

Randyll Bearer

Composing Digital Media

Professor Lavin

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Work in Progress 2: Written Reflection

Perhaps it was due to my only skimming the syllabus initially, but this class has played out much differently than I anticipated it would at the beginning of this semester. I have ended up posting many more assignments to my Github Pages site than I initially anticipated, and the breadth and variety of assignments has far surpassed what I expected. As a consequence of my ill-founded assumptions most of the initial design choices I made for my website have since ceased to be valid, so for the first part of this assignment I revisited and revised much of my blog focusing on theme and scalability.

Ever since the first few assignments I have had to give up on the personal computer science hobbyist slant I originally intended to infuse my blog with. It was easy to write off smaller assignments like the Week 1 Craigslist posting as sort of “I don’t normally post non-cs related things here *buuuut...*” exceptions, but as I have uploaded more and more non-cs assignments to the website the whole slant lost all consistency and meaning. As a result of this, I have revised my “About Me” page to be much more straightforward in discussing why I created this blog, and have removed all the superficial “code comment” details such as the “*/”, “/*”, and reworded my summaries on earlier posts.

When I first created the website I wanted to fill my sidebar with a good amount of links so that it would not feel empty. However, as a result of making several more posts, the sidebar started to become very cluttered and on some screen sizes would even run off the page making the user have to scroll the sidebar down to find the correct link. My

entire original design concept for this website was to be as minimal and require as little interaction by the user as possible so this issue was in direct violation of my core ideals. To combat this issue I restructured my linking/sidebar scheme so that in-class assignment links are only visible from their corresponding “Work in Progress” pages. This has reduced the amount of visible links at any one time significantly and makes the sidebar much less cluttered and fit on a single screen.

I have also removed the “Github Pages Landing Page” from this blog as it no longer served a purpose. Initially I planned on hosting a resume website through Github Pages as well as this portfolio, but I have since created and hosted that website elsewhere, leaving this blog to be the only content on my Github Pages account. As a result I no longer needed the landing page, so my Github Pages repository should now take a user directly to the “Welcome” page of this class’s portfolio.

As for my revision of an in-class assignment for Work in Progress 2, I chose to make further changes to my Tektronix advert. My original advert merely shifted the layout and positioning of the page to in my opinion better match the conventions of contemporary advertisements. Very few advertisements nowadays list in-depth specifics and technical details as those pieces of information can be found so quickly and easily through basic internet searches. Because of this, my original edit shifted the technical details to the bottom of the advert to de-emphasize them, and moved the graphic of the man satisfiedly working on his computer to the center of the ad in order to emphasize pathos.

To further revise this edit I added a retro/nostalgic/ethos slant to the advertisement as well by having the advertisement mention cryptocurrency and “an established legacy”. The cryptocurrency line immediately dates the advertisement as contemporary, and the “established legacy” line I included in an attempt to establish

ethos and credibility by insinuating that Tektronix must be doing something right if it is still around. I am slightly worried that this revision might make Tektronix seem outdated, which is *not* something I wanted to imply, but I believe more people than not will understand the retro angle of the advertisement.

Looking forward I aim to continue a couple design choices on my website and for in future assignments. First and foremost I want to keep the straightforward slant more consistent than my previous computer science hobbyist slant. It should be easier and require less creativity to summarize these assignments honestly than not. Lastly, I intend to keep an eye on how cluttered my sidebar menu is at any one time. If it reaches the point again where a user would have to scroll through it then I will have to create a second pop-out sidebar menu to keep space requirements down.