Content Management System – Production Journal

Members

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Purpose

The purpose of this project was to create a website based on "Mid-century Canberra" using WordPress. Mid-century Canberra focuses on the architects and their works that have shaped and defined Canberra as a whole.

Scope

The idea was to create a fully functional site where users can view the contents of Mid-century Canberra and navigate it appropriately, as well as leave comments and interact with the contents of the site. All pages have a header with search functionality and a navigation bar, as well as a footer, with the footer statement as well as a login link to access wp-admin. The Home page contains a summary of what the site contains, as well as a collection of images that showcase the different architectural works in Canberra. The News page is our blog page, where all the blog posts are in the form of news and announcements. Users can also post comments for each news post. Spam filtering and moderation of comments is implemented into the site. The Houses page showcases a collection of the architectural works we're focusing on. Each image links to a page describing the respective works in the form of longform text as well as images of the works. Users are also able to comment on the works. In the Architects page, there is a collection of the architects behind the works included in the Houses page, with each image linking to a separate page describing the architects and their contributions. The houses they designed are linked back to the respective Houses pages (the opposite is also true with the houses). Locations features a customised map which show the locations of the works featured in Houses. Each marker shows a brief summary of the house, as well as a link to navigate to the respective Houses page. The colour scheme of the map matches the dark theme of the website. The About page contains information on what "Mid-century Canberra" encapsulates. The Contact Us page allows the user to use the form to, well, contact us.

The Project

Week 11

Ashwin and I started our project at the start of Week 11 on a fine Tuesday morning at uni. You're probably thinking, hey, you should've started earlier, you a**holes, and I suppose that's true, but we were pretty confident we would be able to get it done in the time we had, since we have both had substantial web design experience and everything. In the meeting, we planned out how we would go about the project, and we decided we would use our tried and true project method, known as "Smash it Out". We decided against using Trello as there were only two of us and a lot of it would be basically us collaborating together anyway. Instead, we decided we would use GitHub as evidence of our contributions. The two of us installed WordPress on both of our laptops and set up everything else, including a GitHub repository and the Migrate DB tool on WordPress, so that we would be able to transfer files to each other when we needed to. We went with the Music Journal theme by Catch Themes, as it was a dark and fairly minimalist theme, which is what a lot of users seem to like nowadays, as it's easy on the eyes and looks very nice. Throughout the week, both of us contributed to the site without any hassle between us, as we've worked together before heaps of times (we're professionals). My main contributions were to the News and Houses pages; Ashwin decided he would be working on the Architects and Locations pages. Both of us made smaller contributions to all of the pages. By the end of the week, we had almost everything set up, although I hadn't fully finished the Houses page yet, and Ashwin hadn't fully finished the Locations page either. The menu bar was fully functional, and all the links on the site worked.

Week 12

We were approaching the due date and we had to complete everything and refine it. Ashwin completed the Locations page by using Snazzy Maps to create a custom map and added that map as an iframe to the page. I completed the Houses page, and created links between Houses and Architects. I also made tweaks to the site, such as formatting the text for consistency between pages, making the Houses pages and Architect pages have the respective main page as their parent page, changing permalinks of the pages, etc., because I like everything to be consistent and organised. Ashwin and I had finalised everything, so now all that was left was to host it on my SiteGround domain. For some dumb reason, I didn't realise you could add an existing WordPress site through the integrated WordPress thing on SiteGround and hence, I spent ages trying to get everything working to no success (I kept getting errors). On Thursday, Ashwin and I got together to finalise everything, and Ashwin pointed out that you can add an existing WordPress site to SiteGround. Have you ever seen that South Park episode "All About Mormons"? You know how when they tell Joseph Smith's story, it's narrated by a song in the background which constantly goes, "Dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb"? That's how I felt. So anyway, I finally managed to get it to work, and everything was fully functional. Afterwards, Ashwin and I made some minor edits and tweaks to refine everything, and we were done.

Conclusion

This was quite different from the last project, in that, it was more intuitive rather than technical. This is of course there's very little need for programming when using WordPress. Ashwin and I are both software engineering students, so usually when it comes to web development, our projects are very much on the technical side, thus using WordPress felt a bit odd at first. But honestly, it's great to do a project that's more design oriented, because it's a very important and overlooked aspect of development. Overall, I learned a lot from this project, and Ashwin and I worked excellently together.

See GitHub logs for evidence of our contributions.