Aughdon Breslin and Robert Finke

Learning Module 7 - Making a Website

Initial Proposal

For this learning module, Aughdon and Robert are going to touch up on our HTML, and complete a fantabulous website for the hackathon. By the end of this module we hope to have finished this website and increased our knowledge of HTML.

We will use the code for the already existing Hackathon website from last year to set up a template for our website this year. We will also use multiple online resources, including video tutorials from YouTube and step guides from other websites.

We will both be involved with researching the intricacies of website development beyond a series of strings. We will both set up the basis of the website and learn about the different features we can add to make our website look official. For Days 1-3, we want to research and learn more about the intricacies of HTML. For Days 4-10, we will actually work on the website, referring back to the existing one. For Days 11-13, we will finalize the website, iron out any bugs or unkept areas and reach perfection Finally, for Days 14 - 16, we will check all of the features required, and when we finish we will experiment more with HTML or try something else.

1. Day 1 Log (2/28/19): We began reading through the guide below and setting up a new basic website. Aughdon got an image onto his demo and both Rob and Aughdon read through a significant portion, learning about different key words for features.
   1. <https://www.w3schools.com/html/>
2. Day 2 Log (3/1/19): Rob was rudely interrupting class as he came in 2 minutes late >:( Rob and Aughdon continued to read up on the website and each explored some features of HTML, Aughdon began work on a mock website, and Rob read over some of last years site
   1. At home (3/3/19) Aughdon progressed through the HTML tutorial and added elements and attributes to his elements for his mock website (8:00-9:00 am).
3. Day 3 Log (3/5/19): Rob and Aughdon continued to follow along the tutorial on W3schools and made more progress on determining the design of the site.
4. Day 4 Log (3/6/19): We looked through Vivian and Sam’s documents for how they navigated between files and set up an overall style for their website.
5. Day 5 Log (3/7/19): We worked on creating and formatting the site, “borrowing” the style they used until we can figure out how to set up our own
6. Day 6 Log (3/11/19): We were able to integrate multiple files into our “site,” and have links between each file to navigate.
   1. https://www.lifewire.com/edit-html-with-textedit-3469900
7. Day 7 Log (3/12/19): We talked about the video/response article for a little while before looking at various web hosting services. We found x10hosting but it looks like we need to include that in our website name.
8. Day 8 Log (3/13/19): We looked into registration, watched some tutorials in order to get the signups working properly, and looked into a bunch of source files to try and figure out what Vivian and Sam did.
   1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxqfwfQi0jk>
   2. <https://medium.com/@dmccoy/how-to-submit-an-html-form-to-google-sheets-without-google-forms-b833952cc175>
   3. <https://hackernoon.com/create-websites-using-google-forms-49a19cc8beb8>
9. Day 9 Log (3/18/19): Got the website actually hosted through x10hosting for free, as of right now you can visit hillshack.org and see the unfinished project. We were able to evade the .x10hosting extension at the end of the URL by using a feature for 1 free custom named site
   1. At home (3/18/19) Aughdon looked through CSS tutorials to try and figure out some of the features that make more developed websites look so clean (8:30-9:30 pm).
10. Day 10 Log (3/19/19): Audi continued to refine the website to make it more aesthetically pleasing, and Rob researched the use of the Google API to integrate a google form into the site. Both partners also looked at existing hackathon websites and hope to borrow some design ideas from some existing sites.
    1. At home (3/19/19) Rob worked for 1 hour to further explore the use of the Google API and google forms for registration. While having individual questions as done last year seems promising, there is also the option of embedding it directly into the site as described here: <https://www.bettercloud.com/monitor/the-academy/embedding-a-google-form-on-a-public-website/>
11. Day 11 Log (3/21/19): Implemented the website embedding option into the site. We will likely change it later, but for now it is there as proof of concept. We now have a straight Google Form on our site, but want to only connect the input boxes instead of the entire form.
    1. At home (3/21/19) Rob worked for 1 hour doing more research on the Google API, as despite the current registration process in place, I’d like to have it more fully in the site (like last year).
12. Day 12 Log (3/25/19): We looked into using a google app to send emails from the spreadsheet. We made the secondary email [hillshackcomfirmation@gmail.com](mailto:hillshackcomfirmation@gmail.com) because the app wanted literally every piece of data on the account. We also set up small CSSs within our files to format portions of our page. CSS allowed us to bold all paragraphs (and similar formatting things) without doing <b>boldedwords</b> or whatever else.
    1. <https://developers.google.com/apps-script/articles/sending_emails>
13. Day 13 Log ((3/27/19): The application from google did not work, so we moved back to scripting it ourselves. We also figured out how to position things in different ways. We could make it so that images and text would stay in the same spot despite scrolling up or down the page, as well as position text or image a certain number of pixels from the left, right, top or bottom.
    1. <https://medium.freecodecamp.org/get-started-with-css-in-5-minutes-e0804813fc3e>
14. Day 14 Log(3/29/19): Started looking into changing the favicon (the icon for the site shown on the tab), however did not have success changing it to the light bulb logo.
    1. (3/29/19): Aughdon tried to upload a favicon image into the heading of the website. I downloaded a zip file with a load of images that were supposed to be compatible in unison with some html lines, but it’s either a mac problem or I’m just missing something. I spent a lot of time going through tutorials and making sure everything was saved in the correct spots (8:30-10:30pm) to no avail.
15. Day 15 Log(3/30/19): Rob was out for college trip, Audie gathered and uploaded many previous HillsHack images to the website and also looked into the email confirmation.
    1. (3/30/19): At home Rob worked from 9:00-11:00 on the registration email automated response. So that when someone registers, it will send an email to the provided address. While is not fully functioning yet, Rob plans to finish it soon, or atleast over the weekend.
16. Day 16 Log(4/1/19): Looked into the favicon thing some more which absolutely refused to work. Online forums have been useless, people with the same problem either get advice that doesn't work or don’t get responses. Favicon is the small little image that goes at the top of the tab, i.e. for Docs it’s the rounded blue square with 3 white lines.

Final Report

The group members Aughdon Breslin and Robert Finke started this module with the goal of not only creating the website for the hackathon, but increasing our knowledge of HTML and the processes of creating a website. We also hoped to learn some css and javascript, however our emphasis from the start was definitely primarily HTML.

We used x10hosting.com to host the site, medium.freecodecamp.com to learn about css, bettercloud.com to learn about setting up the google form on the site. And alot of tutorials from w3schools.com in HTML and some javascript and css, w3 was by far our most valuable learning resource. As for the actual coding we used text files on the pc for html and css, and we used the google developer api which is done online to set up the email confirmation (which is in Javascript).

We encountered several setbacks throughout the project, the first and foremost being that neither of us actually knew HTML or Javascript. After many tutorials on w3schools we are both fluent in HTML, and have learned a fair amount in Javascript. We also encountered the problem that registration presents as we needed to implement it through google forms but did not know how. Through some research we discovered that we could embed it into the page, which is a secure solution to getting registration info.

We created the site for the hackathon, and while we plan on continuing to make changes to improve the visual and functionality of the site, as of right now those interested in the hackathon could go onto the site and register for the hackathon.

From the creation of this site, we both learned alot about HTML and what is involved with creating a website from scratch. We both learned more about css sheets and some Javascript as well as the effectiveness of embedded links. We also discovered google’s developer API which (although far less extensive than Amazon’s developer) still has potential to be a powerful tool in future projects.

If we were going to do this assignment again, we would have spent more time in the beginning researching things before jumping into website creation. (Although not, significantly more time, maybe one day, as both partners find learning by doing to be very effective). While we did some basics with css sheets in the site, that is something we would likely spend more time on in the future.

For someone else trying to build their own website from scratch, we highly recommend the tutorials on W3schools about HTML and Javascript. Regardless of the website type, these tutorials proved to be invaluable. I would also recommend using the same host as us from the start, and not doing much research on other potential hosts (we did that). X10 hosting worked really well, was intuitive to use, and free, so not wasting a day or two of the module on hosts could lead to a better site. We would also recommend to look to other websites, for example other hackathon sites, for inspiration.

We plan on continually working on this site, to upgrade features and make it look better. We plan on adding more pictures to the site, working with the formatting of the site, and potentially working with css sheets more. We also will implement the email response when someone signs up to the form this weekend, as we are very close to having it work.

To summarize the experience of making this website, we both learned alot about HTML, javascript, and general practices when making a site. We learned how to work together and break up tasks to maximize effectiveness. While there are several changes and upgrades to the site that we both still want to make, we are pleased with the current state of the site, and as of right now it could serve as a place for people to gather information and register for the hackathon.