Randi Lovelett

CIS 3034 – Client-Side Web Development

Final Project Write-up

For my final project, I wanted to build on and enhance a previous assignment from earlier in the course. Specifically, I wanted to expand the Dog Age Calculator that I created when we were first learning about JavaScript. A dog’s age is mostly determined by the size of the dog, because different sizes of dogs have different metabolisms. But my simple calculator only converted the age of medium-sized dogs. I enjoyed making the calculator so much that for this project, I wanted to expand the calculator to be able to convert the age of small, medium, and large dogs to an accurate human year equivalent. I managed to accomplish this relatively easily by creating a complex set of nested if-else statements and adding in a set of jQuery radio buttons to select the size of the dog whose age is being calculated.

In addition to adding this functionality, I converted all the JavaScript to jQuery and polished up the site with colorful, more professional-looking CSS styling. However, because I also planned on having a separate page that linked to my dog age calculator page, I decided to separate my HTML, JavaScript, and CSS code into separate files to make the code of each language less cluttered and easier to read. With the separate files, I was able to eliminate repeated code and create a consistent CSS style for both of my planned HTML pages. But it was a little difficult for me to implement this feature, mainly because I have not yet created external scripts or stylesheets to be accessed by my html pages. I had to consult several different online sources in order to get the syntax of my documents right. Once I got the documents all linked together properly though, I was able to focus on creating a stylesheet that changed the test, backgrounds, images, and jQuery UI components of all my HTML pages. I particularly enjoyed getting a transparent text background to cover up a unique background on my HTML pages. If I had to pick a part that was my favorite to do, it would have to be changing the CSS style of my webpages.

Although I was lucky enough to be able implement jQuery radio buttons, regular buttons, and toggle animations in my dog age calculator, I was unable to create a page, or even a set of pages, for the dog quiz I thought about creating. The main reason why it did not work was because I could not get separate sets of jQuery buttons to style or function correctly together to make a coherent quiz with a result. I struggled to implement this in a previous assignment where we practiced using jQuery UI animations and objects, so I am not too surprised that it did not work in this project. If I had the opportunity to expand on this project even further than what I have done thus far, I would definitely try to implement this feature to add additional fun things to do on my website. While I am glad that I created two very well styled and perfectly functional website pages, having another for a simple quiz game would hopefully offer users more of a reason to stay on these pages longer.