***Portfolio URL:***  henrywilliam95.github.io

The job I will be tailoring my portfolio for is a .NET developer for Derivco, I have included the job posting alongside this document.

I have decided to code my own website using HTML, CSS and Bootstrap, I have chosen this method over website building websites such as Wix to have complete control over how the website is portrayed. Brathwaite says:

A startling number of individuals use special plug-ins or Flash on their portfolio pages, turning a landing page into an insurmountable wall for anyone who might visit the side via their mobile device. Typically, this leaves those who hit the wall with a singular question – why? (Brathwaite and Schreiber 2012, p79).

This is an issue I have been able to overcome as Bootstrap is a “popular framework for building responsive, mobile-first sites” (Bootstrap, 2019) Brathwaite also goes on to say that using HTML “shows foresight and removes the risk” (Brathwaite and Schreiber 2012, p79).

I initially had multiple pages to my portfolio, my index page gave a description of who I was and an insight into my background, then I had a page which showed images of my work, followed by a CV and a contact page. However, I read:

A lot of portfolios have a splash screen, a welcome screen and then another sub page [*sic*] before the viewers reach some work. If they cannot get a clear idea about who you are within the first 30 seconds of accessing your portfolio, then you may lose a potential interview (De Jong 2007, 105).

De Jong also later goes on to explain that if you are unable to impress a potential employer straight away they will just move onto the next portfolio, I also received feedback after showing my site to my peers and tutors who explained that there was a lot of unnecessary content, such as my background, which could be pulled from my CV, so I decided to strip out most of the excess content from my site and now have just the index page where I show a selection of my best work using images, gifs and videos. I have also given each piece of work a brief description of the work environment for each project and what software was used as De Jong states “work might also require additional information. Be sure to provide it”. (De Jong 2007, p106).

I decided to remove my dedicated contact me page to include the information at the top of the index page, as you should “Include [*sic*] your name and contact information at the top of every page” (Jones, cited in Brathwaite and Schreiber 2012, p90). Alongside my email address being displayed at the top of the page I have also offered viewers a button that links to my twitter profile and a button that will open any email application on their computer automatically entering my email address as the recipient. I have decided to include my email address and a button that opens a user’s email application, this is because with the text email address user’s can quickly copy my address to send an email to, in case they do not have a default email application installed on their computer, which could potentially lose an interview opportunity. Jones also strengthens the idea of removing pages that isn’t putting my work directly into the viewers face explaining that a “good portfolio should be so easy to navigate that someone could view your work accidently” (Jones, cited in Brathwaite and Schreiber 2012, p91).

There is also a button that will open a PDF version of my curriculum vitae in case the viewer would like to revisit my CV, or if they had come across my portfolio without receiving my CV, such as from networking at events.

As I am applying for programming jobs, looking at some pictures or videos of a game playing only gives the viewer a small insight into the work that I have produced, to combat this with the rest of the contact information I have also include a link to my GitHub home page, I have also included links to the repositories for each section after their description. This is so if the viewer is interested in the project/s and wishes to see the code that I implemented or contributed to the project, they would be able to look over the source files and see my contributions.

To aid in the usability of my portfolio I have gone with “The [*sic*] safest choice is[*sic*] a dark color [*sic*] on a light background, or vice versa, although try to avoid using pure black”. (Amos, 2015). Following this design, I have used a dark shade of grey for the main background and a light shade of grey to surround the areas that would encapsulate the text. However, the titles for each section of work are not in a containing box so that the light shade of grey stands out against the dark background and brings the user’s attention to the title section.

The font I have used for the headings is *Noto Serif* because it stands out from the background as quite a bold style and differentiates from the content text which is in Open Sans, I picked Open Sans for the main content of the portfolio because it is “elegant and sophisticated, yet modern. It’s beautifully legible, offers an excellent reading experience”. (Stevens, 2012). Making it very popular amongst web developers, “It [*sic*] was optimized for print, web and mobile interfaces”. (Stevens, 2012). Which makes it a great choice for my portfolio as with bootstrap I am already building a mobile first responsive website.

Within my portfolio I have applied some gestalt principles to the layout of my design, gestalt simply is when “human beings see a group of objects, we perceive their entirety as a whole more than the sum of the parts”. (Bradley, 2014). The main principle I have used is *proximity*:

where the gestalt principle of proximity says that elements that are closer together are perceived to be more related than elements that are further apart (Hensley, 2016)

I have used this to connect the images with the descriptions underneath, leaving them connected and placing a space between the following section, and keeping the title of the next item out of a surrounding box to break the gestalt principle of similarity where “The gestalt principle of similarity says that elements that are similar are perceived to be more related than elements that are dissimilar.” (Hensley, 2016).

The content of work that I have decided to include on my portfolio shows the viewer my skills mainly with C# which is part of the .NET framework, and the website itself shows my knowledge of HTML5, CSS and Bootstrap. Which in the job description is a skill they require an applicant to have alongside the skills I have been developing throughout my course.

I have included my final project within my portfolio to show a clear documentation of how my skills have developed over the 17-week development cycle within an area I have chosen to specialise in, and my passion to learn new skills and disciplines, much like my website and learning HTML5. The project also shows how I work in a solo capacity on a large project and my ability to solve any issues and successes I endure as they are documented within my blog.

The R34 Adventure applications shows my ability to work within a team environment working towards a specification created by an outside client at the Diss Museum, Norfolk. Working within a team of three programmers caused us to all start using the same coding styles and conventions, which will be expected in a team of programmers. My ability to work with other programmers is further strengthened by Ship Happens, where I am working within a team of two programmers. As there are no designers on the team we have had to design the game and learn a lot of the design principles within a short amount of time, which as per the job posting, Derivco are looking for a solid principle of design as well as Object Oriented Programming (OOP) which my GitHub repository shows are good understanding of.

Super Sushi Showdown shows my ability to manage a small team while acting as the only programmer on the team, making sure that all members of the team were completing their tasks on time and helping with any issues that the team might have, while completing my own tasks. All three of the previously mentioned projects have all helped me develop my skills using Jira for project management and task tracking, GitHub for version control and Unity, further developing my skills with C#.

I have also included my client-server application within my portfolio to show my ability to use C++ and C# further supporting my ability within the .NET framework. With this project I was able to get a good understanding of how clients and servers work together, which as area some positions at Derivco work on.

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