**Activity Space (Tech and Project Portfolios)**

**Activity 1:**

* What is a technical portfolio?
* What is the context, audience, and purpose of a technical portfolio?

A close up of a map

Description automatically generated

**Activity 2:**

* What are the differences between a resume and a technical portfolio?
* What do you think should be included in a tech portfolio?

**Activity 3: (First impressions)**

Take a look at these three authentic samples of technical portfolios on your own.

Which do you prefer and why? Meet at 12.35

1. whoisjuan: <https://www.whoisjuan.me/>
2. Ian Lunn: <https://ianlunn.co.uk/>
3. Matthew Williams: <http://findmatthew.com/>

Please fill in the table below when you are ready. Thanks!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Preferred Technical Portfolio** | **Why?** |
| Alan Low | whoisjuan | His website portfolio seems to be the one that works the best out of the box when I first visit his website. He shows off his UX skills by incorporating many animations into his website as the user scrolls down the webpage. Pleasing to the eye. In addition, he showcased his past works in a concise manner. |
| Tai | Whoisjuan | I like the design of the website as it showcases his UI/UX skills. |
| Daryl | Ian Lunn | Has a comprehensive walkthrough of each project and the responsibilities for each project is clearly listed. |
| Emily | whoisjuan | The portfolio is filled with information. The picture used for each of the project is creative such as the last egg (2013) and AAO VR game (2013), which can attract the audience to read more on the project. He also included his design research and exploration which shows his thoughts process for the project. |
| Wraine | whoisjuan | The website is clean-looking and navigation on it is smooth. He showcased his projects and awards. It can be seen clearly. |
| Wei Li | whoisjuan | Portfolio section is clean without information overload. If i want more information I can just click the section I want. Ian’s portfolio section is too wordy at a 5s glance. The picture covers for Matthew’s portfolio projects sometimes does not really show the technologies and skills applied although there is the click feature like Juan. |
| Jun Leong | Matthew | I like that the info is concise, sharing his expertise confidence in percentages, pictorial brief descriptions of his projects. He may not seem as experienced as Juan but the looks of each project shows competency. Only issue is lag. Technically cant compare to Juan too because different expertise. |
| Aileen | Ian Lunn | The website is organized, and I can get the most information with least click. |
| Musfirah | whoisjuan | I love the web design, it shows that he really is a UX designer as mentioned. He has been in the press also and created articles. For his featured work, I like how the UX is designed – you only stay on one page (modal box) and don’t have to jump here and there like Ian’s website.  Though Juan’s website is good, I’d appreciate if he would put his stack technologies like how Matthew did instead of having to click on his project showcase individually to see what stack technologies he knows. |
| Shyun Yin | Whoisjuan | I really love the website, it is really dynamic and interesting, and everything seems easy to use (e.g the button that links you to another link that opens in a new tab), demonstrating how good he is as a UX designer. He provides his portfolio and awards as well, giving himself more credibility. |
| Haziq | ianlunn | Showcases a featured set of work, outlines his abilities and what is guaranteed in his product and easy to read the page. |
| Anvitha | whoisjuan | The website is very creative and neat. IK really like the creative oputlets and animations that his websirte shows and there int an information overload until the pic is clicked so it ensures that the website just looks very clean and nice. |
| Isaac | whoisjuan | Portfolio is clear and succint, compared to the other 2 portfolios which have much more information at a glance. We are able to view more information about his projects when we want to. |
| Braden | ianlunn | Can see the relational aspect as he shows the people he has worked with. He also provides details about the projects he has done. Overall very readable layout and design. |
| Haofeng | whoisjuan | He shows every aspect of himself, for example, the testimonials, products, mentioned articles and achievements. The users can view everything related to him and get a complete understanding of him. The design of the website is also attractive. |
| Sharif | whoisjuan | Personal website feels more inviting. Unique animations that capture interest. A lot of information present and website is not cluttered. |
| Tuan | findmatthew | I like how the information appears when you scroll down the page, his technical skill is shown clearly. |
| edward | findmatthew | Simple and clear page, shows his projects, skills and blogs that he wrote very nicely |
| Jun Lim | whoisjuan | Content is packaged better for viewing, e.g. a rough and concise history of his works and experiences. Smooth and pleasant animations are also incorporated into his website |
| Yu Zhong | Ian lunn | Get to access some of the link provided of what he has done. |

**Activity 4: (Go Deeper)**

Work in pairs and analyse these authentic samples in more detail.

1. whoisjuan: <https://www.whoisjuan.me/>
2. Ian Lunn: <https://ianlunn.co.uk/>
3. Matthew Williams: <http://findmatthew.com/>

1. What content do these portfolios include?

*What content do you think is useful to persuade the reader to employ or collaborate with you?*

1. How were the portfolios organised and delivered?

What makes it appealing or unappealing to the reader?

*You can comment on the design/aesthetic features and the overall user experience.*

*Let’s meet at 12: 50*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Room 1 (Edward and Alan) | Room 2 (Tuan, Tai) |
| **Part A**  One common aspect is the companies they have worked with, especially the ones that are well-known.  They also included their own written articles about their opinions and values on their profession, as well as any mentions of them by notable news presses.  They also included channels to which any interested parties can contact them through.  **Part B**  The websites have similar organisations, in which they usually give a brief introduction about themselves, then a list of works they have done in the past, and then at the bottom of the website they will give their contact details.  They make it appealing by trying to introduce animated content into their website to make it feel more interactive to the user. | **A.**  Projects and past experiences. Technologies and frameworks that they used. Testimonials from past clients are also included (Ian).  **B.**  **Appealing**  Well-organized with clear sections.  Interactive and responsive – this showcases their skills (UI/UX, design etc) The fluid design also catches the attention of the reader, making it more interesting and unique.  **Unappealing**  Matthew’s - a bit too cluttered as he just lumps all the pictures in one place.  Juan’s - for contact info, it’s limited to 2 choices, it would be better if there’s a contact form for the readers to drop in their enquiries directly  Ian’s - too wordy |
| Room 3 | Room 4 (Aileen, Braden) |
| Content – they included the project they have embarked into including their own side projects. their credibilities are also included (e.g. testimonials, articles), contact details  Appealing  Organization – Simple and not messy. The projects are listed out neatly and if you want to read more about something, you can click on the object link, project e.g.  Animations and effects makes their website more interactive.  Unappealing  Some of them included only pictures or minor details about their project, which might be less credible.  Some of their layout are also inefficient. An example would be where they placed their stack technologies in their website. Potential employees might want faster access to these stack technologies. | Personal background, their focus, and previous projects, articles/blogs, testimonies, contact details  Appealing: Organises everything clearly, reader can get information easily  Unappealing: Colours are not attractive, looks dull at first glance (e.g. monochrome palette).  Having to rely on the user to click on pictures might not be intuitive and easy for the user to navigate the website |
| Room 5 Wei LI, Yu Zhong | Room 6: Haziq, Shyun Yin |
| Content: Have projects in which they described the project content and what technologies that they used. Have testimonials / awards from competitions and press mentions. Got links for contact such that linkedin or email.  Appealing: All the portfolio at first glance is somewhat clean and neat.  whoisjuan has pictures with some words for each project which interested me to click when I see a related technology that my team / company is using.  Ian’s portfolio section has comprehensive description of his projects although it can be too wordy at times. The organization of the website can be improved. Can strike a balance between comprehensive and minimal.  Unappealing:  findmatthew need to mouse over to see related technologies used. He never described his contributions towards the project he displayed and only show links for me to see the end product. | A: Content – included testimonials and awards, previous work, short introductory statement of themselves, contact information  B: Appealing – short descriptions in the portfolio, showcase their tech stacks and their abilities so that employers know what they are good at and what they know, different keywords for themselves using icons that are eye-catching and attract attention  Unappealing – Ian is a little messy as the webpage is a bit clustered. Juan font size and colour is not the easiest to read. |
| Room 7(Anvitha , Isaac) | Room 8 (Haofeng, Jun Lim) |
| Content – Includes their projects, their role in the projects, testimonials/ awards, skills, contact information, articles/journals/blog  Delivery:  (Organisation)  1)Introductions/ about  2) Portfolios (projects done)  3)Miscellaneous (blogs, articles, testimonials)  (Layout)  Appealing:  Quite simple in nature, not too much information as to overwhelm the reader  Showcase of technical skills at first glance – Matthew introduces his technical proficiency clearly  Unappealing:  Too little information at a glance – Juan has showcased project titles he has worked on with little information at first glance | A: The contents include a simple introduction of the author, the work done, testimonials, related articles, awards achieved andf contact information. These persuade the reader to employ the author by showing complete aspects of the author and details of the author’s capabilities.  B: Generally, the content is packaged in an organised and structured manner that is comfortable to access for all sites.  Ian - Has a brief overview of important aspects to be highlighted on the main tab, which is a plus point compared to having all the information stacked in one webpage.  Juan – Has an organised history of his past experiences. Important for people who are interested on how he has progressed in his career.  Matthew – Has a nice personal touch in first introducing his branding. But might be a bit lacking in explaining his design processes. |
| Room 9 (Emily, Wraine) | Room 10 (Sharif, Jun Leong) |
| A:  Content: The projects they had worked on. Awards and testimonials. Included a short introduction of themselves. There is also a contact page where people can email them.  B:  Delivery: Fix structured to the tech portfolio. Introduction of the person, the project they have completed, awards and testimonials and lastly links to their other websites such as GitHub, LinkedIn and a contact page.  Appealing: Having more animations makes the tech portfolio nicer. Having minimal information on the front-end makes the website less clutter, more information about the project can be found when the audience clicked onto the project.  Unappealing: Navigation around the portfolio is hard and inconvenient. At first of the portfolio, it is filled with words, too much information for audience to digest. | Content: The projects they worked on, how they contributed to a project, tech stacks they worked with. Linkedin, github, testimonials.  Delivery:  Most tried to have a pleasant interface that makes viewing information easy.  Clear divisions of sections (portfolio, about, testimonials).  Unappealing:  Some websites don’t show personal character.  Site not secure hence shows incompetency.  Some sites do not show information on how they contributed to the project.  Matthew has no Github?? |

**Activity 6:**

Analyze these 3 sites that contain project descriptions :

1. <https://medium.com/whoisjuan-journal/coverpocket-ux-audit-12ff5811922d>
2. <http://findmatthew.com/>   (Go to “Portfolio” or “Projects”)

As a group, apply your understanding of the needs analysis (context, audience and purpose) and comment on the following:

* **Content** – (the kind of information these descriptions include)
* **Organisation**– (e.g. its appeal or lack of appeal, reader-friendliness)
* **Delivery** – Language (e.g. formality, use of personal pronouns, tech jargon), Visuals , General Formatting and Presentation, (layout, do the links work?)
* **Preference**- Which do you prefer and why?

*Meet at 1.25*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grp | Content | Organisation | Delivery | Preference |
| 1  Musfirah,  Haofeng, Isaac, Alan | * Stack technologies used to build the website * The link to the website they helped built * Problems faced and contributions | * Websites in general used visuals to aid in their descriptions of the projects, which makes it appealing to the readers. | Ian and Juan provided detailed contents about their experiences and problems faced when embarking for the project.  Meanwhile Matthew provided only a vague description of his project. | Juan – His writeup is concise and straight to the point.  Ian – Although his website might appear less aesthetically pleasing, his write-up on his project is the most detailed. Gives a better idea of his contributions in the project. |
| 2  Tai,  Edward, Daryl, Braden | -Their contributions/ roles for the project  -Screenshots of the projects  -Technologies used  -Problems faced during the process and their solutions   * - The iterations that he did on the project | Appealing: Detailed design process and problems faced  Unappealing: Too lengthy (wall of text), maybe can split it more to different segments with diff designs/ colors to make the user wanna read  Perhaps can add a table of content | Ian uses more technical vocabularies, more catered towards technical readers.  Juan uses “I” throughout while Ian uses “we” occasionally to give credits to his teammates – shows that he’s a teamworker.  Matthew doesn’t have much to deliver... | Ian -  Specific technical words  Very detailed thought process from the beginning to end  Gives rationale on the decisions he made for the choice of colours, design etc... |
| 3: Tuan, Sharif, Jun Leong, Shyun | -How they contributed to the project  -Responsibilities  -Included funding for project (demonstrates value of their projects)  -Showcase technical skills  -Other than Ian, the rest lack information about their process since companies might not just focus on the end products  -Matthew doesnt have github page, does not have information to what he did, not enough evidence, might seem sketchy | Reader-friendliness: - too much small detail put on the website (Ian explains how he did every part of the website, Ian is more all rounded so he has a lot more content to put)  Appealing:  -Matthew (not very appealing cause of the lack of content and links that dont work)  -Ian (at first due to it being cluttered it seemed unappealing)  -Juan (appealing because UX is what he does and his expertise) | -Lack personality generally, maybe they can improve on their phrasing and information placement on their website  -Matthew's blog links dont work at all... Juan has some that doesnt work | Juan:  Gives the right amount of information  Able to point out and locate parts that might be interesting to the employer or reader. |
| 4  Emily, Haziq, Wraine,  Yu Zhong | -Problem Statement  -Summary of what they have done/deliverables  -The skills used for the project  -Links to the website they have developed  -A brief summary of how they use technology to solve problem. | -Written in paragraphs so that it is detailed  -There are sparse pictures/videos included inside  -Summary at the top of the webpage so that audience knows what the project is about | -The writing style can be personal or formal (in a third-party subject)  -Juan and Ian provide more details on the development process of the projects such as explaining the challenges they faced while Matthew gave a short summary of the projects.  -When compared with Juan and Ian, we feel that Juan's documentation is more concise while Ian might be sharing too much information. | Juan – Short and clear, information shared are all easily understandable  Ian – Too much information and can cause loss of focus in the information he wanted to express |
| 5Wei Li, Tianai,Anvitha,  Jun Lim | 1. Technologies that they used 2. The roles that they contributed to the project 3. Their design approaches | 1. Listed a brief summary of roles and product before elaborating on the processes involved (Juan and Ian) 2. Made use of visual aids or even videos to boost clarity 3. All websites got responsive styling for different screen sizes. | Juan and Ian both gave well parsed content, showing that they really thought through the approach they wish to take from a consumer perspective  Ian also gave an update on the latest changes to his website  Matthew OTOH only listed the various end products without providing sufficient details on the processes | Ian – Good styling and organization. His main plus point compared to the rest is the great amount of information he writes describing all aspects of the projects that he has done.  Juan – For Juan’s projects, he first showed a simple summary detailing the summary about the project as well as listing the main technologies used first. This gives me the opportunity to have a quick glance first to decide whether I want to further look into this project of his before being loaded with information. |

**Bonus:**

Take a look at Brittany Chiang’s tech portfolio for more inspiration =)

<https://brittanychiang.com/>