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COP3813 HW 2 Report

Purpose

This website was built to serve as a hub for my assignments in this class. To make the site easy-to-use and still look good, I used a Bootstrap template and stylesheet. Because there is little more to the site beyond link aggregation, all elements and design are kept simple with minor deviation from the template. The navigation bar and Jumbotron let users know the owner and purpose of the page, then the main section provides links to assignments with a brief description for each. Additional links are included after the homework and project links. These links are not required for the assignment, however.

Design

The Jumbotron template from getbootstrap.com was used for the layout of this website. I chose this design because it was simple and clearly displayed the information I wanted. This template is also mobile-responsive, which I value greatly. The default buttons were modified to add more color to the page, and the sign-in and Jumbotron link were removed because they weren't needed. Images may have been a nice addition, but after testing one in the Jumbotron, I decided to stick with the simple grey background. Lastly, I added a favicon - a white "N" on a blue square - to give the site's tab some distinction.

Development

Tools
- Brackets for coding.
- Bootstrap for template, stylesheet, and JavaScript.
- Favicon-generator.org for favicon.
- 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).

Initial creation was straightforward with the template. I downloaded it, put my name on it, and uploaded it to the LAMP server. I had first thought that this would be another free choice website, and began designing it around the topic of lizards in South Florida, but changed it once I read the assignment description. The content was very light, so it only took a few hours to add with layout and styling. Adding the favicon was a bit of a challenge though. After browsing selections online, I tried creating my own. It didn't go well, so I fell back onto a simple icon from favicon-generator.org. The final updates were styling tweaks, changing to relative links, and re-insertion of Bootstrap's JavaScript for better performance. The extra links were left as absolute because GitHub and LinkedIn are external, and the Japanese flag example is not

required for this course (I wanted to make sure I could post, link, and use HTML 5 on the LAMP server).

This assignment was much easier than the first website, since content and design were already provided. Most of my work was deciding which layout and colors to use, managing the files on the server, then getting links to work correctly. The favicon took a few hours since I didn't know how to go about creating one, even though I eventually settled on a pre-existing icon. Overall, I estimate about twelve hours of effort to complete this assignment.