Final Project Reflection

WEBSITE NAME: TUCKERDANE

DESCRIPTION

There are many computer scientists and designers that host and maintain their own personal websites. Oftentimes, these websites are used as a means to promote the individual who made it, showcase his work, or provide learning tools to fellow enthusiasts of a particular subject. Websites such as these are also built for the fun of it, the flexibility, and the satisfaction of making something with one's own hands (digitally speaking), given the right tools.

TuckerDane is meant to be one such website. Its purpose is to:

1. Provide information about the Author / Subject of the website.
2. Display a portfolio of work - computer-science related or other.
3. Serve as a repository and index for media within particular categories specific to the Author's interests.
4. Provide a means of communication between the Author of the website and visitors to the website.
5. Serve as a medium for creative design, technical skills development, and learning for the website's Author.

DESIGN

The home page is be a long scrolling page that contains a number of Categories related to the author along the length of the page.

1. There is a landing page with full-page image carousel. The user must follow an obvious link to the main home page.
2. The home page has a static header that is maintained at the top of the user's screen when scrolling down the page. The header allows the user to skip up/down the page to different categories listed.
3. Categories displayed on the homepage are:
   a. About : The About category displays an image of the author, a description, and a link to a downloadable Resume/CV
   b. Projects: The Projects Category contains a set of *cards* that the user can read. Each card displays an image (if relevant) and text detailing a brief description of the project. The user can then follow a link provided on a given card to learn more about a project.
   c. Interests: The interest Category currently displays a video the author finds amusing.
   d. Contact: The Contact Category is intended to provide the user a means of communication with the author of the website. This is currently broken, but it set up for future use.
4. There are a few other pages: an error 404 page and error 500 page that can be found. The Error 500 page can be accessed by attempting to submit a communication to the author. A 404 page can be found by typing in a non-existent path.

TECHNIQUES

1. Hover: I took advantage of this CSS styling to make the website feel responsive
2. Drop Shadow: I used another CSS styling to make drop shadows for the "cards" that much of my content is displayed on
3. Carousel: I made my carousel full-page and responsive to window resizing. This was a difficult task to figure out at the start, but I eventually figured it out.

NEW SKILLS

1. Handlebars – I'm learning, but slowly. I eventually would like to switch from using express.js and handlebars to working with Angular.js.
2. Bootstrap – I learned a little bit about bootstrap as I was working on the Carousel. Some items, like the navbar, I found could have been built with bootstrap as well.

HOURS / MOST DIFFICULT TASK

I honestly don't know how much time I spent on each section of the site. But I did spend many hours trying to figure out ways to make handlebars.js work the way I wanted it to. I really want to be able to nest handlebars templates within handlebars templates. I have a notion that I can do these with something called *partials*. These are documented on the handlebars website. I find, however, that the documentation for some of the techniques are obscure to me, or I need more time learning the basics before I can move on to something like this. The most challengnign thing I find with understanding their documentation is that, with many of those that I came across, there are no demonstrations of their code working: only frameworks. This was frustrating, I admit. Good documentation is worth its weight in gold.