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COP3813 HW 1 Report

Purpose

The “Octonaut Parenting” website was created to explain why I’m happy to have my son watch the Octonauts TV show, while meeting the basic homework requirements and maintaining a pleasant appearance. I begin the website with an overview of what the show is and discuss why it’s good for kids, as well as how my own son enjoys watching it. The bulk of page space goes to showing the main characters and a brief description of what makes them a positive role model. To round out the content, links to related websites are provided at the bottom.

Coming up with the content and direction of this site was probably the most difficult part of the creative process. I wanted to talk about something that I interests me, and that I know a lot about, without delving into the usual categories of video games, movies, or music. Of course, websites about TV shows are pretty common, so I tried to add some uniqueness by connecting the Octonauts to my experience as a parent.

Design

Although I had intended to make the page more visually appealing, my design and development skills are such that I could barely do more than a few paragraphs and some pictures. I used a 2-column layout from Bootstrap for the opening paragraphs, since they’re of similar length and content. The rest of the text and table is centered for easy reading. Although not completely mobile-responsive (the text is too small), the layout does adjust to different viewing widths reasonably well. The color scheme is simple black and white, with a few light blue elements that are somewhat close to the color all Octonauts wear. I’m very partial to using blocky, sans-serif typefaces, so the default provided by the Bootstrap stylesheet was perfect for me.

Development

Tools

- Brackets for coding.
- OSX Terminal and Cyberduck for SSH and SFTP to LAMP server.
- OSX Terminal and Sourcetree for GitHub repository management.
- Safari (OSX and iOS), Chrome, Firefox for viewing and testing.
- Nu HTML Checker for validation (no errors or warnings found).
- Bootstrap stylesheet for some CSS.
- Google image search for character images.
- W3Schools website for examples and reference.

The first few attempts to create this website were through templates, but I wasn’t able to fit my content into anything readily available without a great deal of work and research, so I ended up

building from a blank slate. I work on a Mac, and although I have Windows and Linux machines for development purposes, I prefer the Apple platform because it has all the tools I need while being much more portable than my other gear. As I said before, coming up with content was the most difficult task, but layout and positioning of webpage elements was the most time-consuming. The Bootstrap CSS helped my design, as I've had some exposure to it through Codecademy, but W3Schools' tutorials and examples were by far my most used resource for how to code the page. Although not required, I'm trying to use GitHub for all my school projects, as a way of building an online portfolio and tracking my progress through assignments. I definitely improved my web development skills with this assignment, since I've never made a website all the way from concept, to creation, to deployment, to testing.