Critical Log

Contents

Introduction

The given task for the module was to find and improve a 'band or brand' website, or alternatively create our own from scratch. I decided that I couldn't find a website to improve and that developing my own using HTML, CSS, and Javascript would help develop my skills better. The requirements of the website were that it be an online store which sells a number of products that can be customised by the user through Javascript.

This report covers what I did and how I developed the website, covering the strengths and weaknesses of the current web standards which is used to develop the website efficiently, how I made my website interoperable for a range of devices, and the techniques I used to develop the site. The report also covers the challenges presented during development and the how the best practises could be applied.

Link to Website

https://16608272.github.io

Website is hosted using Github so is can easily be updated in a few minutes if needed and doesn't cost anything. It is also easy to provide access to my website through Github and all of the files used in my website.

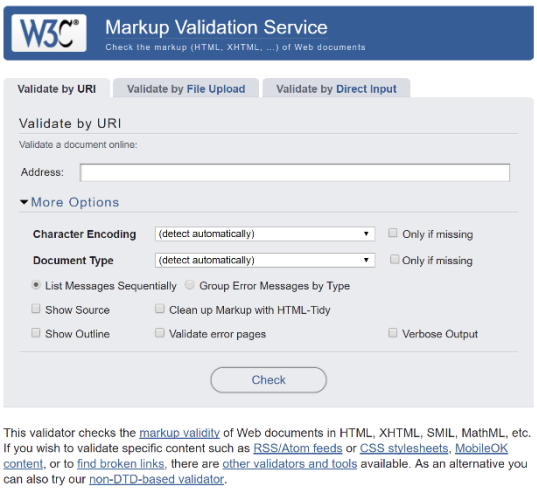
Strengths and Weaknesses of Current Web Standards

The current W3C web standards are a complex set of standards with the aim of 'standardising' the web. This is beneficial to web users because W3C compliant sites adhere to a standard that makes them compatible with a wide range of browsers and future-proofs them.

For web developers the standards are useful because there is less work to do to keep the website up to date for newer browser versions because they comply with the W3C standard. The standards also ensure that the same code can run and display properly on all browsers. It is also easy to undergo the validation process because the W3C maintain a service where code can be analysed, and errors can be pointed out.

On the other hand, inexperienced developers may have a hard time adapting to the standards as there are a lot of different rules, in addition to this, the errors that appear after attempting validation can often be vague and confusing if they are new. Furthermore, the standards do not cover what browsers cannot support certain features such as HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript.

Developing a website to follow these standards can be time consuming since you would still have to test on different browsers and devices, but the W3C standards do mean that the website has been coded well and efficiently even if the errors are sometimes seemingly unnecessary.



Interoperability

The website has been designed with interoperability considered, it has been tested on different devices and browsers to see whether it works. To ensure interoperability, there are a number of CSS media queries which adjust the layout of the website depending on screen size. There is also a sidebar that replaces a menu and the footer if the website is viewed on a smaller, mobile device for easier use.

```
@media screen and (max-width: 1240px) {
    .product-sidebar, .product-description{
      width: 100%;
      display: block;
      margin: 0px;
      margin-bottom: 10px;
    }
}

@media screen and (min-width: 661px) {
    .sidebarhidden{
      display: none !important;
    }
}
```

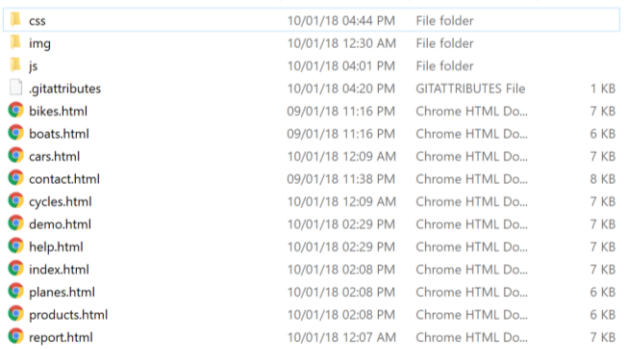
Techniques Used

Many different techniques have been used to enhance the user's experience. Through JavaScript the cart uses local storage so that selected products remain in the cart when the user revisits the website or visits a different page. There are also arrow buttons to select options and a drag and drop feature to add items into the cart. I also used jQuery and JSON for the JavaScript so that the shopping and the user interface would be better for the end user.

Challenges

One of the challenges was getting the website to adhere to the previously mentioned W3C standards as fixing the errors was difficult. Developing responsive CSS was also a challenge due to the time-consuming nature of having to test different versions if the website. It was also hard to debug JavaScript whenever there was a problem.

Good Practises



It was important to follow the W3C standard as that would mean that my website would be functional on most browser versions and it meant that the code would easily be readable. I also made sure that I maintained a good file management system, this meant all of the HTML files were together outside of folders, and that image assets, CSS, and JavaScript files were all contained in their separate folders so that adding new files would be easier and the file system is easier to use. I also decided to mostly use Dreamweaver to write the code as it is quicker than alternatives and managing the site is easier. Another practise that I carried out was to put most of the JavaScript into one folder, this is to make editing the website easier because there is a minimal amount of files. I also used a different CSS style sheet for better compatibility with Internet Explorer, as it is a browser that has different requirements but still sees quite a lot of use despite the lack of support, in the future it would have been ideal to create separate CSS files for different purposes instead of using only one main style sheet..

Conclusion

To conclude, the report has covered how the website satisfies user requirements using product customisation, drag and drop, and local storage. The techniques and practises I have used have been demonstrated and the interoperability has been discussed.