Project Exam 1

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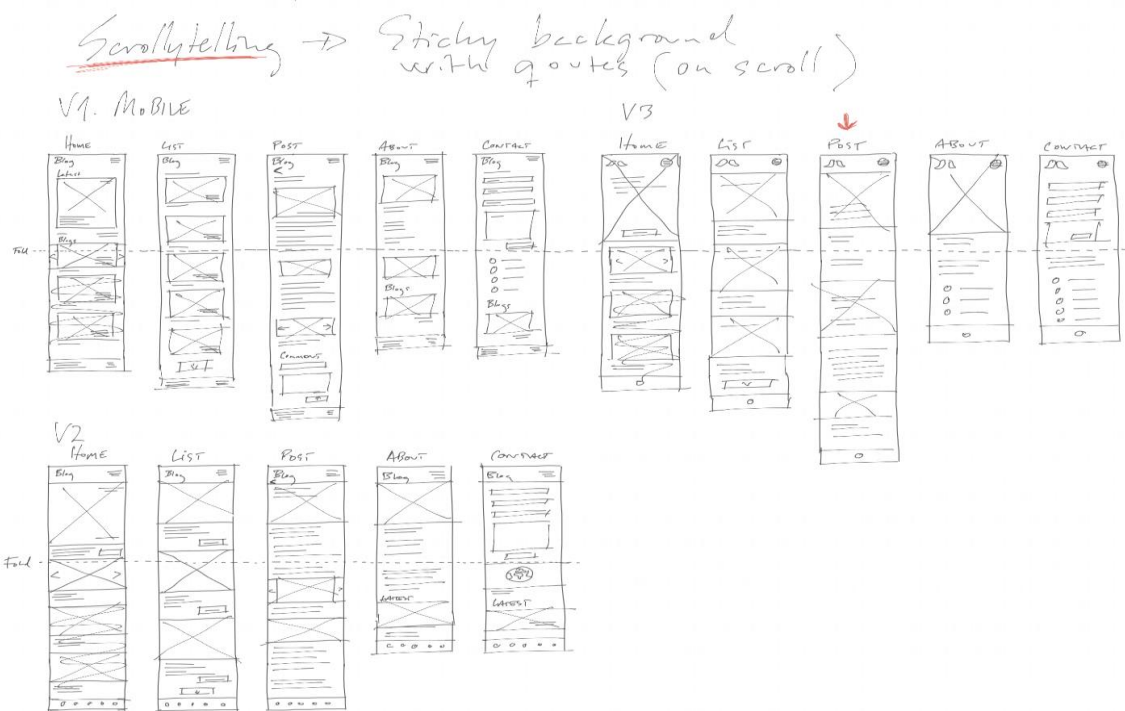
Word count: 1200

Design

What went well on the project:

I am personally interested in gaming, technology and automotive, so I decided to go for a split theme, between technology and cars for this assignment.

I have heard about and also browsed on so called scrolly telling articles, and that was my vision for this blog. So decided the blog needed to have good readability, and an airy feel. Almost like a regular magazine, with big pictures covering the screen when scrolling.

The planning stage started with some fast lo-fi sketches to get a feel of how to accomplish this effect.
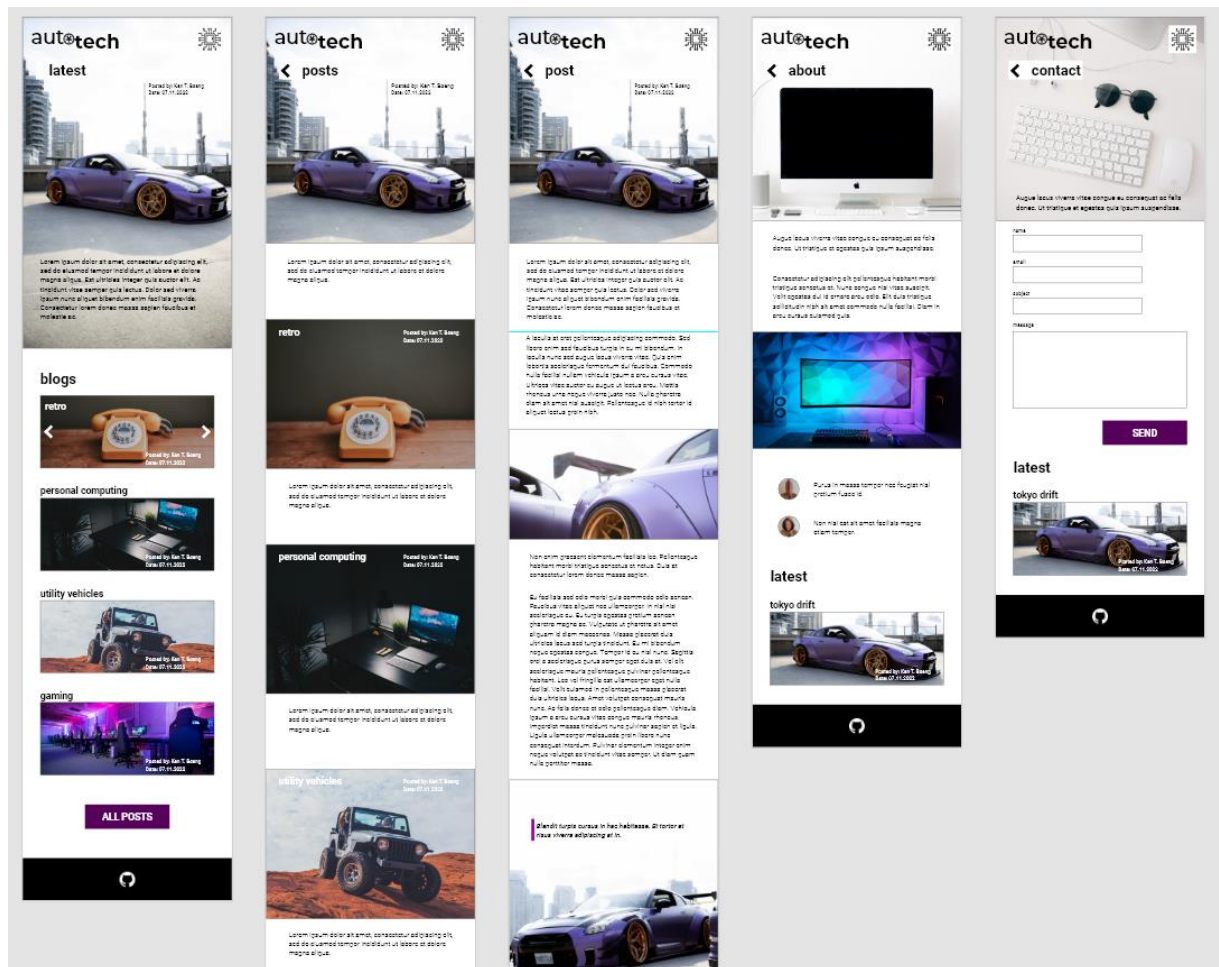

Some sketches of the mobile version.

As I continued with the design, I also made mid-fi sketches, and considered colours and fonts for the page. I originally planned for a light and dark mode, with complementing call-to-action colours. This is a feature I put on hold as it was not in the scope of the assignment, but a nice to have.

The light version only consists of black and white. And as I sourced images for the different topic I found quite a few images with purple, so I decided to go with a dark purple for the accent colour. I looked at different icons to use as a logo, and found two typefaces to use, one for the menu and logo and one for the rest, both sans-serif. The logo was an icon of a car-rim, in line with part of the theme, and I used a typeface with circular letters so that I could insert the rim as the letter "o" in the title of the blog. I used a circuit board as the menu to accommodate my split theme.

The mid-fi and prototyping was the next step and I stayed with my initial sketches pulling some details from v1, v2 and using mostly v3 as my concept. I found that I needed to change some of my initial thoughts on the fly.

What was difficult/didn't go well on the project:

I stayed with the design for the most part, but I found the text in the pictures proved difficult to read as I would need to curate/customise each picture to ensure readability. Also, in the eventuality if pictures are turned off, they would be on white background, and for the white text that would pose as a problem. Therefore, I added white boxes around all the text, like I did in the heading. I also put in pictures of in both portrait and landscape, and when added this to the code I found that it breaks up the equally sized cards that was in my initial design, so I decided to keep it that way. I believe this breaks up the content nicely when shown on screen, especially on mobile.

What would you do differently next time

I will try to maintain my design better from the prototype phase, as it would need to be more in line with the proposed design when working in real world development scenario. I need to plan more carefully when deciding how things should show. As from the shown example above I placed the text so that it is easily readable, but I found when adding pictures to the site, it proved troublesome to maintain consistent readability.
I might need to crop and size pictures manually and place text accordingly on each post, or find another solution to maintain readability.

Technical

What went well on the project

Adding content to the API was a breeze, and I found out later that you can resize, crop, and do all sorts inside the admin panel. I added the posts, and I added the contact page and about page as a page to call all of these from the API.

The initial design made the start of my coding pretty lightweight in terms of HTML and CSS. But I found that my CSS ruleset became twice as big in no time as I progressed with tweaking of my design.

The basic functionality of my webpage was done quite fast.

What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

When I got to the modal and carousel, things became a little more difficult.

I researched online and saw there where many ways to do this. And I wanted to use a low cost/small code solution. I found some helpful sites with good examples that I referenced in the report, and I rewrote these to work in my situation. I found that the biggest hurdles I had was targeting the content from the API, as most examples used s and <div>s. I used some time to overcome this, but I feel I managed a good solution at last.

What would you do differently next time

I will probably try to create more advanced solutions to challenge myself a little more.

From some sessions we've had from school, it has been mentioned that innerHTML (which I have used extensively) is not a good solution in terms of security. I need to start working with createElement.

This assignment proved to be a tougher challenge than I initially thought.

I had plans to try to deliver the optional level 2 assignment, but I found that I spent too much time on other aspects of the assignment, like targeting the pictures from the API. This was not as easy as I thought, as the media were in a different endpoint than the posts.

WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

What went well on the project

I don't have many colours in this project, so readability should be good all over.

I have added alt texts to all images. WP CMS was a breeze to add content to, and testing gave good results on Pagespeed, accessibility, and HTML validator.

Some warning on HTML, as I divided my pages in sections, and it should headings in each section. I used it do divide navbar, loader, main content and sections in the main content.

What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

I found that the images I compressed and cropped before I uploaded to WP, got handled pretty badly by WP image handler, as many of my images got bigger inn size. I found that this happened to all pictures bigger than 2560px.

This made some extra effort as I needed to delete and upload new resized images to replace the big ones. Luckily not all pictures had this issue.

What would you do differently next time
I will probably handle my images to be under 2400px at least, to ensure compression isn't broken by the CMS. Also I am not sure if the grouping of content in sections is completely within best practice, but I used it to split the different parts of the HTML.

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

Logo and Icons
- Logo, tire: https://www.flaticon.com/free-icon/tire_3573968 Credited in footer on homepage.
- Menu, circuit board: https://www.flaticon.com/free-icon/circuit_2432572 Credited in footer on homepage.
- Github logo: https://github.com/logos Links to my Github page.

Resources
- https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css_modal_images.asp Js rewritten.
- https://webdesign.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-build-a-simple-carousel-with-vanilla-javascript--cms-41734 Js rewritten.
- Smaller challenges has been solved with help from MDN and StackOverflow.

Images
- Avatar images are my own images.
- https://unsplash.com/photos/pBs0koIAF3s
- https://unsplash.com/photos/w8CcH9Md4vE
- https://unsplash.com/photos/WetsUDkONXY
- https://unsplash.com/photos/0hJL8lBl0qQ
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