Website link: <https://petergion.github.io/>

Most professional websites are planned out ahead of time and most of the time these websites have a certain goal in mind. This website is no different in that I had a set goal that I wanted to achieve. I primarily made this website because of the class assignment. However, if I had to put a goal of what this website was supposed to be achieving, I would say it was to have a platform to showcase all the things that a potential employer should know about me. When you’re trying to apply for a job in software engineering you need to have projects to showcase that you know what you’re doing when it come to the language that you are coming in. having a platform to showcase this would be the best way to organize all your projects into one.

When you are planning almost anything for a business one of the curtail things that you need to include in that plan is the target audience. I would say that for my website the target audience would be software engineering employers. Knowing that this was my primary audience I implemented certain elements of the website in the fashion that I did. This was in the form of the portfolio page constantly reminding the user to check my git hub page. This is because in this space there is a heavy push for showing the projects that you have already worked on. This is how they gauge how good of a fit that you would be for their company. I also elected to keep the design of the website simple because of this, I didn’t want to overwhelm the person looking at the site. This was because I knew if there was a potential employer looking at the site they would skim through the site for a little bit and then they would see if I fit the position.

In the current time that we live in there are many different options out there when it comes to website building. You can choose from a wide variety of different website builders that are on the web or you can make the website with HMTL and CSS. When I went to design my website, I elected the latter option. Now when it comes to CSS and HTML there are many different libraries out there that you can choose form. There are all kinds of things like Bootstrap, Tailwind CSS, Foundation however I didn’t go with any of these options because of how small the website was I figured that it would be easiest to just go with pure CSS. All these libraries have their pros and cons, but I think that for the scope of the project and not to mention the time that I had I was better off with just using pure CSS.

When designing a website with CSS and HTML there are many different routes that you can take. You can choose to use an already created website creation tool and choose to add your own HTML to it. I didn’t go with this option because I wanted to make my own CSS on my website instead of having the website determine it for me. Now what I did for my website was I used Visual Studio code for my IDE. Now that leaves the question of what I used to host my website, I simply just published my repository to GitHub, and it published itself. However, there were some things that I had to learn with GitHub like how to publish to a repository from Visual Studio code but a quick google search fixed all these issues.

Website design is no easy feat, and it comes with its own challenges. I have only just started learning HTML and CSS at the beginning of this semester so there were some issues that I had with this website while I was creating it. One of the issues that I faced was how to center all the elements of the page. I fixed this issue by looking it up on the internet and finding the solution. However just looking something up on the internet in the world of coding is almost never enough to fix your issue. I also had to go to Mozilla’s documentation for CSS to get it to work fully. Then there was also the issue of getting the navigation bar to work properly. This was also something that I looked up on the internet and I found a solution to however I did also reference this with the documentation as well and found a better implementation. Creating this website wasn’t hard to do it just was very time consuming because I had to constantly reference the documentation to find out what I was doing wrong.

Every website has an information architecture that they use for their website. There are many kinds of information architectures that a website can utilize. I feel like for the size of my website I thought that the best architecture to use was the flat architecture. There wasn’t that much information to present to the user so basically what I did was a I created four different pages for my website a home page, a portfolio page, a qualifications page, and a contact page. Each of these pages contains paragraphs and pictures showcasing all the elements respective to the topic of the page.

Every website should be tested for its usability at some point in time to see if it meets the criteria that it set out to fulfil. My site was no different, I had five people test my site and I gave each of the five people five different tasks. Each of the tasks were simple find the answer on the website. To ensure that each test was as consistent as possible all the answers were written down. The first question was, “What is my primary programming language?”. The second question was, “What is the project that I’m most proud of?”. The third question was “What is my primary IDE?”. The fourth question was, “What is my email address?”. Finally, the last question was, “What relational database management systems (version of SQL) did I learn about?”.

While I was conducting the test I observed where the participants clicked on the screen to get to their answer. None of the participants that I had struggled too much with finding the things that I wanted them to. Almost every single time that I told them to do something they immediately clicked on the right tab at the top of the page to get to the information that they needed. However, I did notice that when they were trying to find the information on the page the thing that was most common was scrolling on the page for a long time before concluding their answer. One of the participants did state that the second question was unclear, and he didn’t answer it because he thought that it refenced something else. I did also notice that when most of the other participants were trying to find the answer to this question they were scrolling on the page for a long time before coming to the answer. Due to this I would probably chalk this up to just being a poorly worded question rather than poor website design.

There were also some general things that I observed when I was watching the participants navigate the site. I noticed that most of the errors that were made were in the beginning of the test, I believe that this is the participants getting used to the way that the website is laid out. Towards the end for most of the participants when they had to navigate to the qualifications page they knew better where to find what they were looking for on the last question better than the first. I also noticed that one of the most common things that each participant did was scroll up and down the page to find the answer. I also noticed that when I gave them an easy question like “where is my email address” every single participant had no trouble clicking on the contact page and telling me my email.

There is a simple metric that outlines the elements of a website usability. In this metric there are five levels that are outlined, and they are as follows Ease of learning, memorability, error rates, and satisfaction level. I believe that for the first element I would give my website a good grade however I wouldn’t say that it is perfect because as I said earlier the participants did better on the last task than they did on the first one. However, they all still did complete the tasks that I gave them quickly so I would still give it some credit on this one. Next there is memorability I would say that this was pretty good for my website. Like I said most of the participants were much better at performing the last task than they were at performing the first. Next there is error rate, this was something that I noticed that every participant struggled with. Most of the time this was in the form of passing where the information was on the page. Finally, there was the satisfaction level, most of the users said that they had a good time using the site.

There isn’t a website that is flawless and even the biggest of websites are flawed in some way. I would say that there are some things that I can improve in the design of my website. I noticed that when some of the participants where scrolling on the qualifications page they didn’t realize that there was a navigation at the top that they could click to go to certain parts of the page. I would have probably made it so that there was thing to tell the user that this is an element of the website that would help you find what you are looking for. I would’ve also liked to add this feature to the portfolio page as well, but I didn’t realize this until after I started conducting the tests.