



Noroff

School of technology
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Project Exam 1

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Word count

1302



Design

I decided immediately to make a travel blog. I rarely read blogs normally, so I did some browsing through the best travel blogs I could find online. I got some ideas and inspiration which I used for my prototype. I chose the name of my blog "Forever Abroad" and I also made a simple logo made of two icons, an earth and infinite sign. I choose colours and I found some finished travel colours pallets and decided to use one of them. I did some small customization of the colours before implementing the colours to my adobe XD library. I initially decided to use the font Optimus princeps for headers and links and Verdana for paragraphs. This was later changed after the feedback prosses. The reason for the change was that the Optimus princeps font was too thin compared to the relatively thick Verdana for paragraphs. The balance between the headers and paragraphs was wrong and that was confirmed by some of my user's tests. I decided to keep the Optimus princeps Semibold font for the logo and for the top navigation bar, while changing the paragraph font too Helvetica which is a little lighter and easy to read font. For the headers I found a font called Park-lane, which I used the bold version of. Compared to the Optimus princeps, Park-lane is thicker, more elegant and at the same time a little playful. I am still not 100% sure if the fonts are a good match, but at least the balance between the headers and paragraphs are better and I know that the text is easy to read which is important for a blog. I also choose to use line-height of 1.8, I found some articles about 1.5 line-height being optimal for readability, but I think that 1.8 looked better for my blog. I didn't make a wireframe, So I just made up the wireframe in my head while making the prototype. Probably for next time I would make a wireframe before making the prototype. I started of by making the prototype of the home page for mobile and desktop size. Then continued with the rest of the pages. I wanted the posts to be displayed as clickable cards, which would be displayed on the blog post site and the home page carousel. I wanted the card as a photo with the most important text displayed on top. Title and Country/city. To make the text readable I added a shadow overlay at the bottom of the cards. The blog Post detail page is designed pretty basic with headers, images and text and a bit narrower view to make the text more readable. For next time I would like to make the blog text even more narrow and add a side bar on the right side. About me page is built like a profile, with name, profile info and a circle image plus some additional information below. I also added an extra category called Accommodation to make the blog more interesting. The home page also has some featured posts in addition to the intro and the latest post section. I used many images both as decoration and for the posts. For the decorative images I tried to find images that would match the sites colours and overall design. I feel that I have a good grip on colours and placement, and that my weakest spots on design is fonts and planning a wireframe.

Technical

I managed to complete all the requirements in the exam including a slider carousel for the home page, image modal, contact form validation and the rest API as a CMS. The hardest part was definitely the carousel which I had never done before. I used some inspiration from several youtube videos and after a long time I managed to build a working carousel. At first I made it for mobile with only 1 post showing and sliding. I struggled to make this carousel turn to two posts at tablet and 3 for desktop like I wanted. When I first found a way, I used a javascript code where I manually added how much the slider should move for each screen size. So in the end this carousel is not 100% perfect and is not very dynamic to use. With some small improvments it can be a good carousel to use for other



websites as well. I wanted to make it infinite carousel, but didn't have more time to use on the carousel part. The modal was pretty easy to handle with an onclick function for the image which then show the modal. I used another onclick function and targeted the modal class to make it close only when the modal was clicked, not the image or caption. I also added a small X button on top right corner as a second close modal option.

Fetching the Rest API was something I had done several times before, so I knew how to do this. The challenge was to create the HTML from the fetched data. Most of the post content was all together in the content rendered, so most of the data was created from this endpoint. The title, posted time and featured image was fetched separately.

To style the posts I could use the wordpress classes that were already added or I could make my own classes directly in the wordpress admin. For the View more posts button I added a simple onclick function with the new URL including the parameter to view more posts. I also did one of the optional tasks to make a search bar on the blog posts page. I managed to get it work and it went well. The navigation dropdown is made of pure Html/CSS, but in the end of this project I added a hide function for the menu so that on scroll down it disappear and on scroll up it appears. I also added a to top button on the bottom right which also hide based on the same scroll function as the menu bar. It might be better to make the dropdown menu with javascript for next time.

To summarize the technical part. The carousel was difficult, but its working. The rest of the requirements were managed with ease. I also tried to do the 2 and 3 optional requirements, but I didn't manage to make the comment and contact form data to be posted to wordpress. I will manage these parts for next time.

WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

I have checked through the WCAG guidelines and made sure that my blog passes the guidelines for colours contrasts, alt texts, meta descriptions, titles.

Except for that I haven't done much for SEO as we haven't learned much more about SEO.

As specified in this exam I have used Wordpress as content management system. I started off by adding 3-4 posts before making the blog. After the website was finished I added the remaining posts. I made 18 posts in total. I made sure to add ALT text for all images directly in Wordpress admin. I divided the posts in categories so I could fetch each category separately on the website. I used featured posts category for the latest post carousel.

I added some classes directly in wordpress which I could use to style with my CSS frontend.

I did for example use the alt text on the posts images as caption text for the image modal.

Overall I didn't have much problems with SCAG, CMS or SEO. I am not 100% about the contrast for some of my white titles that overlaying images, like the H1 titles in the header.

I have added a darker background color on the header image to make the text more visible and the Titles font size is big and bold.



References

(place references to websites, books, forums etc. that helped you in the project)

Images:

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Icons:

<https://kit.fontawesome.com/05dfe09a67.js>

Text Content:

<https://baconipsum.com/>

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Blog Inspiration:

<https://www.jonesaroundtheworld.com/>

Carousel slider inspiration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqkozb5UCcs&t=738s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBzsE0oieio&t=3339s>

