

Coursework Report

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1 Introduction

The aim for this coursework was to produce a blog that had server and client elements. the client side of the blog provides a UI that will let the user post their own post to the blog. The server side of things will be using Node.JS to run the JavaScript. MongoDB will be running the database for the blog and mongoose connects the both together. My blog was based on Celtic Football Club and its main purpose was to give supporters the chance to discuss anything to do with Celtic FC. Users can subscribe on the first page by creating a user name and password. The users can also switch between four different pages of the site:

1. HomePage 2. News Feed 3. Add Post 4. Login

2 Software Design

In the coursework descriptor it was clear that we were to plan the blog before we started actually implementing any HTML, CSS or JavaScript. I then began looking at other blogs and sharing ideas with my class mates. after that i began to actually draw up some mock blog layouts and decided on the image below as a guide of what my blog would look similar to once complete.

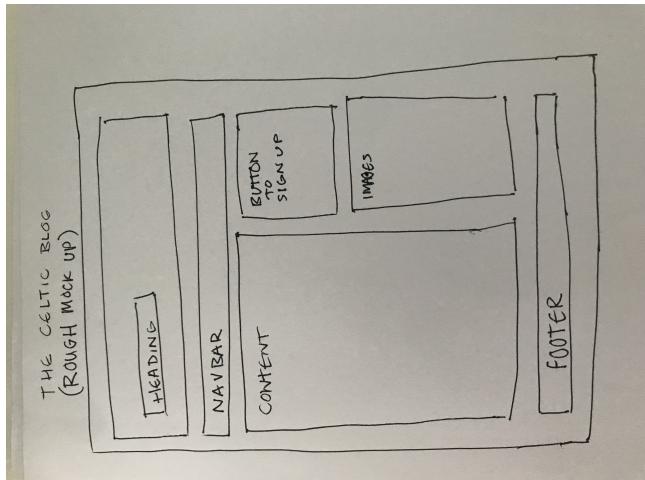


Figure 1. Home page

The blog would be made up with a header which would be just a flat colour of green, with a title in a white box off to the left of the header. Underneath the header there is a Nav Bar which will contain the 4 main links to the other pages. Then the main body of the blog is split in two two columns the left column will contain the main content, information about the blog, then the left column will contain a subscribe

button, and i had planned on putting some images in also.

I then planned out the next page which would be the news feed page, this is where the posts of the users should pop up. i followed the same design as the first page and kept the design consistent.



Figure 2. Newsfeed Page

The next page to be designed was the page where the user can add a new post to the blog, this was also the same layout as the other pages, but in the main body of content there is two text boxes. One text box where you can add a title to the post, then the next text box is where you actually write in what you want the post to say. Then just under that there is a post button which allows the user to the post the comment.

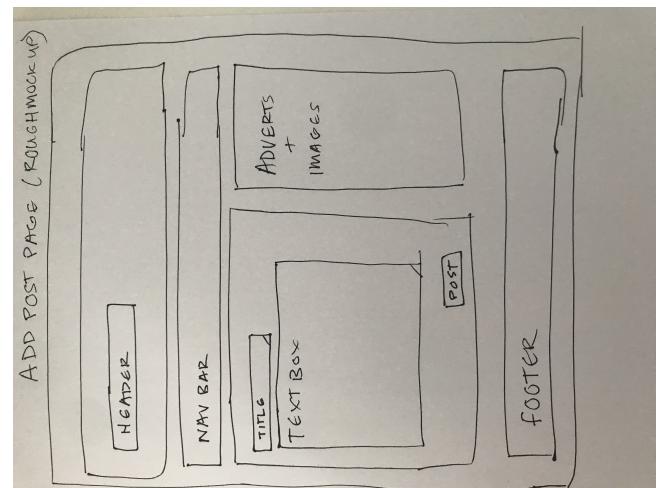


Figure 3. Add a post page

The last page to be designed for my blog is where the user can login to the blog. This page wont be split up into two

different columns, it will just be one column that has two text boxes, one for the user name and the other for the password, then a button to submit and enter the details. this should then take the user to the add post page for them to be able to add a new post on to the blog.

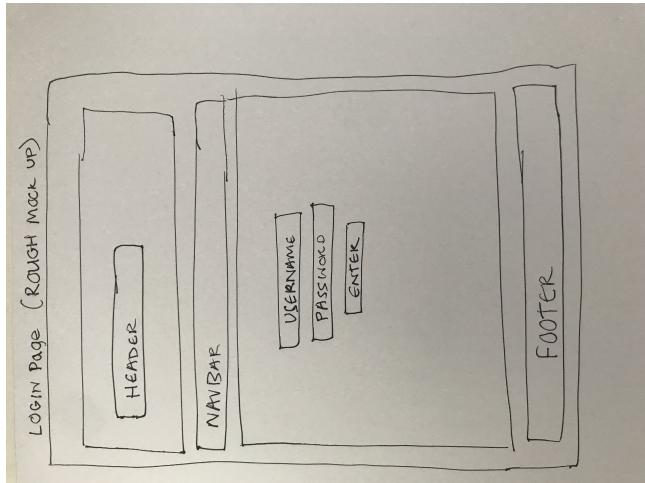


Figure 4. Login page

3 Implementation

My implementation process included working from my mock up drawings of my blog, working out what looked best and what would work the best. I altered and switched ideas and sketches until i felt comfortable as a user. I insured that i was happy with all aspects of my design. After i had decided on my design and what i wanted the blog to look like, i went ahead and started to build the blog using atom for mac. Because i was using Node.js to run the JavaScript server side, this meant that the default design files are .Jade rather than HTML, the syntax between the two are similar but a little bit different.

My final designs using CSS are a little bit different from the sketches i had planned on doing. This is obvious that there will be changes from designing to actual implementation of the blog. I will add the four pages in screen shots below.



Figure 5. Home



Figure 6. Feed



Figure 7. Add Post



Figure 8. Login

4 Critical Evaluation

Overall i think the design is very amateur and could be a lot better with more features for the user, a better

For my critical evaluation i asked friends, family and university peers to test and evaluate my blog to see if they liked it and if it served its purpose or not. In general they all liked the app and the way it worked, although they thought it was very simplistic and lacks functionality. They wanted there to be more on the site and a better colour scheme as this was too mono with only really the one shade of green, which is understandable. Which is something i would take into consideration if i had managed my time better. If i had managed my time better i would have had a much better designed blog.

5 Personal Evaluation

In my personal evaluation, i am really disappointed in my work this time. I felt like i have really let myself down. My time management is terrible and i need to sort this out. If i had put in a lot more time and effort with my coursework i would be more than able to produce a working well designed blog.

I don't think the blog reached the standard i was hoping for and i have a lot more learning to do with node.js to be able

to produce what id like to call a high standard of work. The blog is very simplistic and the colours and design of the app are nothing special.

One thing i really need to get better at is my time management and learning how long i should spend on each activity. This module has been the hardest one for me this year and i have struggled a lot with it.