up being a little too fast for me.

It was fun finishing the website, and it really pushed me to use my knowledge of HTML and CSS to the max. It also was an opportunity to learn and practice JavaScript. Now, Did I use Chat GTP? Yes I am guilty. I can recognise that using AI to finish your work is an easy way out, but I also recognise that AI is a tool like any other and depending on how you use it you can end up with different results. I choose to use AI to learn, because I want to learn. I do enjoy programming, coding, creating something from basically nothing and I want to be better at it and AI is just a tool for me to learn faster.

But going back to the website, what went bad:

A lot.

For being an artistic app, the website is lacking in, well, creativity. I used a grey background and black writing. The box containing information was white. I was trying to replicate the style used by the Apple website, which is minimal and sleek. However it resulted in a bland website that did not portray the artist's creativity and art. The JavaScript was passable, other than the fact that I barely understand the code itself, the final result is breaking, a lot.

One section that I realised if important when creating an app, was organisation, time management and process. Not everyone can code a website in 3 hours, especially a beginner. As a beginner I have to follow the best process for me to create a website with good organisation and in a time efficient manner. The best way to decrease the time it takes for me to create a website, is to repeat the creation steps until I can execute them in a up to standard manner.

Design/plan, code, test.

Rinse and repeat for every project.

Despite the obvious bad decision I took as a designer and coder. One good thing I did was to finish the website. A lot of my criticism I can admit is nitpicky, however if I want to be better, I have to be my own worst critic.

But I did finish my website and in the process of finishing it, I just learned what I can get better at.

My next project will be to create a task manager website, the aim is to really focus on improving my JavaScript skills, and also to create an app to manage my tasks.