## **3 Key Components of a Strong Portfolio**

You’ll find hundreds of different software developer portfolio examples online, which can make it a little tricky to settle on a basic template for your own.

At the very least, a junior developer portfolio should include the following components:

* **About Me** – People want to know who you are, so make sure your portfolio includes some detail about that. Include your name, a photo, and a short blurb about what you’ve done and where you hope to go in your career. It’s a good idea to refine this narrative over time as your career progresses. Developing your brand story takes time, but it’s a unique asset that you can nurture to help your career grow.
* **Projects** – The critical component of any programming portfolio will be home to the very best samples of your work. This section should be as captivating as possible, so get creative with videos, GIFs, and eye-catching web design and copy.
* **Contact Me** – Without this, you could be hurting your chances of getting job offers. Ideally, you should include a contact form and your social media channels. If you don’t do that, at the bare minimum, add your email address plus links to your LinkedIn and GitHub profiles.

If you include the three aspects above, you’ll have the fundamentals of a basic programmer portfolio website, which is more than a lot of people. However, to put yourself ahead of the competition, you may want to consider stepping your game up.

Let’s see how to do that.

## **What Is a Programmer Portfolio and Do You Need One?**

A programmer portfolio is more than a [simple resume](https://www.springboard.com/blog/9-tips-for-creating-a-stand-out-tech-resume/" \t "https://www.springboard.com/blog/software-engineering/programmer-portfolio/_blank). In essence, it is a showcase that proves that you can do what you talk about in your resume.

Rather than telling prospective employers about your skills, you can create a software developer portfolio to *show*them.

So, why should you create a programmer portfolio website? Is it worth the effort?

In a word: absolutely.

A well-rounded programmer portfolio is a vital asset that can make all the difference when you’re competing with other hopefuls for a coveted role.

Not only does a programmer portfolio website act as a showcase for your previous work samples, but the site itself is an example of what you can do!

Furthermore, you can use a tech portfolio website to craft your personal brand. You can go beyond the work samples to express your personality and highlight critical soft skills too. This gives potential employers a better understanding of how you may fit in with their existing company culture or whether you’d succeed in the role they’re looking to fill.

## **What Do Employers Seek When Looking at a Programmer Portfolio?**

It’s a smart idea to keep your target audience in mind while creating your portfolio. What earns you kudos from your fellow coders may not have the same impact on a company looking to hire a promising junior developer.

Here are a few things employers will put under the magnifying glass when considering potential new employees:

### 1. How Current Is Your Work?

Some of the best portfolios are left untended for months—or even years! It doesn’t look good when the last sample you added was from your sophomore year of college. Get into the habit of maintaining your junior developer portfolio site to check that the website runs at top speed and the work samples are consistently updated to show you are actively progressing in your career.

### 2. What Is Your Educational Background?

Are you a [self-taught coder](https://www.springboard.com/blog/why-marketers-should-learn-to-code/" \t "https://www.springboard.com/blog/software-engineering/programmer-portfolio/_blank) who has cracked the industry through a sterling online reputation and good networking? Or perhaps you have a master’s in computer science and a series of short course certificates? Include everything that is relevant, as employers will want to confirm you have the qualifications to fill the role.

### 3. How Are You at Problem-Solving?

Coding may be a significant aspect of any software developer portfolio, but it’s not the be-all and end-all. Professional coding jobs involve a lot of other tasks, including debugging and problem-solving.

By including explanations of projects to illustrate how you handle problems, you can display your proficiency at identifying and improving code issues.

## **7 Best Practices for Creating a Programming Portfolio Website**

Remember that a software developer portfolio is more than showing a few coding examples. It’s a chance to demonstrate your personality, your technical proficiency, *and*your creativity.

Here are seven best practices to think about when you want to create a programming portfolio that is more than another cookie-cutter effort.

### 1. Tailor Samples for the Role You Want

Ideally, your programming portfolio website will contain evergreen samples of your work. However, you can update it to align with the job you’re targeting. For example, if you’re applying for a coding job, it may be a good idea to add some more samples of coding work to your portfolio.

### 2. Include Extracurricular Work

Sometimes, you may want to highlight particular skills in a portfolio, but you may struggle to find freelance jobs that will cater to these needs. However, you shouldn’t let that stop you from taking on side projects to create the specific samples you need to grab the attention of prospective employers.

For example, you could develop a new version of a landing page or website for the company you’re trying to impress. Not only will this showcase your skills, but it will also prove you have a self-starter attitude.

### 3. Ensure You Have a Responsive Design

This is the mobile age. When somebody lands on a website that isn’t mobile-responsive, it can be a frustrating experience, which often sends them running for the exit. Don’t let that be the first impression any employer gets from your software engineer portfolio website.

For further reading, [check out here what software engineers do](https://www.springboard.com/blog/software-engineering/software-engineer-job-description/).

Take the time to find a mobile-responsive theme that will offer a fantastic user experience on all devices. Better yet, develop your own!

### 4. Appealing Visual Design and Layout

If you use a free theme template, it will save you a lot of time otherwise spent on design or development. That being said, it’s still important to make sure you customize it to make it your own. Moreover, you must create a visually appealing layout that visitors will remember.

### 5. Custom Web URL

Remember that your programming portfolio site is a big part of your unique personal brand. With that in mind, choose a suitable URL. Ideally, it should include your name or at least reflect the work you do. Furthermore, it’s best to buy your own domain instead of using a free one, as it looks more professional than a long-winded free domain name.

### 6. Minimize the Touchpoints

You are trying to impress people, not confuse them. Therefore, a junior developer portfolio doesn’t need to be a complex labyrinth with lots of pages and options. You should make the user interface smooth and straightforward so that visitors can navigate throughout the site with just a few clicks.

### 7. Include Social Proof

Getting testimonials from happy clients is always a boon to your programming portfolio. If you can, encourage past clients to write a few sentences that explicitly state how your work had a positive impact on the project or business. Also, if you can get their contact information, it will add more weight to their claims, allowing interviewers to get in touch for any follow-up questions.