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## Explanation

My goal for this project was originally to create an extremely simplistic website filled with meaningful content; nearly essay like. At the beginning of the semester I felt like that was all I could really do, however that eventually changed. As I started doing my own research and learning more skills I realized how much fun I could have designing a visually appealing website that not only looks great but also provides an overview of AI that's easy to understand while giving the user an opportunity to dig deeper in multiple topics if he or she wished to do so. With those goals in mind I began creating my own website.

The first challenge was deciding how I wanted to organize my content. Because my content was very chronological I decided to go with the single page set up. Using this template, I was able to create a natural flow to the site, as if the user was beginning some sort of academic journey. Although the intent is for the user to progress from "Past" to "Future" I decided to take note of our in-class heuristic evaluations and give the user freedom to navigate the pages as he or she wishes. Because of this, every page on the website is never more than two clicks away. Also, in the name of user freedom, I elected to open up the links in a new tab so that the user could go back and forth from any one of the multiple external sites.

The next challenge was figuring out the most effective layout, specifically for the home page. On the original template the header was on top and everything else other than the buttons

was on a single horizontal line. I knew this was an issue as I could tell I wasn't taking advantage of my platform. First, I tried to clarify the documentation by underlining it, but that looked silly and made the fresh, clean cut site look a bit messy. So instead I used a CSS function in my CSS file to move the documentation vertically. This makes a big difference as the human eye likes to go from the top, where the title is, to the middle and bottom which provides narration and links to the rest of the website. The verticality also provided three separate lines to give individual focus to, instead of the poorly organized cluster of words previously present.

After that was the challenge of incorporating my own JavaScript into the template. This one was the most difficult because the JavaScript that came with the template was extremely messy and so complicated that, if opened, would occasionally crash my I7 core. I was considering deleting the JS file and creating my own by scratch, but the JS provided gave such an impressive fluidity to the site, that I decided to keep it in order to conserve the atmosphere my website provides. After much research and brainstorming with my peer reviewer Nick Mowery, I found a way to incorporate JavaScript into my HTML that way I wouldn't have to touch the JS file. While I had theoretically found a means to reach my goal, the execution was much more difficult. I found an example on W3 schools that took a low-def image and when clicked would start a high-def GIF. Unfortunately, there was no explanation for what was actually happening on the W3 website, so when the code didn't work I was left with raw code to decipher. It took a call for help to Saran to figure out. We were both stumped for a few minutes but then realized that on the example code the image had two slightly different names. That's when we were able to conclude that there were two separate images in the code. One of them was a black and white JPG and the other was a regularly colored GIF! After that it was easy to incorporate the JS on my website. I decided to add the low to high-def gif to my project because not only did it show

maturation in my understanding of JavaScript but also because I felt that if there was ever a time to add an easter egg to an application it would be at the end of my own website. It also fits in with the theme very well and adds to the mysticism and sense of adventure involved in the study of AI.

During my meeting with Saran he edited my GIF in photoshop to make it a black and white JPG since I had never used photoshop before. This inspired me to give photoshop a shot for myself. I was able to use photoshop to further edit the black and white JPG as well as incorporate a quote on top of an image to use as a tasteful divider between paragraphs on my “Future” page.

The final challenge was incorporating interesting outside sources to my site. This was especially tricky on my “Past” page because there really isn’t much documentation on machine learning. Luckily, after much digging, I was able to find the original study as well as a demonstration of the Mycin Project which turned out to be extremely interesting.

Throughout this project my inspiration was to create a website that I could enjoy and learn from, and that my younger siblings could enjoy and learn from too. I figured that if they could easily navigate the site and understand the language, then so could anyone else. While the goal had become design, I learned that usability goes hand in hand with it. Because the design is well done, the site and information provided is easily accessible for a broad audience and I am very proud of that.

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## Usability Testing

User 1: Nick Mowery

Age: 21

Race: White

Technical Skill: Very High

User 2: Ashley Scheerer

Age: 19

Race: White

Technical Skill: Low to Moderate

### **1. How would you find sources for the information found on the website?**

User 1: User went to Misc. button and clicked “here” link and scrolled down to page labeled sources.

User 2: User went to “Past” page and clicked “Stanford University” link and thought that was the source page.

### **2. How would you find information on modern uses of AI?**

User 1: User backed to home page and clicked the “Present” button.

User 2: User found “Present” link at the bottom of “Past” page.

### **3. When already on the “Present” page, how would you return to the home page?**

User 1: User clicked x button at the top right of page.

User 2: User clicked outside the text box, returning her to home page.

**4. How would you find more information on the Mycin Project found on the “Past” Page?**

User 1: Clicked on “Stanford University” link which took him to Mycin Project homepage.

User 2: Clicked play on embed YouTube video and watched video.

**5. When already on the “Past” page, how would you reach the “Present” page?**

User 1: Clicked outside text box and clicked “Present” button from homepage.

User 2: Clicked “Present” link at the bottom of “Past” page.

**6. How would you rate ease of use throughout the website on a scale of 1-10?**

User 1: 10

User 2: 10

**Reflection**

I personally felt that the site was very easy to navigate. User 1 did a very good job navigating and correctly completed all tasks. User 2 had one error in her set of tasks but was able to navigate back to the home screen without any issue. I do not believe her single error constitutes a change in code.

