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MART 341

Final Website Paper

**OVERVIEW & RELATED WORK:** For my final website I decided to make a basic site that represents some of my work. I also decided to only use things I have done outside of school projects. I was inspired by a few websites but artist David McLeod's website [davidmcleod.com](http://davidmcleod.com) is great. Very simplistic and does a great job of showing his work and contact info. I elected to do this project without a template, and just use Foundation 6. This proved to be a challenge at times, but I think it was a good experience.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** I went with a minimalistic design with a plain blue/ grey color scheme. There are a few links to other pages on the site but almost everything can be seen or accessed from the home page. I chose a large hero image for the top and made sure that it took up the entire window width for a modern effect. Each of the 3 grid columns display an image of one of my projects and then links to a page with more photos of each. There is also a contact page with links to my email and a few other websites like Soundcloud and Facebook. Overall it's a simple site but that was the goal.

**DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:** I used a very useful tutorial series on Foundation to get started on the general layout and customized the colors and contents to my liking. I optimized all of my images so that they would load faster which helped the load time a lot. Once I had the home page pretty solid I was able to utilize Jekyll in order to easily make and customize the other pages. Jekyll was definitely weird at first, with how they

link it all together, but once I got it going it made everything else much smoother. I used the same default layout as the home page, just removed the hero section and was able to add all of the photos I wanted easily and link it to the home page. There was definitely a lot of trial and error involved in this whole development process, but I am glad that I elected to go without using a template and used Jekyll. The main problem I had is adding an image of myself to the about page. The default Jekyll about page was a .md file, and when I attempted to add the image it would only display as the default jpg thumbnail, not the actual image. The link colors on the about page also got funky, as they were changing with the mobile menu link colors. I decided to keep them grey to match the mobile menu, as the mobile menu is very crucial to the website. So while the About page doesn't look good, I'm very happy with how the site came out and with the skills I learned.

**FUTURE WORK:** First and foremost I would like to get the about page looking a bit better. Specifically I want to add a photo of myself as well as make the links the proper color. I may also add a gallery feature for the project pages so that when you click on a picture it opens and you can scroll through the other photos on the the page and see them bigger. I might want to change the color scheme or the hero image when I find something that fits better but for now I am pretty happy with it. For now I will stick with GitHub for hosting as I don't think it will be generating much traffic, at least not yet. Before I want to really promote this website for myself I want the about me page to look as it should. If the .md file doesn't want to let me add an image I may have to edit the default Jekyll about page and make it an html page. I am not sure if I will or won't keep

working on this continually but if I get another cool project I'm working on it isn't hard to make more project pages and add more content.

**CONCLUSION:** I am impressed with myself that I went from almost no coding experience, to making a pretty decent looking website without a template. Overall I'm pleased in the final website and much more confident in coding than I was just a few months ago.