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| Portfolio Evidence |
| Large rock formation in rocky landscape under blue sky |

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| 28/01/19 | Personal Website |

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| In this document I will be laying out the evidence and methodology used for creating a personal portfolio website. |

Portfolio Evidence

Personal Website

# Context

I am currently working on a farm and I am looking to move into the web development industry. As I am the only person in my company to be doing web development, my first goal is to find a new work placement to help further my career. As part of this, my first project will be creating a personal portfolio website where I can list my current achievements and a portfolio of my existing work.

## Objective

The objective of this project is to create a website that displays my talents as a web developer. While I already have an existing site, I do not feel it displays the full extent of my knowledge.

The current site is built using the Bootstrap 4 framework, and while it is easy to navigate and displays the information clearly, I feel it could use an update to bring it in to line with my current skill set. I intend to create the new site using HTML, CSS 3 and JavaScript as these are the languages I am currently focusing on.

#### Project Plan

For this project I will be following the Software Development Life Cycle (fig. 1). With regards to this, I will be following an Agile workflow methodology, as I feel it will allow for me to rectify any omissions or mistakes that occur during the development process.



Figure 1

# Planning

During the planning stage of this project I will be evaluating the tools I will require, the user requirements, the timescale of the project, as well as other items.

I began by creating user stories with a focus group of fellow web developers, to try and give me a feel for who may be using the site and what they were looking for. I then took the information from this focus group and created rough personas that embodied who I saw as the key users. I then created user stories for people who might use the site, to help me determine what the key features of the website should be. I then arranged an open card sort to help me arrange the features on the site, followed by a questionnaire that would give me feedback on the card sort.

Using the data gathered from the card sort and questionnaire I was able to go back and refine the personas, and update key features to be included on the website. #

The project being developed is a new website for Stuart White, that will be a personal portfolio of his work in web development. The information on the site will be a portfolio of his work to date, examples of his code and process. The target audience is going to be prospective employers and peers in the web development industry. The site will be a simple layout with no more that 5 pages. I will be conducting card sorting exercises, questionnaires, and focus groups for research purposes.

#### Evaluation of the current site

The current site is functional but doesn’t showoff Stuarts full ranges of skills and looks excessively simple in its design and implementation. The layout and colouring of the site are distracting from key elements, and it does not focus the user into key areas.

#### Learning about my users

### User Stories

The first stage in my evaluation and planning was to create user stories of those who I imagine would use my site. Below are some of the user stories I created for the project.

*As a user I want to be able to see what the site offers quickly so that I can see if I am interested in the content*

*As a prospective employer I want to be able to quickly find the CV so that I am not wasting time*

*As a prospective employer I want to be able to see example of previous work so that I can judge the quality of work*

*As a web developer I want to be able to see what other developers have been working on so I can see what is happening in my industry*

*As a prospective employer I want to be able to see who this site about and what they do*

*As a prospective client I want to be able to see the quality of work conducted so I can decide whether to use their services*

*As a prospective employer I want to be able to find contact details so that I can contact the website owner*

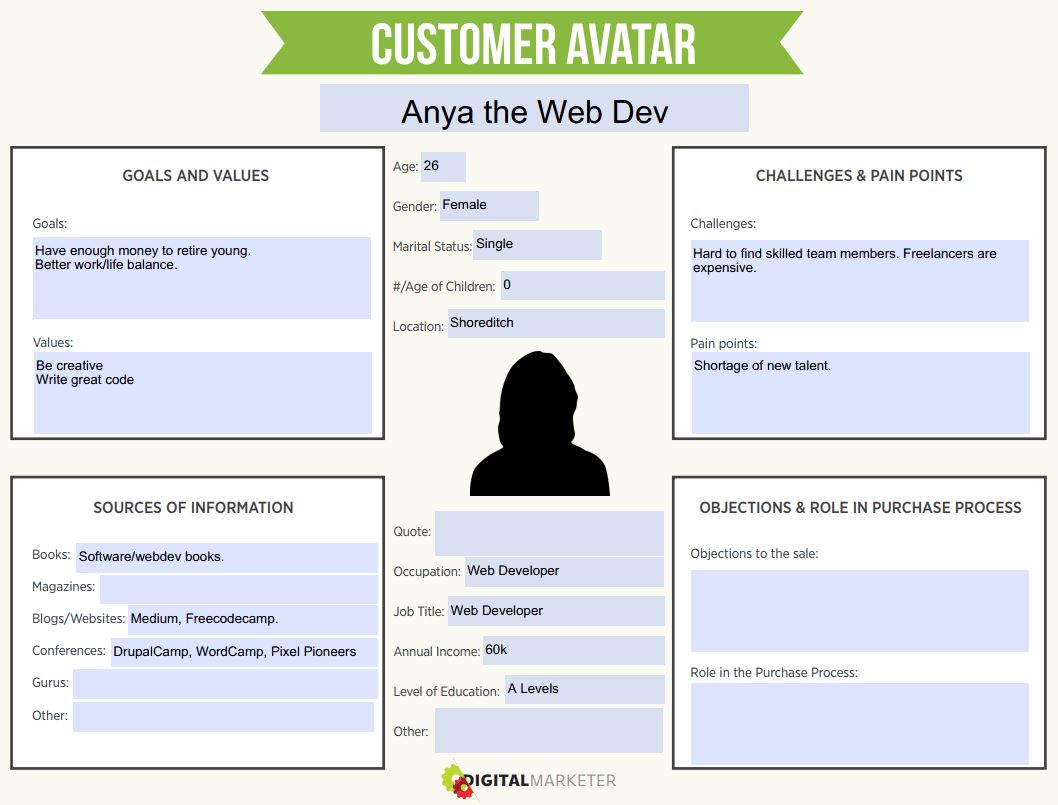
*As a web developer I want to be able to see previous work so that I can decide whether to use them in a project*

*As a developer I want to be able to see the quality of the persons code so that I can evaluate their skill*

*As a prospective employer I want to be able to see the persons work flow methodology so that I can decide if they will fit in with my company*

### Personas

Using the information gathered through the user stories, I then created personas of the most likely people to be interested in the content of the website. Below are two personas that I created, they have been updated and refined throughout this stage of the project, and these are the final iterations.



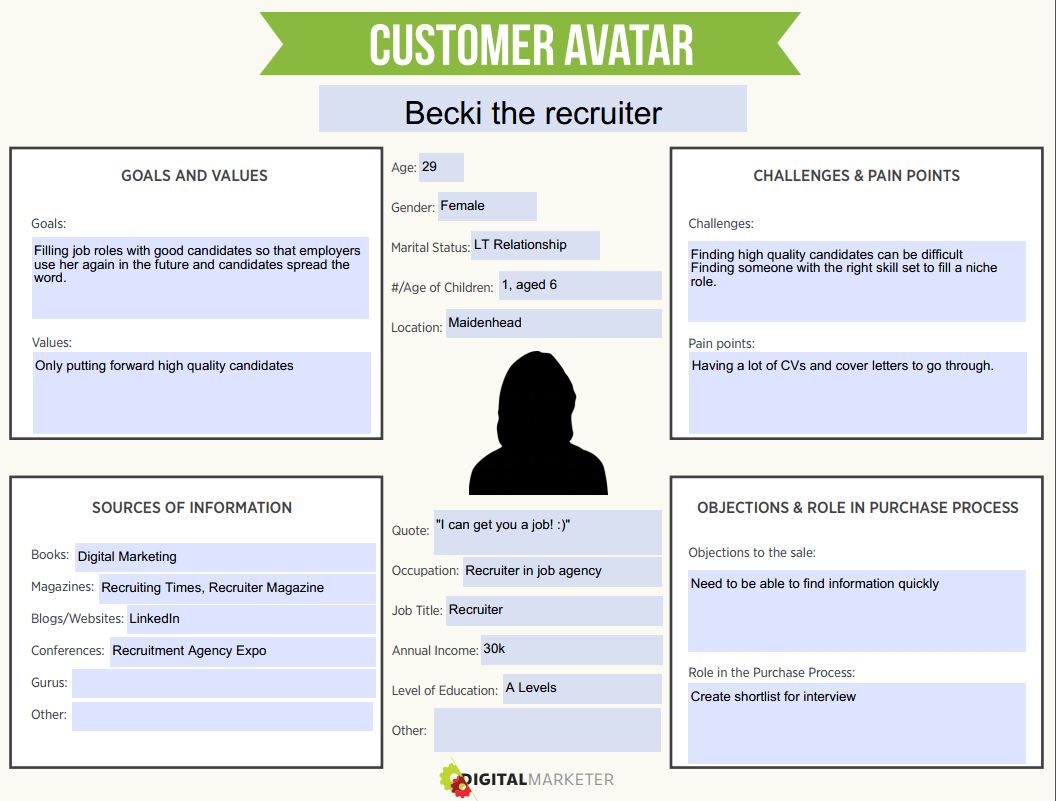
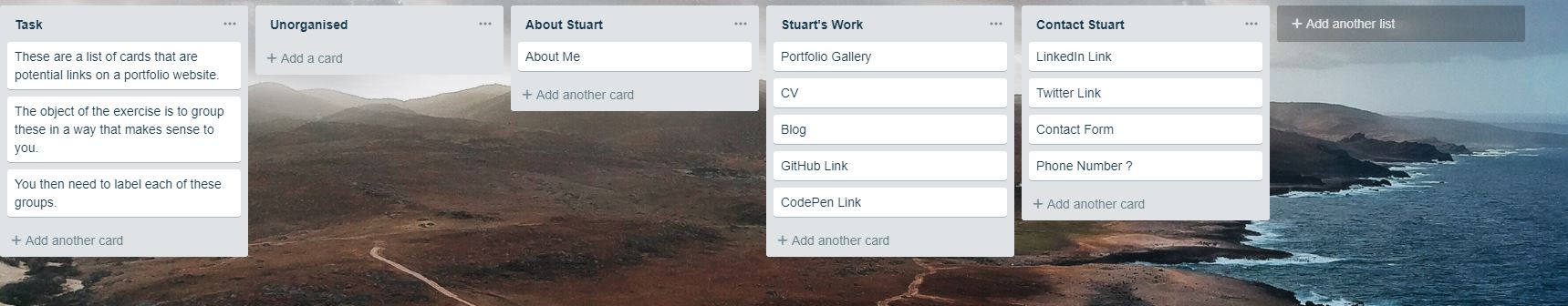
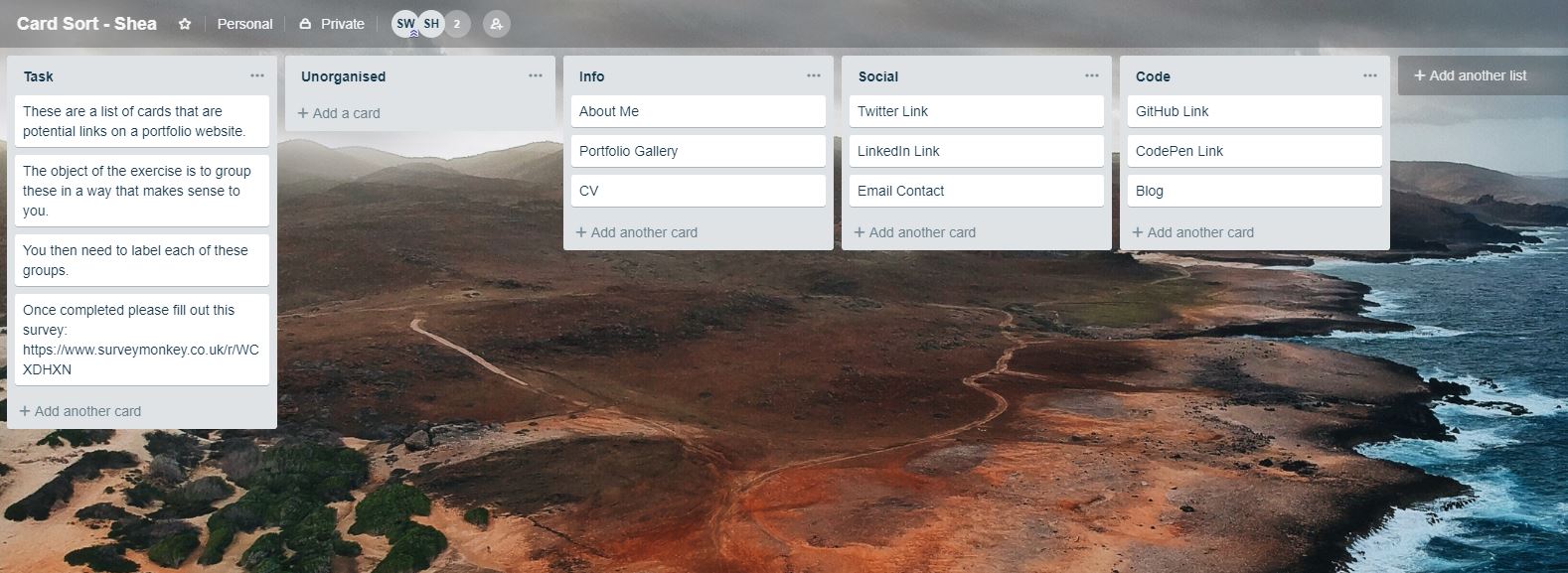
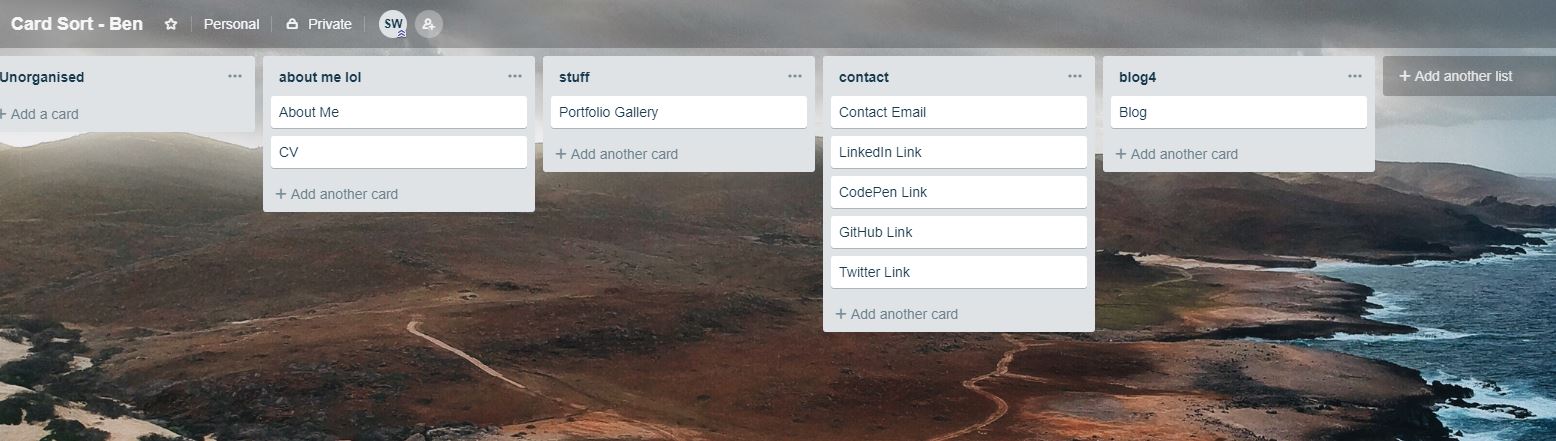
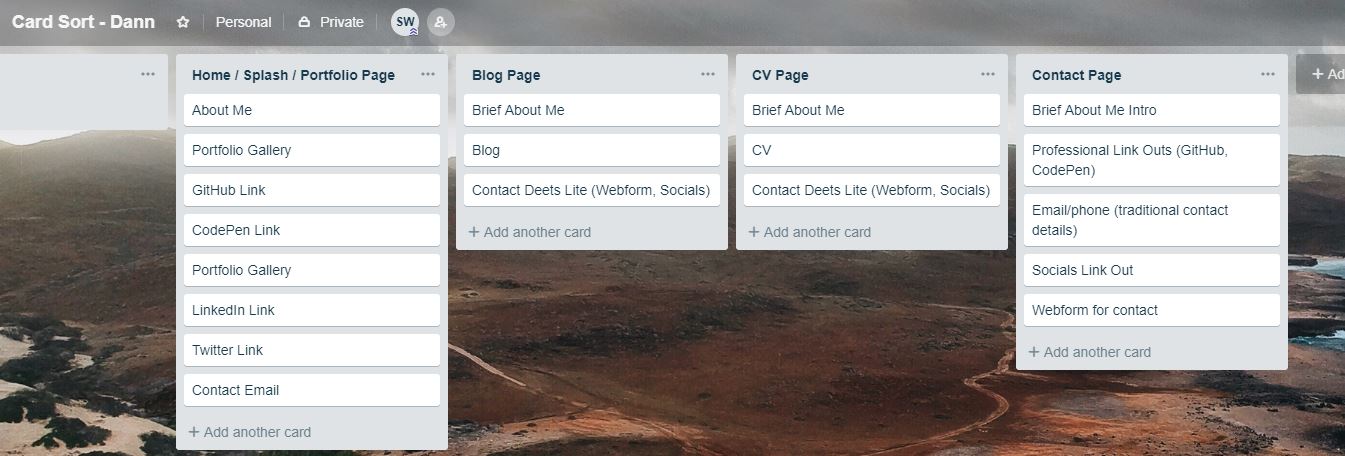


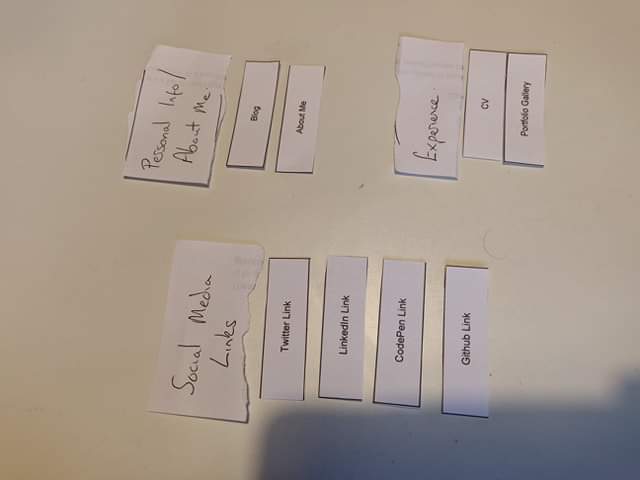
Fig 2 & 3

### Card Sorts

The next stage was to take the information from the user stories and personas and decide what elements that the page would need to fulfil the needs of its users. Having decided on what elements to include on the site, I then created an open card sorting exercise to help me decide on the layout of the pages. Open card sorts are where the arrangement is completely up to the person/people who are doing the card sort and it is down to them to label the groups they have put the cards into, rather than a closed card sort where the groupings are predefined and it is down to them to put cards into these predefined groups. Here are some of the card sorts that I received.





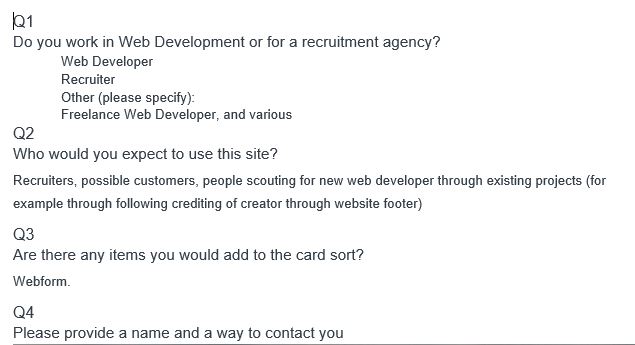
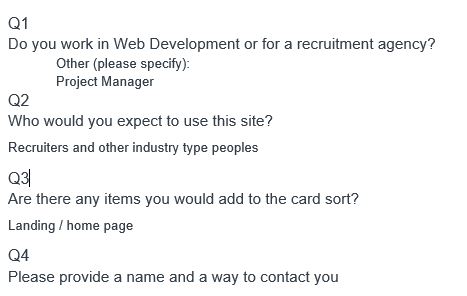


Most of the card sorts that were completed were remotely as this was easier for me to find people who had the time, and most were done by individuals. Only one card sort was completed by a group and this was done in person. I would have preferred to do more group sessions but arranging for people to be online or in the same place at the same time proved to be difficult to arrange.

If I were to conduct this again, I would make it clearer that if they have ideas for new cards, that they could tell me in the survey afterwards and not to add them to it on their own.

### Questionnaires

After users had completed the card sorting exercise I asked them to complete a short questionnaire. This allowed me to find out if any of them fit in to the personas that I had created earlier in the project, as well as finding out if they had any ideas for elements that should be added to the sites development. I asked them who they thought would be the main users of the site, to see whether my personas were accurate or not. Finally, I asked for contact details so that I could contact them further through the process if required, once the site plan had been updated with any new input.





These questionnaires were created using SurveyMonkey. I decided to go with them because the service is free and widely recognised as a good platform for creating surveys and sorting responses. The creation method is very easy, and I created a survey in under 5 minutes that had various input types (text boxes, checkboxes etc). I was very happy with the service I chose for the questionnaires and found it easy to analyse the responses that were given.