# Homework #8 Final Writeup

1. Description of Website

The purpose of the website is to showcase projects that have occurred during this semester at the student organization Students Using Data for Social Good (SUDS). It is essentially a portfolio piece for the student organization’s projects and is intended to showcase the variety of projects we do. The primary audience is those looking to join the club (and thus wanting to learn more about projects that the student org has done in the past). Additionally, it can be sent to potential clients SUDS is considering partnering with to give an idea of the kinds of projects the organization has completed in the past. It is interesting and engaging, because it has a lot of different animated elements (including hover capabilities and fading in animations) on different pages and an animated visualization on the front page.

1. Interactions on Website
   1. Home Page Interactions
      1. Hover – Hover over the Learn More About Us icon at the bottom of the card to see a darker color. Clicking on this button will eventually lead to more information about the organization; it currently does not lead anywhere.
      2. Hover – Hovering over the Log In Button will fill in the outline of the button (This button does not currently lead anywhere)
      3. Hover – Hovering over the navigation links will highlight them, providing a feedforward of the text being clickable.
      4. (Mobile Devices Only) Click – A hamburger menu appears that can be clicked for mobile navigation menus. The navigation links will still be the same in the hamburger menu as the desktop devices.
   2. Project Overview Page
      1. Click – Clicking on the SUDS Logo will bring the user back to the home page.
      2. Hover – Hovering over any of the images will lead to an orange overlay to appear with the project description and title.
         1. Hovering over the description, however, will cause the title to disappear so move the mouse away from the description area to see the title again.
      3. Click – Clicking anywhere in the hover box will lead to the project details page. The link is highlighted in blue but clicking anywhere in the box will lead to the next page. This is to provide a bigger target size and beat Fitts’ law.
      4. Hover – Hovering over the filtering buttons on the top of the page will lead to them being filled in (The filtering buttons have no effect on the website at this time, however).
   3. Project Description Page
      1. Load the Page – On load of the page, the elements fade in using an animation.
2. External Tools Used
   1. Bootstrap Library
      1. I choose to use Bootstrap, because it made it easier to create a responsive mobile design, include common UI elements like cards, and create a responsive grid. It also made it easy to create a navigation bar. Another advantage of using Bootstrap is that it is a common web framework used across the web and allows this website follow design patterns better.
      2. I used Bootstrap almost everywhere on this website. It was used to create the navigation bar (and the responsive version of it), buttons, and cards on the home page. On the project description page, it was used to create a responsive grid. With some other web resources, it was also used to create the hover overlay capability of each project box.
      3. Like noted in the answer to the first question, Bootstrap made my website more consistent with the common design patterns found across many websites today. It easily makes the website viewable on different sized devices, which is especially important nowadays. It also adds fun, interactive elements which make it much more enjoyable to use the website (in the case of the hovering capability).
   2. Animations (with Animate.css)
      1. I choose to use Animate.css, because it provided an animation that I have seen often used in portfolio sites (the fading in of information). It also seemed created a more engaging element to the site.
      2. I used it on the project description pages. Each of the pages load with a fading in and provides some extra liveliness to the website.
      3. This animation adds extra liveliness and engagement to the website, which makes the website more fun to visit. It also creates a more realistic feeling for the website since things do not appear suddenly in real life.
3. Iteration on HW7 Mockups

Since my homework seven mockup included several pages, I decided to reduce the number of pages to focus more on the interactive elements on each page and making the website more mobile friendly. Thus, I reduced the mockup down to just the home page, the project listing page, and the project description page. I also changed the type of animations that were occurring; in the original mockup, the pages would slide in from left or right. In the final product, however, the sliding animation did not seem to look very nice with the website, so I changed it to a fade.

1. Challenges

A large challenge that I experienced was trying to get the orange overlay hover effect working on the project listing page. At first, I tried to replace the div elements with an overlay, but it did not work well, so I utilized some web resources to make the effect. Additionally, there were some challenges initially with getting the cover page image to cover the whole image. With some debugging, I realized that the image should not just be underneath the card, but underneath the whole page.