



# MARVEL COMICS TIMELINE EXPLORER

*by Steven Carr*

# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Marvel Comics Timeline Explorer is to act as a tool which helps users browse a timeline of the Marvel Comics continuity, in a chronological order within the Marvel Comics universe itself. The intended users for this project would be Marvel Comics fans of any kind: casual/unfamiliar fans, fans who have read some comics but aren't that well-versed, and even veteran comic readers to make sure they understand the way certain events play out.

# KEY TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Marvel Comics Timeline Explorer was made using HTML, CSS and JavaScript. HTML was used for the basic outline of the website and the text of the various pop-up windows, with CSS being used for the decorative features. The bulk of the work was done using JavaScript - all of the data which corresponds to the comics are stored in the JavaScript file, and the timeline and timeline nodes itself are dynamically created when the page initially loads. JavaScript also handles things like the filter functionality, and hiding the nodes which do not correspond to the given filter.

# TEAM CONTRIBUTIONS

I am the only member of my team, so all of  
the work for this website was accomplished by  
me.

# USERS

- People unfamiliar with Marvel Comics, but are interested in starting to read them
- Casual fans - have read a few comics
- Intermediate fans - have read multiple comics over the course of their life
- Veteran fans - have read a large amount of comics over their lifetime

# CORE TASKS

- Navigating the timeline
- Selecting different comic timeline nodes to view the stories
- Filtering nodes on the timeline
- Randomly explore the timeline via the “Start Exploring” button for those who don’t know where to begin

# USABILITY PRINCIPLES

Some usability principles present in the Marvel Comics Timeline Explorer before showcasing use cases:

- Consistency
- Feedback
- Visibility
- Efficiency
- Affordance

# CONSISTENCY

Buttons remain consistent across the website in terms of:

- Color
- Animation
- Function

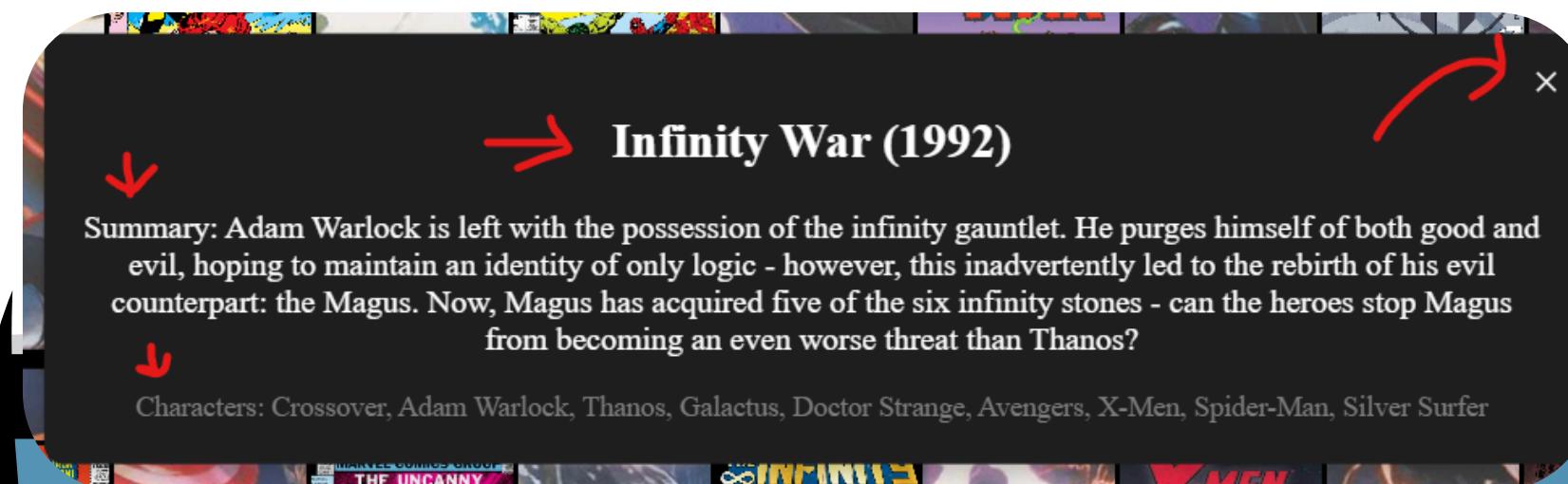
*Start Exploring*

*Filter*

# CONSISTENCY

Majority of pop-up windows remain consistent:

- ALL pop-ups have the “x” in the top-right to close the window
- Most are set up in the structure of: Title, Summary, Characters (filter tags)
- Only the filter/help pop-up differ, but in content, not design



# FEEDBACK

- Buttons animate or “expand” when hovered over (so do comic book nodes)
- Pop-up windows immediately close when clicking the “x” in the top-right
- This “x” also animates and expands when hovered
- Clicking every button immediately results in a visible action

Start Exploring

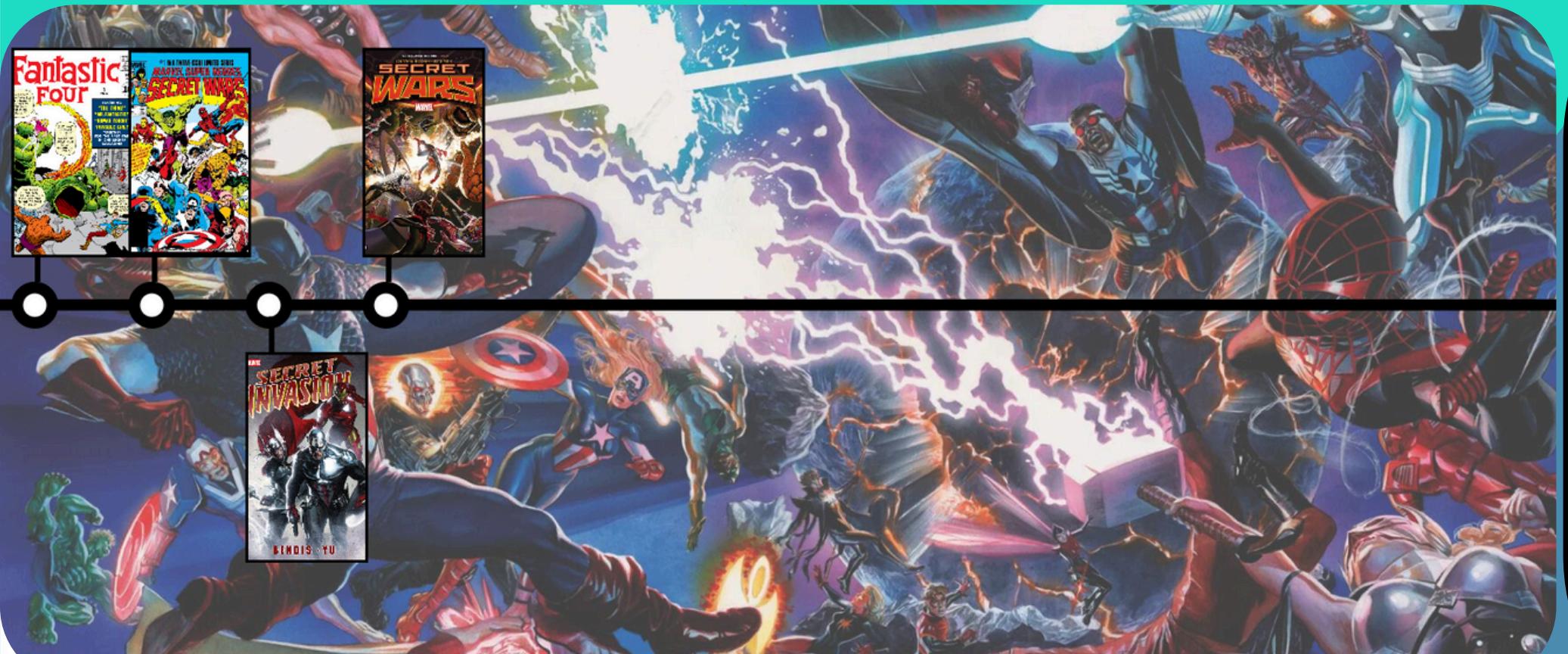
Filter

Filter By (Select All Characters' Stories You Wish To View)

- Adam Warlock
- Avengers
- Black Panther
- Captain America
- Captain America (Sam Wilson)
- Captain Marvel
- Crossover

Apply Filters

# VISIBILITY



- Everything on the website is easily visible, from the Start Exploring, Filter and Help buttons to the comics/nodes themselves
- When filtering the timeline, the comics which do not correspond to what you are trying to filter are properly hidden from the timeline

# EFFICIENCY

- The Help pop-up window is automatically displayed when entering the website for the first time
- Much of the functionality across the website remains consistent and the same/similar as other elements - therefore, it requires incredibly little learning of new aspects, which leads to using the website efficiently

## How To Navigate The Timeline

1. The Marvel Comics Timeline is scrollable from left-to-right.

2. You can select the "Start Exploring" button, the "Filter" button, or the "Help" button.

3. The "Start Exploring" button will choose a random comic book story for you to view.

The "Filter" button allows you to filter the visible comic book stories to match selected character or event type tags.

After clicking the "Apply Filters" button in the "Filter" pop-up window, a new button will appear to the right of the "Filter" button named "Remove Filters". Click on this to return the timeline back to normal.

The "Help" button displays this current navigation help pop-up window.

Click on a comic book story node directly on the timeline itself if you see one that interests you.

Finally, you may click on the "x" in the top-right corner of the window to close the window.

# AFFORDANCE

The website remains intuitive to understand by:

- Buttons/comics animating to show they can be clicked
- Buttons being distinct in look to show they are buttons
- Aspects of the website which are common features from other websites or tools, such as “Filter” being named as such, and being able to close a pop-up window by clicking the “x”, where “x” is a common symbol to be used for this function

# SYSTEM DEMONSTRATION

- Use Case 1: Navigate the timeline. Select and view a comic story from the very end of the timeline.
- Use Case 2: Filter the timeline for “Avengers”-related stories.
- Use Case 3: Randomly select a story using the “Start Exploring” button.

**QUESTIONS?**

**THANK YOU**