

1. Building your portfolio website

1.1 Why do we need to build a portfolio website?

- For web developers, a personal portfolio page is like a resume. A portfolio website highlights your best work by visually showcasing examples of work/project, while a resume only provides bullet points. When people or potential employers see your portfolio, they can get a glimpse of your skills. There are two main reasons why you will build your portfolio website as part of this course:
 - You will practice the HTML, CSS and Bootstrap skills we learned so far
 - Having a portfolio website greatly improves your chance of being noticed by prospective employers
- Note! Having a portfolio website might sometimes backfire if your website is not that impressive.

1.2 How do we make our website impressive?

- **Make the design of your portfolio website look great**
 - There is a challenge to designing a website: designing is a skill set most people don't have. Designers are like painters. They know how to make things look good. Design is what sells, functionality of a website.
 - The solution to the above challenge: buying the design

1.3 Steps to follow to buy a template website and to build our website (part I)

- **Where do we buy website designs from?**
 - You can go to <https://themeforest.net/> to get a website design
 - You can buy a lot of things from this website. Among these designs are one thing they sell. Even better, there are also designs which are already converted to an HTML page using Bootstrap. Because these designers and developers live overseas in third world countries, the prices to buy these designs is extremely cheap. The licensing agreement you enter with themeforest limits you to use a single website template to a single product only.

- **Steps to follow to buy the template and build your website**

- Step 1: Go to <https://themeforest.net/category/site-templates>
- Step 2: Select the HTML from the list of items below the website's navbar
- Step 3: Within the search bar, type "personal portfolio website". You will have a list of website templates. Look at different templates by selecting "preview". Note, please make sure that the template is responsive/uses Bootstrap before purchasing it.
- Step 4: Choose a template that you like, add it to your cart and purchase
- Step 5: Once you complete the purchase, you will see a "download" button for you to download the full code
- Start updating/customizing the HTML template

1.4 Steps to follow to buy a template website and to build our website (part II)

- **Customizing/updating your template website**

- **Customizing images**

- Please be very careful to follow different copyright rules. It is a series infringement to use copyrighted images/videos and other. You either need to use sources that provide materials for free or purchase. Below, please find links with image sources:

- <https://unsplash.com/> (free)
- <https://pixabay.com/> (free)
- <https://picjumbo.com/> (free)
- <https://www.pexels.com/> (free)
- <https://www.shutterstock.com/> (paid)

- Customizing content
 - In addition to images, you will need to update the content of your website in a manner that fits your educational background and work experience. Here is very good link describing what you should include on your portfolio website
 - <https://business.tutsplus.com/articles/what-to-include-on-your-personal-resume-website--cms-28052>
 - You will have plenty of time to complete updating your portfolio website once you finish phase 3 of your course. For now, you can start by customizing the template by updating the html file to add images, your name and other information. At this point, the only skill required from you to achieve is purchasing an html template website, updating the HTML and deploying your portfolio website. We will cover deployment (launching your website) in the next class.