PROJECT REFLECTION

Room5

Web Design & Programming II

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Project Reflection

We have learnt how to develop a functional website while integrating both front-end and back-end principles using HTML, CSS, JavaScript and PHP languages. Breaking down of the tasks to subtasks enabled us manage the project well and complete it within the specified period. All the code and images with different functionality in the website was assembled together in order to serve their purposes well. At the end of the task, we ended up developing a dynamic Ecycle website that satisfied its users' needs of registration and signup, log in and shopping on the website.

In order to make the system a fully mobile website, one can add a fully functional ecommerce API such as Shopify or WooCommerce API. This would enable one to add all their desired products to a cart, checkout them out, pay using their desired payment gateway and keep track of their orders. Not only would the API assist the customer, but also the seller or owners of the site in managing the product prices, setting up the payment destination account and keeping track of customer orders.

The development was quite challenging especially implementing the system to reset after ten minutes and limiting a user to only three attempts. Implementing the reset function seemed difficult since we had to use JavaScript for its implementation, which was challenging at first.

On our Ecycle Site we used Responsive Layout to enable users with different screen resolutions access all the features of the site. Using Responsive Layout makes it possible for the website to respond to changes in browser width, according to the user’s browser width the design elements of the website adjust to fit in the available space.

Advantages of the Responsive Layout include;

* It is easier to implement and takes less time.
* The site appearance is familiar across all devices.
* Only one single design will be used across all the devices in Responsive Layout, with no need to develop various designs as in Adaptive Layout.

Disadvantages of Responsive Layout are;

* Flexibility of media like images is a major issue.
* Some of the elements which fit perfectly on larger screens like desktops might fail to fit on smaller screens like smartphones.

Adaptive Layout is whereby different designs are developed to suit the users’ screen size. When a user accesses an adaptive site, a design is selected that is most appropriate for their screen size. With this layout user resizing their browser has no impact on the design.

Advantages of Adaptive Layout are;

* It affords modern user experience to the mobile phone users since the design adopted will be the one appropriate to the device screen resolution.
* Adoptive Layout offers speed compared to Responsive Layout since various designs are used for users with different devices.

Disadvantages are;

* Designing Adaptive Layout requires more work compared to designing Responsive Layout.
* Some users might be left out in the Adaptive Layout in the case where designers don’t create designs to suit some devices like tablets.

The difficulties faced during the development were countered by working as a group and combining ideas of the group members. The challenge of implementing reset function after ten minutes on the system was solved by using sessions. After the user logged in the system, their session started a counter and the session is destroyed after ten minutes timeout, resetting the user log in details.