The Difficulties and the Wins in Creating my First Website

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Creating my first website was a thrilling experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. I am passionate about my career in software development, and I am excited to learn all of these new tools- these most recent ones being HTML and CSS. While I enjoyed the process, there were also some challenges that I faced. In this paper, I will outline different aspects of this incredible experience with regard to my difficulties and my wins.

## Part 1: The Navigation Bar

I started my website with the navigation bar, and this was for a few reasons. First, it was the hardest part of my website, and for that, I wanted to both get it out of the way and also learn a lot in the meantime- making sure I remember everything that I learned. Second, it was at the top of the page, and working top-down helped me navigate the space I was working with a little better.

I expected the navigation bar to be my toughest challenge, but what I didn’t realize was the extent to which this would be true. I wish I could say that I had many issues throughout the process, but I only thought that I did: in reality, I only had one, and this was in opening my style sheet incorrectly.

I had spent two days on my navigation bar, but this was a win as much as it was a difficulty. My first version of the bar had an ugly mix of flexbox and bootstrap that had code I copied from bootstrap documentation. It was ugly in the sense that the code was clunky, long, and inefficient- exaggerated by my little understanding of how it ran. Over time, I reduced the code by magnitudes, removed almost all flexbox elements, labelled my classes, and got a complete grasp on every little bit that made up the bar. I am happy to admit just how much I learned from my mistake, and that my project only kept getting better as I went on. By this point, I had also almost completely realized my theme for the site.

## Part 2: The Home Page

As I was creating my navigation bar, I was also working on my home screen, but once I finished that bar, my sole focus was on finishing that page. It was my easiest one, but I had a specific strategy in mind: as I was going through my simplest pages to my most complex, I was figuring out which styles were general enough to fit in my general style sheet, and which ones needed to be added to more specific ones in the future. With this in mind, my home screen defined all header, body, and footer elements, had no specific style sheet for it, and defined the rest of my document later on.

## Part 3: Professional Materials and Onward

My professional materials page was by far my most complex because I toyed with media I didn’t fully understand and struggled to keep it centered. Once again, I consider this to be both a series of difficulties and a series of wins because of just how much I learned in that process. I learned to maintain a sense of space and I learned to balance my use of flex, margins, gaps, and other elements that move around the different graphics I wanted to show. This was critical and I was so thrilled to have spent an entire day on nothing except it.

After that, the rest of my project was a breeze in that the pages were repetitive, already stylized, and few by this point. My website was looking exactly like the way I wanted it, I was adding color, I was structuring my code, simplifying my comments, and doing what I could to keep things as consistent and simple as possible. I also checked my work, read what I wrote, and had family and friends give their critiques, giving me the ability to show off my talents.

## Part 4: Conclusion

In conclusion, my website was filled with either wins or difficulties that felt like wins. I thoroughly enjoyed the process, I am happy with my result, and I am excited to present it to all my future potential employers and anybody who is curious as to what the perfect website looks like. I appreciate the opportunity that this course gave me, and I can’t wait to keep programming in this course and further on in my life. It was a pleasure.