

An E-commerce Website Design

Project report, 1st Draft

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Abstract

Introduction: Since the beginning of the world wide web era web designing and developments in general have come a long way and become a very famous norm among many computer students or individuals many even consider it as a hobby the result now we have thousands of websites all over the internet. Many of these websites are e-commerce websites that sell merchandise like clothes, electronics, shoes to even artworks matter of fact many of these e-commerce websites like Amazon, BestBuy, Alibaba, Walmart become very famous and an essential part of our daily lifestyles. Therefore, For my final CISC 4900 project I am planning to develop a small interactive website that will allow users to browse many products and then allow them to purchase.

Objective: The purpose of my project is to develop a fully workable responsive and interactive website which will allow people to browse merchandise, whether that is clothing, jewelry, shoes or electronics and then purchase them. The plan is to fully develop a graphically imposing and responsive website with multiple web pages. Then somehow create a database for storing the login credentials of the users and finish the project by hosting the entire website with some web hosting providers and giving it a domain for users to search it online. If everything goes according to my plan and timeline I should by the end of the course have an ecommerce website.

Although, it's easier said than done, especially creating a full fledged website from scratch. This project will have some challenges for me to deal with, especially working with the database and server to host the site as I am a little less familiar with those two topics compared to web designing itself and who knows I might not be able to achieve my initial goal fully in the end. But, I am ready to work on it and see how far I can accomplish this project in the end.

Changelog

This section highlights the changes in this document since the last one i submitted, Reader can see what i added, revised, or removed since my last submission.

Project Report	Added	Revised	Removed
1st Draft	Entire Document	None	None
2nd Draft			
Final Version			

Project Details

About the project: I already gave a small preview of my project ideas before in the abstract section so here I will go over it thoroughly. I will try to answer questions like why I decided to do this project, What my project is about in detail. Who is the target audience? Where will it be used? How will it work and when will it be done?

Why this project? The motivation for my project came when I was a sophomore student and learned about web developments in general, especially watching how the websites like facebook or amazons come to view and suddenly change web space and how they change over the years from a basic webpage to fully graphically staggering complicated website with multiple functions of their own. Another reason to choose this idea is because of my previous experience of working on a class project which required me to create a similar basic webpage project but unfortunately because of time constraints I couldn't fully finish that project the way I originally intended to finish it. That's why in this course I decided to work on similar project ideas like that but this time a better version of it and this time I have plans to give it its own domain. Besides, for my final project I wanted to choose something that I am more familiar with that's why I chose to do this web development project.

What will this project do? The idea of my project is to create an ecommerce website where users are able to search and choose any merchandise on the website and then be able to make a transaction. To accomplish this entire design process of the project I am following the following 7 steps.

- **Goal Identification:** The project goal which is already well defined i am planning to create an user intuitive ecommerce website with user interactivity in mind. And then host it online for others to search the site and access it online.
- **Scope Definition:** The website will have a design consisting of a main home page which will welcome users, followed by at least couples of menus that will allow users to browse many merchandise, an “about” section, “contact” section transaction section for making transactions. This is for now the core parts of the web design along with some other minor additions to the site like finding the locations of the stores. And more might add later while I continue with the project .

- **Sitemap Creation:** With the project goal and features defined my next steps is to draw a basic outline of the website and a rough design of how it will look. Where will each component of the web page go and how it's supposed to look.
- **Contents Collection:** My next steps will be to collect contents that I am planning to “sell” on a website that might include pictures, videos or sounds.
- **Visual works:** After I am well done with the above process it's finally time to bring that plan to life by taking all the plan and turning it into codes.
- **Testing:** This process can be done while I am still working with the project or done with it.
- **Launch:** The last process where I will launch the final finished product.

Targeted audience: There are no limitations when it comes to my targeted audience the site will be available mostly for anyone with access to a computer or smartphone.

Platform: Since its an ecommerce website it will be a web application platform. Whenever a user types www.tbd.com it will take them to the website.

Finishing timeline: I hope if everything goes as scheduled then maybe sometimes at the end of the course i will complete what i am planned to accomplish. I will run some demos too in between of the project.

Technical Overview

The project is about developing an UI website so that users can visit it and perform some actions i.e visit multiple products, learn about them and proceed to buy it.

There are mainly three web designing languages that I will probably use: Html, Css and Java Script and maybe PHP. Also for picture editing I will use Adobe Photoshop and hosting some free hosting websites.

Background

As mentioned before in my draft, I have done a little web designing before, so the coding process should be somewhat familiar to me. The coding will be mostly html, css and java script related.

Since this project was a scrapped idea of a previous project of mine I will try to achieve basically what I failed to achieve in my last try and since I have enough time we will try to learn about hosting and databases which I will also plan to implement in this project.

Literature Review

In most part my project related research will be online since there are many helpful web designs related topics online. Most of the things I already learned are from online along with educational learning. There are also many youtube videos related to the topic that can be helpful. Also, there are a bunch of web design related books that I know of that can help me with this project too.

Project Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Objectives

The objective of my project is to create a simple ecommerce website that will allow users to search multiple kinds of merchandise in one place then proceed to go buy or save them for later transaction.

Expected Outcome

Users are supposed to navigate across multiple web pages smoothly then choose from different selections of choices, add them into a cart and proceed to make a transaction right after.

Obstacle and Risks

Since it's a coding related project there will be many obstacles as always. Although i am somewhat familiar with html, css and java script it will be a little easy to do the project but still there's are many points and areas about this three web language that i still don't know or that always gave me trouble in the past that which i have to deal with and then there's the headache of

database works that suppose to store users signup/login credentials and domain and hosting problem that i still have no idea. But, I will see how things go as I do the project over time. Fingers crossed.

Software and Hardware Technology Requirements

Software Requirements

Since I am doing web designing projects there won't be any complex tools or anything like that for most of the tools I will use basic softwares that are widely available online and in many cases are free to download that being said following are the lists of tools, equipments or softwares that i am planning to use for my project.

Devices

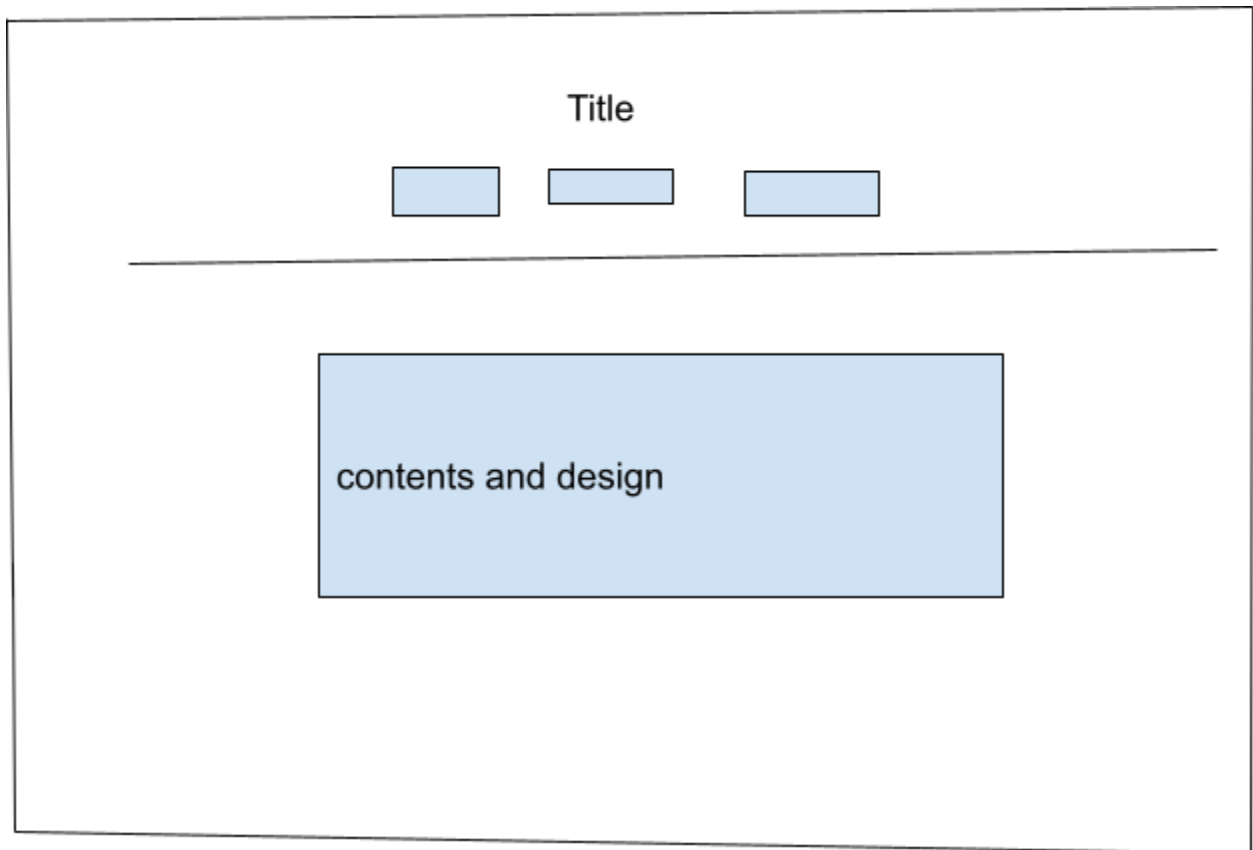
- **Laptop:** Pretty basic as I need to use my everyday laptop which I will use for both project related activity and time management editing, coding etc.
- **Camera or Smartphone:** Since it's an ecommerce website i need to put some kind of merchandise on my website i.e cloths, shoes, electronics etc. Therefore I need to take some real pictures of those products so I will use either a camera or most probably my cell phone.
- **USB device:** A basic usb stick to store all my source code and related documents.

Software

- **Adobe Photoshop:** I will use photoshop to edit my project related photo editing.
- **Coding:** For my source code writing part I will use Notepad++ a free software.
- **Language:** In most part i will use html, css and js language for my source code.
- **Architecture:** For drawing the outline for my project I will use Microsoft word.

Architecture

The website design will be basic and simple. There will be one homepage where users can visit the homepage. Also there will be some menus that will allow them to surf through the different pages. Following is a basic outline for the design that I am planning to do. Following is just a basic design of how I am thinking to go with the homepage. Obviously it will be vastly different when I start working on it. So, I will change, add and rearrange the entire design outline throughout my work and also I will add more outline for other pages/menus too in later versions of drafts.



Delivery

Deployment

I am planning to have a basic sample design by the middle of February and have my first prototype project by as soon as early March. From there I am planning to advance the project and before early April I am hoping to deploy my project on a domain. With at least some basic function and as early May I am hoping to deliver the final product. Hopefully.

Testing

No result since I am still not able to start the coding part just yet.

Documentation & Source Code

Following is the status of my Documentation and Source Code progress:

- **Documentation:** For now I am able to finish the Project Report (1st Draft) which can basically work as a vision and mission statement. Here I explained basically what I am planning to accomplish with this project and how I am thinking about accomplishing it. Also, I describe what resources I will use to research and what software and equipment I need. I also attached a time log that I managed to maintain so far with this documentation is not a final product, just a first draft therefore I will change, add, and replace many wordings, topics or subjects which will be logged in the change log.
- **Source Codes:** For now there is not much to write here beside the fact that all the related updates about source codes i.e, what I wrote so far what changed or what specific source codes may accomplish what will be mentioned here. Therefore, I will update as I work with my project.

Project Logs

From **01/23/2023** to **02/07/2023**

Time logs 1/23/2023 to 1/27/2023

9 hours accumulated in this period

Date	Duration	Type	Description of completed work	Challenges and /or Next steps
Monday 1/23/2023	0 hour	-	-	-
Tuesday 1/24/2023	0 hour	-	-	-
Wednesday 1/25/2023	3 hours 5pm - 8pm	Other	Attend the orientation session, Read syllabus and other course materials.	-
Thursday 1/26/2023	2 hours 5:45 pm - 7:45 pm	Writing Planning	Created the time logs doc for managing and keeping track of project timeline. Started working on the project report 1st draft. Created the format for the report and wrote the Abstract and changelog. Created a draft plan for project timelines and process.	Next Steps: Brainstorming ideas for my project and the process of accomplishing it. Also, finding a supervisor. Challenges: Finding a supervisor.
Friday 1/27/2023	4 hour	Quiz	Took the orientation quiz.	Next Steps: Planning to keep writing a project

	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Writing	Continued working with the project report. 1st draft.	report 1st draft until the due date and then submit it. Followed by the planning and designing the coding process of the project. Challenges: Finding a supervisor.
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Time logs 1/30/2023 to 2/3/2023

16 hours accumulated in this period

Date	Duration	Type	Description of completed work	Challenges and /or Next steps
Monday 1/30/2023	0 hour	-	-	-
Tuesday 1/31/2023	5 hour 4pm - 8pm	Writing Assignment	Complete project proposal form. Work on the first project report draft.	
Wednesday 2/01/2023	5 hours 4pm - 8pm	Writing	Working on report	Working on report
Thursday 2/02/2023	3 hours 3pm - 6pm	Writing	Working on report	Working on report
Friday 2/03/2023	3 Hour 5pm-7pm	Writing	Working on report	Working on report

Time logs 2/06/2023 to 2/10/2023

4 hours accumulated in this period

Date	Duration	Type	Description of completed work	Challenges and /or Next steps
Monday 2/06/2023	0 hour	-	-	-
Tuesday 2/07/2023	4 hour 2pm - 5pm	Writing Coding part Preparation Research about my project.	Complete the first project report draft and submit. Prepare myself for the coding part and install appropriate tools and software for coding. Also, research online for some example ecommerce websites. Learn how they work.	Challenges: deciding how to implement my web idea into code. Next Steps: Starting with the coding part soon.
Wednesday 2/08/2023	0 hours pm - pm	-	-	-
Thursday 2/09/2023	0 hours pm - pm	-	-	-
Friday 2/10/2023	0 Hour pm-pm	-	-	-