ASSIGNMENT 4:
Information Architecture

Point value:	40 pts.
Asssigned:	19 September
Due:	26 September

Objective

To organize professional content using information architecture concepts and tools in order to create a clear, well-organized and logically-structured website via a "sitemap" diagram.

Goals

- To learn and practice basic information organization skills

- To create a "build plan" in advance of the course web project assignment

- To use previous assignments to understand how structuring a site tells a particular story or paints a particular self-image

Reading Assignment

- Usability.gov: "Information Architecture"

- Nielsen Norman Group: "The Difference Between Information Architecture and Navigation"

- "Design and Documentation" from *Information Architecture* (Rosenfeld, Morville, and Arango)

- (Optional) "Anatomy of Information Architecture" from *Information Architecture* (Rosenfeld, Morville and Arango)

Assignment Activity

In preparation of your upcoming web project, the deliverable for this assignment is a simple information architecture for the website you plan to build. If you already have a website, this is an invitation/exercise in cataloguing the way everything is already built, revealing opportunities for clearing up the order of your site or completely re-imagining it.

- Define your site's goal(s). You may have one or multiple; write these at the top of your site map document. These may be along the lines of:

  1. Recruiters
  2. Other developers interested in your work
  3. Readers looking for a subject-matter peer or expert

- Underneath your site's goal, write the group(s) that you consider your site's primary audience.

- On a piece of paper or in a blank digital document, list all of the content that you expect to display on your site. Examples include (but are not limited to):

  - Biography paragraph(s)
  - List(s) of skills
  - List(s) of appropriate projects
  - Social media links
  - Résumé and professional documentation
  - Media (videos)
  - Related descriptive text content

- Attempt to group your content into categories. These may reflect either the pages (if you plan to have a multiple page site) or sections (if you're interested in a single-page or "parallax" design).

- If you're planning to include media of any kind, what functional support will these features need? Make a note next to any features that may require site structure beyond simply pictures and text.

- Draw your content organization and hierarchy using a tool of your choice, dividing content into pages or sections where that content is likely to appear. List the content you expect to add to these pages or sections beside or below the section or page names.

Required Deliverable

- A single document in a format of your choice which clearly incorporates and defines:

  - All content and content types you plan to include on your site
  - Considers *at least* three levels of architecture: the main entry point/page, individual sections/pages, content contained therein
  - Pages or sections expected
  - Page and information hierarchy (e.g. content appearing first or more "important" listedn higher)
  - Content planned for each page

This document should be added to your copy of the assignment repository on Github. This document will be evaluated based on completeness and how well it demonstrates your plans for creating a comprhensive, audience-aware site.