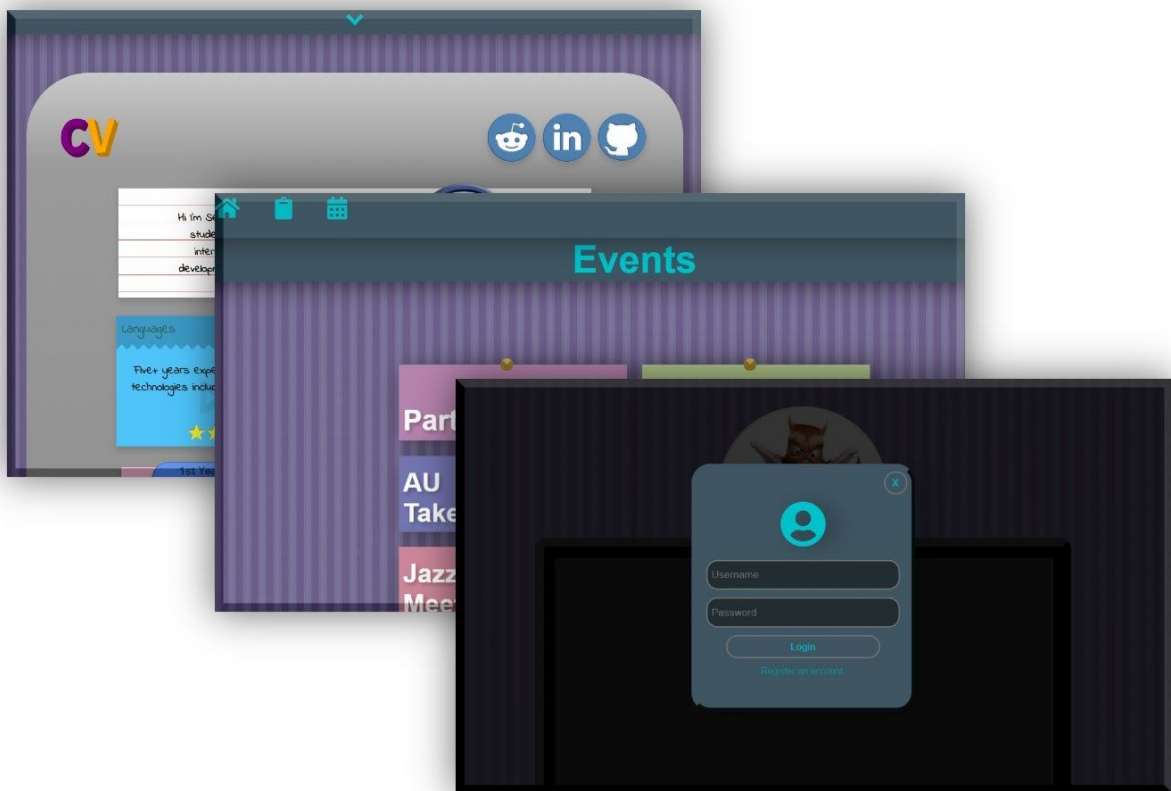


MINIMALIST DESIGN WEBSITE REPORT AND ANALYSIS

TECHNICAL REPORT



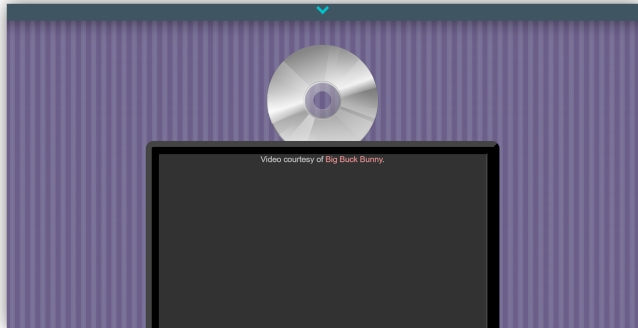
Sebastian Heron

Module: **CSC-20021**

Wordcount: **1171**

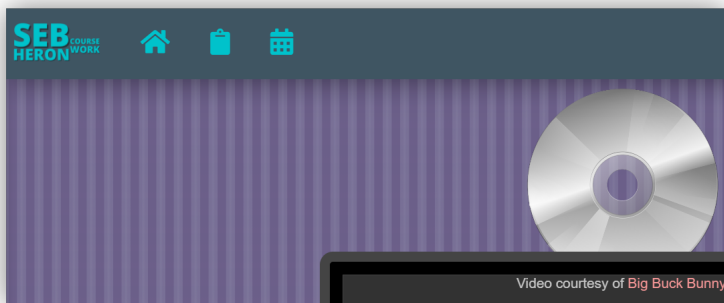
Link: <http://csc20021.rf.gd>

QUICK STARTUP WALKTHROUGH



On opening the site you'll be greeted by this starting page. This page looks quite empty at first, but most of the elements are just hidden.

Hovering over the header will display a navigation bar.



Clicking on the disc will cause the video to begin playing.

Each element in the navigation bar will take you to a different site. From left to right the elements are: the logo, the home button, the link to the CV page, a link to the events page and the login button.



After logging in you'll be greeted with 2 new buttons, a link to the new event page and the logout button.

OBJECTIVES

The user should enjoy the site

General consensus states that websites should capture the attention of their user within 15 seconds. I attempted to capture the attention of users faced with the pages on my site, in particular my home page, the animation and unusual layout should improve the amount of time users want to spend on the site and intrigue them to explore further. We can also lower “site-friction” by providing feedback to the user with visual cues such as the cursor changing to a pointer encouraging progression (Andrew, P. 2018). If I were to do this again, I would add more visual feedback to the user.

The site must be consistent.



Figure 1 A screenshot of the events page.

I tried to maintain a visual balance in the pages, using the Events page as an example I was able to apply Gestalt Design Principles, by keeping the shape the same among the events they're easily grouped together when looking. By also using the law of proximity I was able to separate all the elements on the events page evenly adding more consistency and appeasing the human brains' need for pattern.

Using the CSS stylings box shadowing in tandem with before and after elements I built visual elements which had a physical presence, I finalised my theme of 'Modern Living' which required elements to look like household items or something that could be in the physical space. I used minimalist stylings to imply what each element was supposed to represent in a 2D space, inspired by Robby Leonardi's *Interactive Resume* for its abstract, but detailed elements and also the award-winning site *Feed* which matches the 'atypical' site I wanted to create (Knight, A (2020)). I also applied pastel-like colours across the site alongside with some juxtaposing darker shades to create the appearance of separation on the page.

Layout shouldn't be too obvious

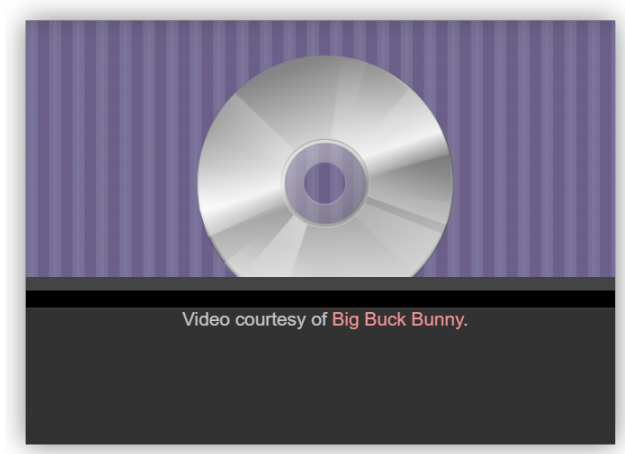


Figure 2 A close-up screenshot of the home page.

Having the puzzle solving mentality and applying it to the site design meant I was able to make things abstract enough that the user could pay attention to the site and the elements on it. When text was present it often popped off the page and would take the users eye. Users often require instant gratification () so each page has an eye-catching design choice to make sure that they would remain focused. Although I'm proud of the minimalist feel I do think the site could be easier to navigate and can sometimes feel like a dead end.

Make it mobile



Figure 3: A recreation of what the pages would look like on different devices.

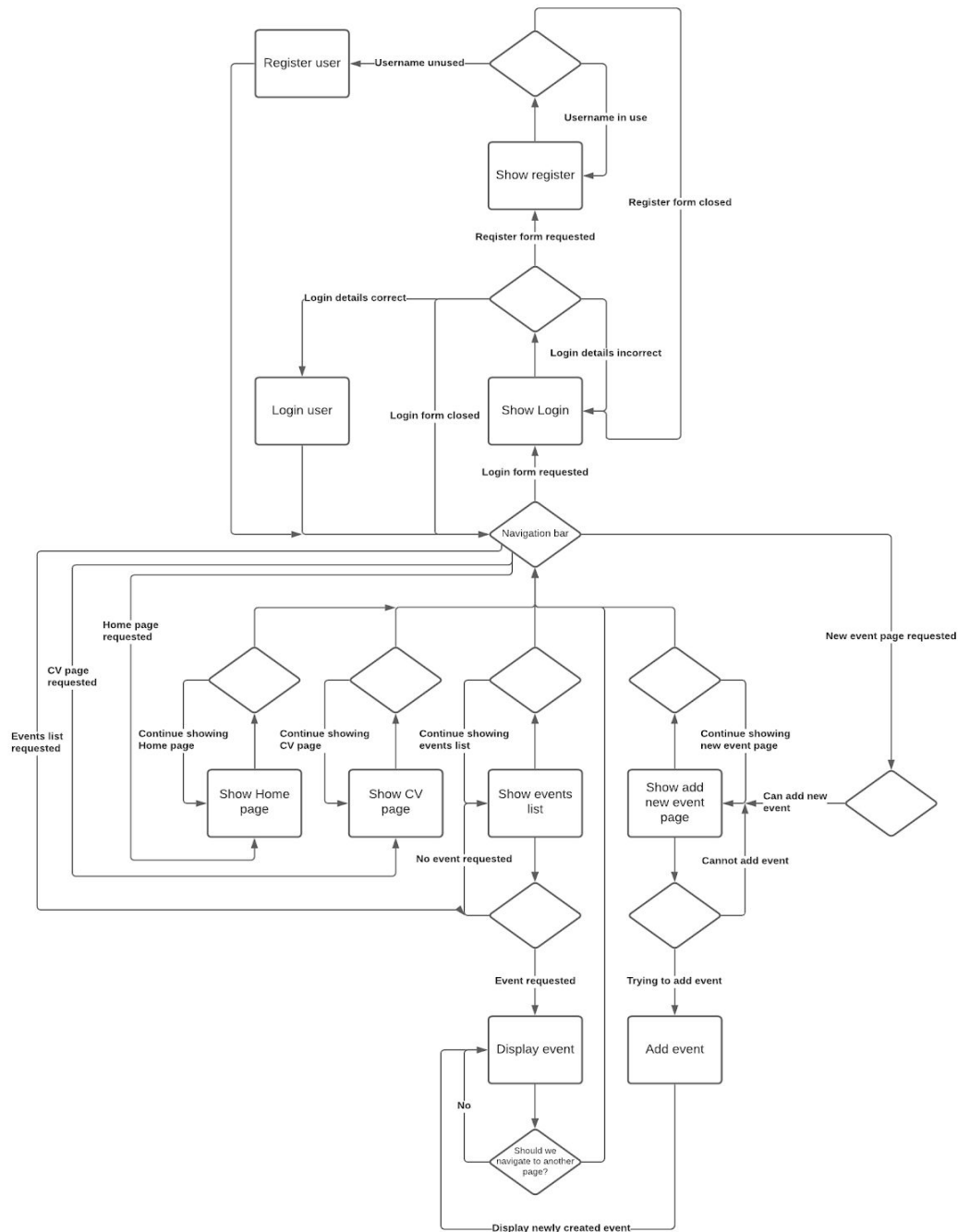
When testing the application I was capable of applying Mobile First principles by using the built in Developer mobile view in Opera. This let me see how the elements would appear on different mobiles and more importantly how they would interact. Some adjustments had to be made such as changing the mouse hovering showing the navigation bar, for mobile I switched this to a click which alternates the states based on whether you click on the bar or not. Above Figure 3 shows a close representation of what the site would look like on both devices. For the future, more thorough mobile testing would be required, the fact that the mobile browser I used, 'Safari' does not have all the features of a desktop web browser led to some complications in appearance like z-index of elements not adjusting when they're expected to.

Add some additional features beyond the specification

In the wake of the data protection act and other issues regarding data storage. After reading the PHP docs I became acquainted with some hashing algorithms and decided to use them for password storage. With my project I decided to use MD5 hashing for the passwords when they're stored, even though the file itself is accessible, anyone who accesses it will be unable to read the passwords. I also added in another security measure often mentioned across the web, this removes the usage of tag characters in strings being passed through GET or POST as this allows for exploiting of the websites if they entered for example a PHP tag with malicious code inside it.

I also managed to implement google maps without using the API, I did this by taking the standard static Iframe that google offers designed to be copied onto a website directly. I played around with the code and eventually found that the query doesn't have to be completely specific as google expresses.

STATE DIAGRAM



“Trying to add event” will send a POST request with parameters “title”, “organiser”, “date”, “time”, “building”.

“Event requested” will send a GET request with parameters “id”.

“Events list requested” is an AJAX.

Task	
1. UI/UX	The UI is effective in its appearance and works well. With more time I would hopefully be able to make the UI more responsive to the width of the container and less jumpy.
2. Portfolio of the following selected tasks from practicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CV: The CV was one of the more involved pages. I would have liked to add more functionality to the page and dim down some of the colours if I had time. b) Video widget: The video widget also fits in with the big theming of the entire c) Login system: The login system features logging in, out and registering. I would've liked to make the registering more fleshed out.
3. Online repository	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Submit.php: The submit PHP could have done with more security as I feel it is quite simple to abuse. b) List.php: The list PHP could've filtered had I more time. Used AJAX [YES] c) Display.php: The display looks good, more information would've been good.

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Knight, A (2020) 32 of the Best Website Designs to Inspire You in 2020. [online] Available at: <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/best-website-designs-list> [Accessed 10 December. 2020]

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