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Reflection Piece for my Web Systems Capstone project.

Over the past few days, I have embarked on an intense and rewarding journey of building my own Capstone website. This project was more than just an academic exercise, it was a personal mission to sharpen my skills and prove to myself that I could translate ideas into real digital products.

In the beginning, I was filled with energy and a clear vision (I had high hopes regarding the features I thought I would implement), but I quickly realized how steep the learning curve could be.

Features planned for this project

I had planned multiple features for this project. Most of them were implemented, and some of them were not due to either running out of time or extreme difficulty. Below is a list of the features I had planned:

- Having a dark/light mode toggle
- A visa / mastercard icon next to the card details during checkout
- A logo with a tagline
- A Go-Up button
- Multiple picture icons
- A payment gateway
- A favicon
- Some animation
- Drop down headings/menus

Challenges faced

While building this project, I encountered the following challenges:

- Linking the background image to make a pattern: was not implemented
- Finding the perfect colour scheme for my website: Finding matching colours was a big issue from the start of this project. This led me to creating a css variable class so I can change colours multiple times without going through the whole css file.
- Positioning my logo as well as the Nav bar, and other flex items: Positions are always a struggle in CSS.
- Struggling with something as basic as how to apply a strikethrough effect using CSS(This was to show a price reduction after the discount granted on the quiz section).
- Javascript logic for <select> fields

Lessons Learned

Through these struggles, I learned a valuable lesson: debugging is not a sign of failure but a necessary and even noble part of the development process, even though you might spend sleepless nights staring at a screen. Each bug, each confusing result, each unexpected behavior taught me to slow down, ask better questions, rest, and improve my understanding.

I've also learned the importance of iteration: a good front-end product doesn't come out perfect on the first attempt. It is molded, refined, and shaped through constant trial and error.

What I could've done better

One of my mistakes was underestimating how much time CSS can take. CSS was my major problem, and this has taught me to get started with CSS formatting a little bit earlier.

In Conclusion

Looking back, I am proud of how far I've come in such a short time. I am now more comfortable with HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and jQuery. More importantly, I've learned to think like a developer: breaking down problems, identifying errors, and patiently working through solutions.

This experience has strengthened not only my technical abilities but also my character. It reminded me why I started this journey—to become a force for positive change through technology. If I can build a site from scratch while grappling with syntax errors and logical bugs (and CSS!), I can build empires. One line of code at a time!