Project 3 Final – Rationale

App Name:

Damned Debugging

Overview:

The general theme of the application is as the name infers: computer related. My hopes are for this site to be used as a place where coders can vent their frustrations about their current programming projects--not necessarily seek solutions (like StackOverflow). Ideally, the posts will be humorous and use "geeky" programming jokes. I don't think a site like this exists yet, so I feel this could catch on.

Audience:

My target audience is simply anyone who codes, whether it be professionally or academically or just hobbyists in general. For that reason my inputs include a choice between student, programmer and other. Specifically this site will be geared towards young coders, to add to the humor and whimsical nature of the site.

Design:

I wanted to take this theme a step further and use Google webfonts "Share Mono Tech" which is very similar to the font that CommandLine / Terminalfont uses. This was used order to convey a primitive console: green text on a black background. Therefore the color scheme includes chartreuse (bright light green), black and white to convey this retro computer style. I chose chartreuse as the main font color because it contrasts nicely against a black background as well as my slate colored webpage background. In addition, the light green is scientifically soothing to the eyes and culturally denotes tranquility— this site was made to be a safe haven of complaining! Of course, I am using F-layout-styling in order to engage my audience best: placing the header at the top and having information displayed in blurbs going left to right (text-align: left). In addition I am using the golden ratio and making my content fit within 2/3 of the whole web browser width to further appeal to viewers.

I rendered the background image in Illustrator and created the header image in Photoshop. The header image ties well with the primitive computer console theme since it is an image of binary code.

The following is the CRAP breakdown:

Constrast: green and white against a black background
Reptition: same header.php and footer.php on each page and same usage of same fonts.
Usage of same padding and color scheme on every page.
Alignment: every thing is left aligned except for the footer which is always centered
Proximity: everything is made into blurbs and line breaks denote new content.

PHP:

In all I have 4 different types of fields: text, email, radio buttons, and text area. They all
have required inputs so that the user does not submit empty strings to the database. I then
strip the inputs of tags in my index.php for further security. I used a for loop to output the
requested database information and used echo statements to print out <div> tags so that
each post is formatted wholistically. I highlight the current user posts with white text and
slate background and the rest of the posts are green text on light black. This is to go along
the theme of my app. created header.php and footer.php to make my code more efficient
and reduce repetition of code.

Lastly if you notice email is the only input not displayed. This is for security reasons,
since most people do not want their email publicly known.