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PUI – Assignment 8
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Website: <https://akyroudis.github.io/portfolio/index.html>

Repository: <https://github.com/akyroudis/portfolio>

Write-Up

Part 1: The purpose of my website is to create a portfolio where hiring managers can come and get a sense of who I am. This includes information about the projects I have recently worked on, and a little bit about me personally and my background. The background image on the site is representative of a “neural net” and is relevant to my personal trajectory and entrance into the UX field – I wanted the whole site to feel integrated and representative of my thinking. I designed the site so the experience could be simple and straightforward because hiring managers are busy and don’t want to have to spend time learning how to use a site, *and then* start consuming the content. As such, my site employs simple navigation for easy information access. To balance out the simplicity of the site and increase the engagement of using it, I incorporated a transition animation that takes place when navigating between pages. The animation gives the sense of movement from page to page and some illusory sense of connectedness. Additionally, it adds a bit of physicality to the site to make it feel more like a tangible artifact than a static display. The end product is a straightforward portfolio site with calming colors and animations that fit the conceptual model of a portfolio.

Part 2:

- Learn about me
 - Click on ‘About Me’ from home page or ‘My Work’ page
- View my resume
 - Click on ‘Resume’ button on ‘About Me’ page
- View publication
 - Click on inline link on ‘About Me’ page
- View examples of my work
 - Click on ‘My Work’ from home page or ‘About Me’ page
- Read a description of a project
 - Click on a specific project from the ‘My Work’ page

Part 3: I used two JavaScript libraries and the Google Fonts API to build my portfolio site. The first JS library I employed was Barba.js because it is a relatively straightforward way to create transition animations between pages. I used it to create the overall framework for the animations I wanted on my site, which was then filled in with the animation library GreenSock. I used GreenSock because it is widely used and I wanted practice with applicable frameworks. Together, Barba.js and GreenSock create beautiful transition animations when navigating from page to page – this adds a modern and more continuous feel to the site. Lastly, I used the

Google Fonts API to link fonts from their database to my site – this adds much better looking sans-serif text to my site.

Part 4: Like my HW7 mockups, I created this site with the intention of using smooth transition animations that gave the site a bit of a physical, continuous feel. In HW7, I used animations that were directional, so there was a consistent geometry between pages; in HW8, I was not able to figure out how to do this, so I instead used one consistent animation for the whole site.

Part 5: The first main challenge I faced was figuring out how to actually make the animations appear on my site after importing the libraries and coding some basic animations. I learned that for these specific animations, I need to host it using HTTP rather than running it locally. Additionally, I started implementing animations after creating the static site, which was not a good strategy. I ended up having to restructure everything to fit into the animation framework. In the future, I will not leave animation for the end – it needs to be developed alongside the site's content.