**Year 10**

**IST**

14

**St. Joseph’s College**

Project Evaluation

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My evaluation of my Year 10 IST Major Project for Semester 2.

08

**Fall**

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# The Whole Project

## $(‘body’).jordanlewis();

I think I could say that this project was a success. Although there are several parts of this project, which I think I could have done better, I think that the project in a whole was a success. In this project I attempted to make sure that the user has a great experience using my website and get valuable relevant and accurate data from it.

## Managing a Color Scheme

When I started this project, I set up a color scheme, which I found in a website template, which I loved. This was an orange, white, and gray color scheme. I had it set in stone in my mind to stick strictly to this color scheme. In the process of designing a template for each page, I came across a slight issue, which meant I had to add some colors to the color scheme. These colors were a light & dark orange, and light & dark gray. This had to be done to present a sort of hierarchy of user interface elements to the user. An example would be that the aside (gray) would be below the article (orange). Another reason was to make some elements more distinct, such as the accordion toggle bar. This was necessary to show that it was an independent part of the page. I even went as far as changing the content highlight color of the page to a darker orange and gray for the article and aside respectively.

## The Home Page

Starting from the home page, there were several different iterations. From the start the home page was a template for the other pages, which will be used to present information to the users/viewers. It started by being located in the html subdirectory in the root of the website. This posed an issue of keeping to the standards of website development where there is an index.html, which is the main/first page the user is directed to. By having a page on the outside of the html subdirectory, it also posed an issue of page-to-page navigation. Although a small point, it would mean that any file dependencies the page had, had to have a slightly different path. This was fixed by having an index.html, which will automatically redirect to the home.html inside the html subdirectory. This eliminated both of the issues. The page design changed several times, I found it hard to come up with any relevant information to put on the main page and after hearing about Joshua Agostino’s idea to have a big navigation menu on the main page, I immediately took to it. This fixed my issues and with some tweaking left me with an elegant and interactive navigation menu. After having thought to have finished the main page, I felt that something was missing and decided that it would be nice to have a flow of orange circles, which fall from the top to bottom with different sizes and speeds to add some depth to the page.

## The Information Page Design

Each webpage used to display information to the user/viewer with a simple and easy to understand webpage, which may although be slightly new to the user, can easily be adapted to. Text is easily legible and interactive components are obvious, such as accordions. This was accomplished by small hints such as arrows or colors that change when hovered over. Each object has its own space by using paddings and borders especially for images. Each major heading section is very obvious, with the use of a larger font size and an underlining border. Nobody likes an infinitely scrolling webpage, so where possible, the height of a webpage was kept to a minimum by using expandable sections (accordions) to allow the user to see only what he or she wants to see. Each page even makes the most out of the limited height of the user’s screen by hiding the ‘smart’ top navigation bar (header) when it is not required and show it when it is required. This is supplemented by a small UI component, which appears at the bottom right hand corner of the screen when the user scrolled past a point where scrolling back up would be in efficient. In the footer of the page, there is also a ‘sitemap’, which also allows the user to navigate webpages without jumping back up to the top.

## The IPO Page

The content of the IPO page was mainly taken from ‘Web Development Prac B’, where all the relevant information was already there. This meant that all of the information on the page is relevant, accurate and has earned Mr. Clark’s approval. For the IPO Page I decided to place the general IPO Model information at the top of the page and the Input and Output devices in separate accordion sections respectively, so the important information is directly visible while information that may not interest everybody is hidden in the accordion with the appropriate headings. A diagram of the IPSCO model is also included to make the visualization of the model easier. There is also a ’More Info’ section in the aside, where user can read a more detailed description on select Input and Output devices.

I think that this page is well done except for the ‘More Info’ aside, where there is a fair bit of text in a small column making reading it a bit harder than it was supposed to be.

## The Storage & Processing Page

There was a lot of content on this page, and at the bottom there is a ‘Test your knowledge’ section, which features a drag and drop style knowledge test. This test section could have gone wrong in many ways, but from what I see, I think I succeeded in making it in the best way possible. The test section both follows the color scheme and is visually appealing while being easily understandable/usable by the user. Otherwise the information is relevant and is presented in a manner that is visually appealing and legible. I used the aside to place the ‘Processing’ Information because there was not as much on it, which I got from a ‘Web Development Prac’, this makes the most of the screen real estate meaning that the page does not have to extend lower than it has to + it keeps each page looking uniform with an article and an aside.

## The Anatomy of a Computer Page

This page had a lot of content, which had to be fitted in; this content also has many sections, which meant it could be split up into sections using the accordion. By placing all the sections in the accordion sections, I was able to fit a lot more information than otherwise possible onto this single page. This includes many YouTube videos in each section, which I could find YouTube videos for. Some of the sections have many YouTube videos and this had to be formatted. I did this by making a grid system, which supports, 1, 2, and 3, videos per row to present the videos in a visually pleasing and organized manner. Other relevant computer anatomy related resources where placed in the aside so extra space does not have to taken up at the bottom of the page.

## The Computer Maintenance Page

The content of this page is purely embedded, the main content coming from slideshare and maintenance videos coming from YouTube’s LinusTechTips. By embedding the two PC Troubleshooting guides from slideshare, I was able to save a lot of time, while providing the user with an in depth guide to troubleshooting computers. The only issue with these guides from slideshare is that it takes away from the visuals of this certain webpage. This could have been fixed by making my own troubleshooting guide, but why spend a lot more time doing that for just aesthetics? The YouTube videos on the other hand are well placed in the aside and I think are visually appealing.

## The Gaming vs. Office Page

This page focused on the comparison between the general specs of Gaming PCs and Office PCs. I used a table for the comparison and I managed to keep the color scheme consistent while making the content easily legible by making the background color of every second row a darker orange. I used the aside to show image comparisons of an Office PC and three Gaming PCs. This means that a lot of vertical space could have been taken up, so I placed the images into respective sections in an accordion.

## The Frank’s Gaming Café Page

This page has a lot of content, to minimize the amount of vertical space this page takes up, while still being easy to use; I placed the tables for the components of Frank’s LAN Party Setup into sections in an accordion. Each table for the components had every second row a darker color to make it easier to read. Different heading levels were used to make the text sections more obvious to the user. The aside was used to place a YouTube video on the Highest LAN Party ever, the ‘HighLANder’.

## The Verdict

I think that this project/website was a success because it follows most of my Project Plan. From the above, it is evident that I was able to follow my color scheme, and have relevant and accurate content on each of my pages. On the code side of things, I am yet to work on my commenting in code skills to make my code easily understandable by outside developers. Otherwise, I was able to code to the exceptional level, which was another success.

# Future Improvements and Ideas

## General Usage

In this project, I made nearly every image on the website ElevateZoomable, which could be annoying for certain, pictures. As a future improvement, I think I should target specific pictures instead of all of them. Another point is, I used a image viewing library called ShadowBox, when an image is clicked, it will present the image in a nearly full screen mode. The only problem with this is that the image is not centered in the container. This takes away from the user experience a little bit, so in the future, it would be good to read up on the documentation and make the most of ShadowBox and center the image in its container.

## DND Test

In the Drag and Drop (DnD) Test, the images inside the draggable containers are ElevateZoomable, this means that if the user hovers over the image while trying to drag it, it will activate ElevateZoom. This is VERY annoying so I tried to fix it by disabling ElevateZoom for those images but it did not work. This leads back to the point above, about targeting specific images for EkevateZoom. Another thing I think needs to be fixed, is the drag and hover over part of the DnD. When the user ‘grabs’ a draggable object and hovers it over a droppable object/container, the droppable is supposed to show a black and white dashed border, but sometimes shows it for a split second then stops showing it. This, although very small is something I believe should be fixed.

## The Accordion

This is an idea for a future improvement, it is to make the website remember which accordion sections were opened or closed, so it returns the user to the website just the way he/she left it. I think modifying the URL could do this. Another small thing that I think needs to be fixed is in some of the accordions, once the text is fully expanded, it jumps and opens the rest, kind of a jittery opening for sections which have an image that is larger than the text.

## Troubleshooting and Maintenance Fundamentals

I think that my Computer maintenance fundamentals page takes away from the whole experience of using my website because the embedded slideshare slides do not match the color scheme and the overall visual appearance of the website. To fix this in a future update or project, I think it would be a good idea to write my own guide to troubleshooting computers. This could be done in an accordion covering many sections of the troubleshooting computers, it could even mean having accordions in accordions.

## Navigation

The title text that shows up for the page navigation item for Frank’s Gaming Café does not show the full title because of the “ **’** ” in the “**Frank’s**”. This should be fixed by using special character sets to place the single quote/apostrophe into the title. Update: - Fixed it.

# External Evaluation

## Mr. Clark: Teacher: Head of Computing Studies

“Very Nice”

## Zac Banu-Lawrence: Fellow IST Student

“Very Nice!” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_j9QeUoPOi4>

## Emmanuel Chow: Fellow IST Student

“What the hell~! So hard ouuut! What da f\*ck.”

## Josh Agostino: Graphic Designer for the Main Screen UI of L120

“Fantastic use of Javascript elements – creates a cohesive website. Formatting is very sophisticated, orange was a nice touch.”

## Patrick O’Farrell: Neurosurgeon in Residence

“Well put together, each page flows seamlessly into the next and information can be read without the feeling of being flooded, unobtrusive. The dropdown and elements for the images are excellent”

## Ms. Berriman: Teacher: Head of Languages

“Easy-to-use interface, with multiple navigation possibilities to move from section to section. Page layout is clear, colour scheme appealing, and embedded media and drop down menus divide information clearly into manageable chunks of relevant material, even for less experienced technicians requiring assistance. Overall a great experience using this site!!! Some loading issues due to speed of network, patience may be required, especially with the ‘Maintenance’ section. Not sure of the relevance of Frank’s Gaming Café to the project design, but did appreciate that the target audience would enjoy looking at the differences between a Gaming PC and Office PC”