

## MODULE ③

ABI WHITFORD

INTERVIEW WITH TOMMY TRUONG – [HTTPS://WWW.MSU.EDU/~TRUONGTO/#](https://www.msu.edu/~truongto/#)

WHY DID YOU DESIGN YOUR PORTFOLIO THE WAY YOU DID?

The reason I chose the design for my portfolio was for the following reasons

- a      Simplicity
- b      Responsive
- c      Conservative color palette
- d      Easy scrolling

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOW WHEN YOU HAD FIRST STARTED?

When I first started, I wish I had a better understanding of jQuery and JavaScript. I really wanted to put a lot of effort into my portfolio because I knew it was something I would be using in the future. With that in mind, I wanted to make it the best I could at the time. By having a better understanding of jQuery and JavaScript, I could have developed my portfolio much faster and at the level I wanted to show potential employers.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL IN YOUR PROFILE?

My portfolio contains mostly professional material. Any personal material I display in my portfolio complements the professional material (i.e. personal experiences that taught me something I used in my professional experience). I'm focused on coding projects more than the visual arts, so if I believe a website or app I make is professional enough I add it to my page.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR PORTFOLIO?

The most important thing for my portfolio, from reactions I've noticed, is the aesthetics and responsiveness of the page. Since I chose to have my portfolio displayed as a website, my users first see how they navigate it before they begin reading information.

ANY TIPS FOR DESIGNING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

Some design tips I highly recommend if you decide to create a website for your portfolio is to really filter out your content into what you want to present. After that, you'll more effectively design a layout / aesthetic that will complement yourself. For example, my skills mostly revolve around Computer Science experiences therefore I chose a more CSE-like style.

## TAKEAWAYS

From Tommy's advise, I've learned that it takes effort and practice to become a competent programmer. He talked a lot about how he wished he knew more about jQuery and Javascript before he created his portfolio. By really pushing to create an advanced webpage, he learned these languages and began to understand how they are used on the page. Hopefully, I will be able to teach myself the basics like Tommy did, and grow from there to become a skilled coder. Also, I would like to stress the importance of aesthetics on a webpage. Tommy talks about how he choose the layout of of his page based on his background in computer science. I believe this illustrates Tommy's personality in the page with a clean, organized structure. By staying in tune with his design background, but making the page pleasing to others, Tommy has successfully created a page that reflects himself, but is still functional or others. I believe there is a thin line between personal and professional style on a portfolio. We must be careful merging the two equally so that it captures ourselves in ways that others understand when they view our pages.