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**Project 1 – Resume Report**

My resume, so far, it’s what I have when I submit for any jobs that I apply to, as well as whenever I bring it in with me to my interview. But, it’s not so colorful as it is shown online. The resume I use when I apply or bring in a copy to an interview is just black & white, printed on while printer paper, usual design like anything else. I do keep my resume organized though, that was an element that I wanted to bring into the project when I decided to put everything I had on paper copy to an online version. I wanted to use something simple, nothing flashy, or that would bring too much attention. I also wanted to implement some colors, some life into the resume that would allow me to present to anyone that would be able to look at.

Knowing that I wanted to be able to use my resume as a presenter’s piece, I went looking online for a resume theme, or a resume template that I could use for this project. I wanted to make sure that it used bootstrap, and can stylize it with enough CSS. I looked and looked, but I kept running into the same theme, full page portfolio. Yea, a full-page portfolio would be great, I would be able to present my work and what I have been able to design thus far, but that’s not what I wanted to do with this project. I felt like there are lots of portfolios out there, and I can do that later. I wanted to be able to identify where in fact I have worked and what I have studied. I wanted to bring attention to the readers eyes into my resume. The portfolio can come later, and I’ve already started working on that through Behance ([www.behance.com](http://www.behance.com)).

I looked online for a bootstrap theme/template, and I was happily able to find the one you can currently see on my homepage (lamp.cse.fau.edu/~lgarcia2013). The theme is called Orbit and it is designed by Xiaoying Riley (<http://themes.3rdwavemedia.com/>) and it had the same type of style throughout where it is simple and appealing, but the theme did come with distinct colors to choose from. For me, I needed to change the color scheme because it didn’t seem to pop in my eyes, but I’ll talk about that later. I went through the whole theme, checking to see how it worked, and modifying what I needed to modify. I cropped a picture of myself with the help of Adobe Illustrator, and proceeded to look how I can modify it some more.

There was a “widget”, if that’s what it’s called for this case, where the skills were presented to the screen using animated bars. In my mind, to me at least, using a “download bars/star system/progression level system” to represent someone’s total knowledge of a certain skill set doesn’t make sense to me. Yes, you can present yourself with a degree of knowledge for items such knowing computer languages like C and C++, but who are you grading yourself against? Is it saying that compared to the average person in your field you know this ‘X’ amount of the skill, or is it how much you feel you would be able to explain this skill to a person. There are so many what if’s and questions that could be asked if I was presented with a system that says I have 3 out of 5 stars knowing C++, that it wouldn’t make sense to me. So, I scrapped it. I scrapped it because not only does it not make sense in my head, it just portrays my skills in a whole different light, and I would rather explain someone my knowledge than having them to second guess how much I know.

After scrapping the idea of using bars to represent my knowledge and skills, I had to find a unique way to showcase my technical skills. I noticed that after writing out my work experiences and club activities, that the side bar that wrapped around the entire page was long and blank. It looked like something was missing there, and I thought “Hey! Why not?” Located in the right-side bar, under the Languages portion of my resume, I started writing out all my technical skills. I listed everything I had learned along my way, and for an extra fluff, and because it is already mentioned in my paper copy of my resume, I included my aeronautical skills as well. Luckily for me, adding in my aeronautical skills allowed the skills length to reach down to the bottom where my club activities started, so I was happy to see this get here.

From here, I started modifying the color scheme of the entire page. I changed the side bar color to something a little bit darker, but still mellow enough to be good on the eye, the color of the font on both positions, company name, city, and dates have been changed to work with side bar colors. I wanted to draw more attention to what positions I’ve held, than having a person search through my resume to see what it is that my position was. Then I really wanted to be different. I didn’t want to use bullet points to point out what I did for each position.

Bullet points, as well as keeping it in paragraph form with no special context, felt weird. It felt strange to look at, as well as being the same as everything else I had ever seen on a paper resume. So, I remembered back in the day, when I was first going through my studying for my first BA in English, we always talked about how one should try to put emphasis on the words that start sentences. Most of the time, resume will have special words in the front of a sentence to grasp the reader’s attention; it sets the pace and lets them understand what is or what is about to happen. I wanted to use the same concept, so I ended up bolding either the first word or the first set of words that would describe the beginning of the sentence different from the rest. This was a hassle to get through with lines upon lines of text, but in the end, it was well worth it.

After being able to sit back and look at the page, I was still not satisfied with what I had. There was one problem that existed even before I started messing with the color schemes. The problem was scrolling. I would have to scroll through a multitude of lines just to get either midway through the page, or even to either my technical skills or my club activities. I knew that something has to be done. So I went looking online, and I wanted to make a fixed-scroll navigation bar that would allow the user to go from the bottom of the page to the top, as well as being able to go through different portions of the page without any hassle.

At first, I had about four or five items in the navigation bar. It was just a lot for what really mattered. So, I ended up settling with three, why? Well with the work experience portion of the resume you have me about section, my contact section, my education, and the languages that I speak. Down towards the middle, technical skills start on their own, and club activities still don’t show up until later in the page. So, having just these three allowed me to corner the items that I wanted to show with just a little bit of room in between. I went online, and found a simple tutorial (<http://www.turnwall.com/articles/adding-single-page-scrolling-navigation-to-your-site/>) that I was able to go through and understand step-by-step. I found some other ones that looked more modern (<http://navnav.co/>), but I kept having issues trying to make them run. I’m pretty sure most of them are outdated and the code isn’t to par with what is being presented on screen. The modern ones looked nice, but it just didn’t feel correct with the atmosphere I was trying to present with my resume.

So overall, I found this project to be fun and a good learning practice. I already have a design idea for an actual portfolio and I’ll be trying to do that in the next couple of weeks. My learning curve is still rough, just because it takes me longer to understand how the JavaScript code works, but once I’m presented an example, I can finally hit the noggin on the head. I even already have a domain name I want to start building, so with even the simple tools I learned here, I think I can finally start trying to build something a little bit more complicated. I will try to keep the baby steps though, just need to make sure where I step first.