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| **27 / 5 / 2024** | **Week 1: Subject Intro & Web Design Basics**  Description Learning Activities & Resources This week I started creating a boxing themed website for one of my projects. In the process, I delved into the use of HTML, CSS and Bootstrap, specifically how to create a responsive website layout using Bootstrap. In order to improve my front-end development skills, I referenced some great online resources:  Bootstrap Official Website Documentation:<https://getbootstrap.com/>  W3Schools HTML and CSS tutorials: <https://www.w3schools.com/>  YouTube tutorial videos, such as ‘How to Design Responsive Websites with Bootstrap’: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cKsq14Kfsw> Estimated Hours I've spent a total of about 3 hours developing this site this week, which includes learning about the technology online, writing code, and testing and tweaking to make sure everything works! Content Insights In this project, I learnt how to effectively use the Bootstrap framework to create aesthetically pleasing website layouts. In particular, how to use Bootstrap's grid system to create responsive pages that adapt to different screen sizes. I also learnt how to use CSS to spruce up and personalise websites, such as resizing images, adding navigation bars and using cards to display information.  By creating a website on the boxing theme, I not only reviewed basic HTML structure and CSS style application, but also made some initial attempts at more advanced layout techniques. I found that hands-on practice was much more insightful than just watching video tutorials or reading documentation, and this practice was key to my understanding and mastery of my new knowledge. Career/Employability/Learning Insights Through this project, I have learnt the importance of front-end development in website development, which will be very helpful for my future career. The CSS techniques and Bootstrap applications I learnt will directly enhance my web design skills and enable me to create more sophisticated and engaging user interfaces in my future work.  From this week's learning experience, combining practical project exercises with theoretical learning is a very effective learning strategy. This approach has not only improved my programming skills, but has also deepened my understanding of the web development workflow. I plan to continue to use this strategy in my future studies, and to become a more proficient web developer by solving the problems I encounter through practice. |
| **2 / 6 / 2024** | **Week 2 - Overview of CMSs**  Description  **Learning Activities**  This week, I started my journey of learning Joomla, a powerful content management system. I started with the installation process, moved on to navigating the back-end, and attempted to create my first web page - a personal blog.  **Resources/Links**  Official Joomla documentation: <https://www.joomla.org/>  MAMP (for server setup): <https://www.mamp.info/en/windows/>  Educational videos on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/>  **Estimated hours**  I spent about 15 hours this week learning Joomla, including setup, exploration, and troubleshooting.  **Content Insights**  Initially, the complexity of the Joomla interface was overwhelming because of the variety of options available. However, as I used the platform more (learning to publish content, manage menus and tweak templates), I became more confident. The installation phase was particularly challenging due to database and server setup issues, but overcoming these obstacles was a valuable learning experience.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  This week's challenges highlighted the importance of adaptability and problem-solving skills in web development. Mastering Joomla has not only improved my technical prowess, but also my ability to learn independently and solve problems effectively. These are key skills for any technology-related career, as they demonstrate the ability to handle complex projects and innovative solutions.  **Summary and Reflection**  My experience with Joomla has been both challenging and rewarding. Self-study through community forums and tutorials has not only expanded my technical skills but has also fostered a mindset of continuous learning and improvement. As I continue to develop this and other websites, I have learned valuable lessons that will contribute to my career development and employability in the technology industry. |
| **9 / 6 / 2024** | **Week 3 - WordPress: installation, settings, content, navigation, using themes and plugins**  Description  **Learning Activity**  This week, I started creating a boxing-themed website using WordPress, my first attempt at using this popular content management system. Activities included exploring WordPress features, choosing and customizing a theme, and writing content focused on the sport of boxing.  **Resources/Links** <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/wordpress-workflows-2015>  **Estimated Hours**  I spent about 6 hours this week developing the site, including learning about the platform, designing the layout and creating engaging content.  **Content Insights**  As a WordPress newbie, I utilized the built-in tutorials to master the basics of theme installation and page layout. The process of adapting the design to fit a sports theme and writing posts about boxing gave me a tangible understanding of WordPress' versatility and user-friendliness. I learned valuable lessons in content optimization and SEO to increase the visibility of my website.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  This project improved my web development skills and gave me a practical understanding of content management systems, which are critical in many of today's technical roles. The challenge of adapting to new platforms and solving design problems independently increased my problem-solving skills and self-confidence - qualities that are highly valued in the tech industry.  **Summarizing and Reflecting**  Building the Boxing Theme website on WordPress was a challenging but rewarding experience. Not only did it expose me to a new tool, but it also deepened my understanding of web development principles and SEO strategies. This project has solidified my interest in pursuing further projects in this field and has encouraged me to continue learning and advancing in my web development career. |
| **16 / 6 / 2024** | **Week 4 - Development and deployment workflows**  Description  **Learning Activities**  This week, I focused on improving the way dynamic content, such as author names and publication dates, is managed and displayed in Joomla-based sites. Activities included configuring the search function, testing the content display, and making the necessary adjustments to ensure consistency and usability.  **Resources/Links**  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/migrating-wordpress-with-wp-migrate-db-and-db-pro>  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/version-control-for-everyone-2>  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/migrating-wordpress-with-wp-migrate-db-and-db-pro>  **Estimated Hours**  It took me about 5 hours to configure, test and optimize the dynamic content display on the site.  **Content Insight**  This process requires detailed knowledge of Joomla's back-end setup to ensure accurate indexing and retrieval of articles. Creating test articles with specific metadata helps verify that the system can effectively extract and display this information from the database. The testing phase is critical to ensure that the various sections of the site are displaying each section of content correctly.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  While researching this aspect of Joomla, I realized the importance of accuracy and attention to detail in the content management system, skills that are highly valued in technical and web development positions. It also enhanced my understanding of data integrity and user experience, which are key factors in maintaining the reliability and professionalism of a digital platform.  **Summary and Reflection**  The course successfully adapted our CMS to handle dynamic content effectively. The adjustments made not only improved the functionality of the site, but also the overall user experience. This experience has boosted my confidence in managing and optimizing complex web systems and has better prepared me for future web development challenges. |
| **23 / 6 / 2024** | **Week 5 - WordPress: Developing Child Themes**  Description  **Learning Activity**  This week, I took on the task of creating child themes in WordPress, an essential skill in web development that allows you to customize and enhance a theme without losing changes when updating.  **Resources/Links**  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/wordpress-building-child-themes-3>  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/learning-responsive-web-design-in-the-browser>  **Estimated Hours**  I spent about 7 hours this week learning about and implementing child themes in WordPress.  **Content Insight**  Initially, I thought child themes were complicated, but quickly realized how important they are for sustainability. The process involved setting up directories, creating the file style.css, and mastering the functions.php file to ensure that styles were queued correctly. This hands-on experience enhanced my understanding of WordPress architecture and the interaction between parent and child themes.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  Creating child themes deepened my technical skills and gave me a practical understanding of how to effectively maintain and scale a website. It emphasized the importance of planning, documentation, and adherence to best practices, all of which are critical to professional web development. The assignment also increased my confidence in handling complex projects and making strategic decisions that meet the needs of the client.  **Summarize and Reflect**  Creating the subtheme was not only a technical exercise but also a strategic decision that emphasized the importance of building sustainable and customizable websites. This experience has been critical to my journey as a web developer, giving me valuable skills and insights that I look forward to applying on more complex projects. The process reinforced the need for detailed, thoughtful web development and greatly improved my ability to use WordPress effectively. |

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| **14 / 7 / 2024** | **Week 6 - Project/client introduction, group project management**  Description  **Learning Activity**  This week's focus was on setting up and organizing collaboration tools for our group project. Our group members worked together to divide up the work of setting up a GitHub repository, contributing to a Trello board for project management, and ensuring effective communication via Slack.  **Resources/Links**  Group Github Link: <https://github.com/QingboTan/CP3402-GroupB-A2>  Trello Link: <https://trello.com/b/lrRbeVIY/cms-project-group-b>  Slack Link: <https://app.slack.com/client/T07CZV3B58Q/C07C89S7HAR>  **Estimated hours**  I spent about 1.5 hours this week setting up and configuring collaboration tools, making commits, and finalizing our team agreement.  **Content Insights**  Setting up these tools is critical to ensure smooth collaboration within the team. I learned the importance of integrating these platforms, such as linking GitHub commits to Slack for real-time updates, which helps keep all team members aligned and informed. The process involved detailed attention to settings and preferences to meet the specific needs of our project.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  Experience configuring and using these tools is directly relevant to any technically oriented professional environment, as project management and team communication are key. Understanding how to effectively use tools such as GitHub, Trello, and Slack will demonstrate my ability to adapt to a variety of project management tools and practices commonly used in the industry, thus increasing my employability.  **Summarize and Reflect**  This week's setup of teamwork tools was not just about technical configuration, but also about laying the groundwork for effective teamwork. The ability to integrate these tools into our workflow is critical to the success of our project and my development as a professional. I feel more prepared to tackle the challenges of collaborative projects and look forward to utilizing these skills in a professional setting. |
| **21 / 7 / 2024** | **Week 7 - PHP Programming**  Description  **Learning Activities**  This week, I developed a children's educational portal using PHP, focusing on demonstrating the basic functionality of PHP. The project involved creating a basic PHP-based website with dynamic content features and enhanced CSS styles to make it visually appealing to children.  **Resources/Links**  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/learning-php-2>  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/php-with-mysql-essential-training-1-the-basics>  **Estimated Hours**  I spent about 8 hours this week developing the website, including setting up the PHP environment, coding, and styling the site.  **Content Insights**  The development process has deepened my understanding of PHP, particularly the use of language constructs such as echo for HTML output, if/else for decision making, loops for repetitive tasks and include statements for code reusability. I structured the site into main pages (Index, Learn, About) and used common header and footer files to maintain consistency throughout the site.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  This project not only honed my back-end development skills, but also emphasized the importance of front-end design considerations in creating user-friendly educational content.Both PHP and CSS skills are vital to the web development role, and projects like this one prove that I can combine the two to create functional and engaging web applications.  **Summary and Reflection**  Building the Children's Education Portal was both challenging and rewarding. It allowed me to apply PHP in a real-world environment while improving my front-end design skills. The hands-on experience solidified my understanding of PHP and CSS, and I am excited to further enhance the portal with interactive elements and advanced features such as user authentication and database integration. |
| **28 / 7 / 2024** | **Week 8 - WordPress: Developing Custom Themes**  Description  **Learning Activities and Resources**  This week, I conducted a structured learning experiment to understand the application of the DRY (Do Not Repeat Yourself) principle to WordPress theme development. I utilized a variety of resources to guide my experiment: [https://www.linkedin.com/learning/wordpress-building-themes-from-scratch-using-underscores-2](file:///Users/kuimengcen/Desktop/https:/www.linkedin.com/learning/wordpress-building-themes-from-scratch-using-underscores-2)  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/wordpress-building-progressive-themes-with-wp-rig-2>  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/wordpress-developer-tips-dry-development>  **Estimated Learning Time**  I spent approximately 9 hours on this activity, including watching tutorials, coding, and analysing the results of my development process.  **Content Reveal**  The experiment involved first developing a section of a WordPress theme without using the DRY principles and then redesigning the same section using the DRY principles. This comparative approach highlights the significant efficiencies gained through DRY, especially in terms of reducing code redundancy, which simplifies maintenance and minimizes potential errors. It demonstrates the tangible benefits of adopting DRY principles in theme development, such as reduced development time and increased code robustness.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  This learning experiment is highly relevant to my professional development as a WordPress developer. Adopting the DRY Principles is in line with industry best practices and has improved my ability to deliver a high-quality, maintainable product that meets customer expectations. This approach not only improved my employability, but also contributed to my continued professional growth by reinforcing efficient coding practices.  **Summarizing and Reflecting**  This week's experiment was enlightening and solidified my understanding of the DRY principles and their application to WordPress theme development. Hands-on experience has made me realize the importance of these methods in building scalable and maintainable software, which is crucial in a competitive technology field. Going forward, my goal is to continually incorporate these best practices into my work to improve the quality and efficiency of my development projects. |
| **4 / 8 / 2024** | **Week 9 - CSS pre-processing with Sass**  Description  **Learning Activities**  This week, I focused on a health software website project that utilizes Sass for styling and Gulp for workflow automation. The project included setting up a basic file structure, creating multiple pages, and configuring Gulp for Sass file compilation.  **Resources/Links**  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/sass-essential-training>  [https://learn.jcu.edu.au](https://learn.jcu.edu.au/ultra/courses/_174060_1/outline/edit/document/_7934196_1?courseId=_174060_1&view=content)  **Estimated Hours**  It took me about 4 hours to complete this project, not including additional time spent on related assignments and studying.  **Content Insights**  Using Sass in your project leads to more efficient and maintainable coding. Features such as variables, blending, nesting, and inheritance help ensure code reusability, making it easier to apply consistent styles across the site. Using Gulp to automate the compilation process has significantly improved development efficiency as it eliminates the need for manual compilation, allowing me to focus more on design and feature implementation.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  This project emphasized the importance of using modern web development tools and practices. Mastering techniques such as Sass and Gulp not only improved my technical skills, but also my efficiency and productivity as a web developer. These skills are critical in the modern web development environment where speed and efficiency are highly valued.  **Summary and Reflection**  Participating in this project gave me the opportunity to actually apply Sass and Gulp and deepen my understanding of both tools. It highlighted the benefits of automation in the development process, such as reducing redundancy and errors, while enabling a more focused design approach. The challenges I encountered, such as path problems and browser caching issues, were valuable learning experiences in troubleshooting and problem solving. This project deepened my technical expertise and prepared me for more complex web development tasks in the future. |
| **9 / 8 / 2024** | **Week 10 - Securing WordPress**  Description  **Learning Activities**  Technology check: A technology check was conducted to ensure that our laptops and presentation tools were compatible with the projection equipment and that we were able to record our presentations properly.  Presentation Rehearsal: Once our group presentations were assigned, we each practiced the part of the presentation we would be presenting, discussing and refining the content and delivery each time.  **Resources/Links**  <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/wordpress-developing-secure-sites>  **Content Insights**  Presentation Dynamics: Gain insight into the importance of effective presentation techniques and clear communication, especially when explaining technical content to an audience unfamiliar with web development.  Feedback Utilization: Learn to use feedback constructively to improve the flow, clarity, and engagement of our presentations.  **Career/Employability/Learning Insights**  Public Speaking and Teamwork: Improve public speaking skills to present complex projects in a concise and engaging manner. Improve intra-team collaboration and coordination skills, which are critical for successful project presentations and professional environments.  Adaptability and Improvement: the rehearsal process emphasizes the importance of adaptability and continuous improvement, traits that are highly valued in any professional setting.  **Conclusion**  The preparation and rehearsal of our presentation not only prepared us to effectively present our project, but also improved our communication and teamwork skills. It was a crucial exercise that taught us how to present technical projects in a clear and professional manner, preparing us for future professional presentations and pitches. |

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