

Island Santa: A Socially responsible Christmas Experience

By: *Bryan A. Pena-Cruz*

https://github.com/bapenacruz/Island_Santa

1. Introduction

The project is a website that is designed to provide English and Spanish speaking children (under adult supervision) a remote yet personalized Christmas during Covid-19. The site consists of a total of 9 webpages providing the following experiences:

1. Home Page containing a very vibrant live countdown to Christmas, a high-quality image carousel and a summary to of all the different sub-pages.
2. Mail Santa Page containing a user form that, at full functionality, should directly send Santa the user's Christmas letter along with other requested information.
3. Reservation Page containing another user form in which the user requests a more individual and customized experience. Offering video services through numerous applications with varied durations. At full functionality, this should send the reservation application.
4. Social Page that is currently under construction, but the plan is to have the site pull in show the latest Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter post.
5. Santa Tracker Page that basically embeds the military's Noradsanta.org site that comes live every first of December. It tells you Santa's location and estimated arrival time to your provided location.
6. Live Video Page which contains an embedded Google calendar with Santa's live weekly show schedule. At the time of the event the video will be displayed on this page.
7. Recorded Video Page currently containing links to Christmas YouTube videos, but at full functionality should be a repository of our own videos.
8. Rudolf Cam Page embedding a 24/7 live video feed of a farmhouse with multiple deer. (Disclaimer: I found this looking at the source code in <https://reindeercam.com/web-free/#rdcvids>). It even allows the user to take and download snapshots.
9. Naughty or Nice Page container a questionnaire with yes/no/sometimes inputs that at full functionality, should give a naughty or nice determination and if naughty, pointers on how to improve.

Note: Snapshots of Pages can be found in the Appendix.

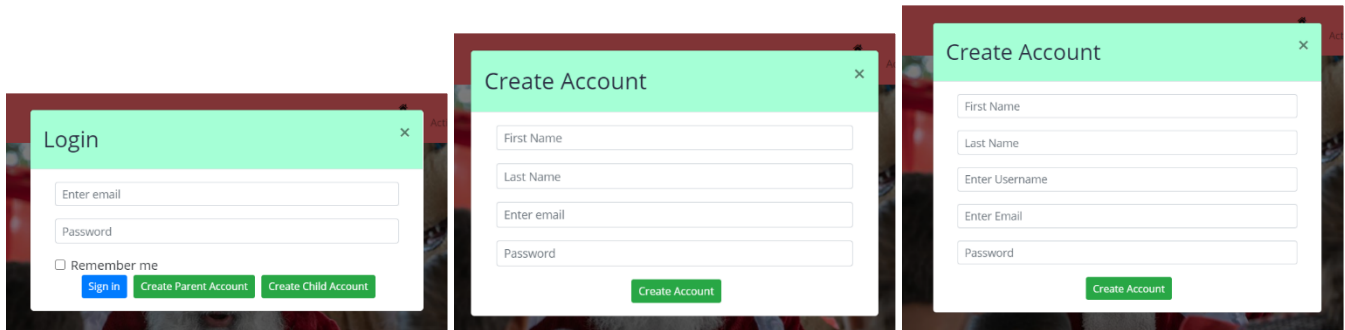
2. Design and Implementation

In terms of content, the final implementation from my site remained faithful to my original vision with the exceptions. The styling though, evolved greatly. I looked at other Santa sites and many of them seemed outdated and cluttered. I wanted a cleaner more simplistic look like other modern and visually striking sites. The color pallet was chosen from <https://coolors.co/> and there was a lot of influence from the Nucamp's Site built for the class. For instance, the carousel and layout of the home page was a direct modification of the one done for class. The reason why I chose this is that being a Santa site, I wanted to show case and focus on a single image at a time. Additionally, I found that the content layout below the carousel was inline with the industry. Another thing that greatly varied from the original proposal was the site navigation. I simplified the ribbon and incorporated dropdowns and submenus and got away with the breadcrumbs since the simplicity of the site does not require one. **Originals proposals are linked below.**

- https://1drv.ms/w/s!Ascquzh0Htrgg_kzYnIPgU9GXh2pPg?e=mBMXyL
- <https://1drv.ms/p/s!Ascquzh0Htrggqk8et4Odj2t0KTQWg?e=EgbKUK>

I embedded a lot of content since I think it is the best way to incorporate high quality data without having to reinvent the wheel. One example is YouTube which is known to provide great live streaming videos. I also embed a countdown timer from <https://www.tickcounter.com/>, but it is not the best looking widget out there and I think once I learn more JavaScript, I can make a better one. Same goes with the embedded Google Calendar. One issue I did find with embedding features from other sites is the lack of customizability, which require you to spend a significant amount of time trying to make it look right and fit with the rest of your project.

Modals (refer to images below) and User Forms were extensively used to provide user information and input, but at the moment they have no functionality. All pages contain the same navbar, footer with contact information and login button that brings up a prompt for user logging or account creation. At the moment these modals are dismissed but at full functionality should actually perform a task and once the user is logged in the login button should turn into an account information button, prompt a dialog and session log-out.



3. Conclusions

This project taught me that there is a lot that goes into site development and that given the evolution of the internet there's a lot to learn in order to get to the level where some of these major sites are at. It also taught me how to "reverse engineer" other websites by looking at their source code and how to navigate through the junk code of many of them. I not only learned how to make a simple website, but also how to use GitHub, which saved me many times where the code became corrupted. Finally, how to be organized in how your project comes together. There's a lot of code that repeats in every webpage that if you tweak it in one you must remember to read it across all others.

The shortcomings in my project would be that though it's responsive to screen size, in my opinion it looks better on a big screen than a smaller one. I think more practice with Bootstrap would better enable the responsiveness of the website. Another thing I would improve is the outdated look of the user forms. Finally, fixing the footer to the bottom of the page was/is a headache that though I managed to work around it definitely has room for improvement.

In general, I would have liked to create more content from the beginning, spend more time trying to incorporate live social feeds from social media and have a more materialistic design.


Home Page:


[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Social](#) [Mail Santa](#) [Reservations](#)

Countdown to Christmas 2020

124 : 22 : 29

DAYS HOURS MINUTES







Send Santa your Christmas wishlist and tell him how you behaved throughout the year or simply check-in with him to say hi. Although he is super busy trying to make everybody's presents but rest assured that he reads all his mail! Who knows? Maybe you're lucky enough to get a reply!

[Send Santa a Letter](#)

Are you Naughty or Nice?

Do you think you'll be on Santa's Nice list this year? Take our questionnaire to find out! Don't worry he'll give you some pointers on what to improve







We got live story telling everyweek, but if you can't wait check out our pre-recorded ones!

[Tune in for a Christmas Stories](#)

Are you lucky enough to spot Rudolf?

24/7 Reindeer Cam. Santa's reindeers are always roaming around. If you seen one take a snapshot and share on social media






Check in on Santa's latest location and his estimated arrival time to you. But remember, Santa needs vacation too!


[Track Santa all year round](#)

Reserve your own time with Santa!

For more one-one time with Santa, have your parents reserve some time with him for a completely unique and individual experience!



And don't Forget to follow Santa on Social Media



[@GildedSanta](#) [GildedSanta@gmail.com](#)

Live Video Page:

[Login](#)

[Home](#) [Activities](#) [Social](#) [Mail Santa](#) [Reservations](#)

[Click Here for Upcoming Live Video Events](#)

Today

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5

Google Calendar

PLEASE STAND BY

[Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

[+1 \(234\) 567-8910](#) [island_santa@gmail.com](#)

Recorded Video Page:

[Login](#)

[Home](#) [Activities](#) [Social](#) [Mail Santa](#) [Reservations](#)

[Click one of the links to listen to you favorite Christmas story!](#)

The Night Before Christmas

The Tiny Discontented Pine Tree

Stories Of Mitten & Snowman

The Little Princess and Puppy

The True Meaning of Christmas

Story Of Santa Claus

I See Santa and his Elves Everywhere!

Snowman story

The Gift of Christmas

[Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

[+1 \(234\) 567-8910](#) [island_santa@gmail.com](#)

Naughty or Nice Questionnaire Page

Login

Home

Activities

Social

Mail Santa

Reservations

Browsersync: connect

Naughty or Nice Questionnaire

What's your Name?

Full Name

Do you believe in Santa's Magic?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Did you get good grades this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Have you gotten detention this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you hurt someone's feeling this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Have you bullied someone this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Have you been wearing your protective mask in public?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Are you keeping physical distance (6 feet) in public?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Do you listen to your parent and grandparents?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Do you listen to your teachers?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Do you do your chores?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

What are Santa's favorite snacks?

Submit Answer for Naughty or Nice Assessment



+1 (234) 567-8910 | island_santa@gmail.com

Rudolf Live Feed Cam

Login

Home

Activities

Social

Mail Santa

Reservations

Can you spot one of Santa's Reindeers roaming around?




+1 (234) 567-8910 | island_santa@gmail.com

Santa Tracker Page

[Login](#)






[Home](#) [Activities](#) [Social](#) [Mail Santa](#) [Reservations](#)





Come back Dec. 1, 2020

To see what NORAD does the rest of the year,
visit us at [NORAD.mil](https://www.norad.mil)

FOLLOW US!






[+1 \(234\) 567-8910](#) island_santa@gmail.com

Send Santa a Letter Page:


[Login](#)

[Home](#) [Activities](#) [Social](#) [Mail Santa](#) [Reservations](#)

Send Santa a Note!

First Name	<input type="text" value="First Name"/>
Last Name	<input type="text" value="Last Name"/>
Date of Birth	<input type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> 
Parent's Email	<input type="text" value="Parent's Email"/>
Your Feedback	<div>Dear Santa,</div> <div></div>

Send Mail







[+1 \(234\) 567-8910](#) island_santa@gmail.com

Reserve Time with Santa Page:

Login

Home Activities Social Mail Santa Reservations

Reserve Time with Santa

Parent's Full Name	<input type="text" value="Parent's Name"/>
Parent's Email	<input type="text" value="Parent's Email"/>
Child's Full Name	<input type="text" value="Last Name"/>
Child's Date of Birth	<input type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> 
Child's Gender	<p><input type="radio"/> Male ♂</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Female ♀</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other 🏳️‍🌈</p>
Request Date of Activity	<input type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> 
Activity Length	<p><input type="radio"/> 15 Minutes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 30 Minutes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 45 minutes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 1 hour</p> <div><input type="text" value="Duration"/></div>
Messaging Platform	<p><input type="radio"/> Messenger </p> <p><input type="radio"/> Whatsapp </p> <p><input type="radio"/> Skype </p> <p><input type="radio"/> Zoom </p>
Phone #	<input type="text" value="787 ###-####"/>
Insight	<div><div>Input here you requests for the activity. For example: story telling, behavioral check, selfie with santa, etc.</div></div>
Insight	<div><div>Input here anything you want Santa to know about. For example: child behavior, siblings, gifts, grades, etc.</div></div>

Submit Reservation Application

+1 (234) 567-8910 island_santa@gmail.com

Social Page (Under Construction:

Login

Home

Activities

Social

Mail Santa

Reservations



+1 (234) 567-8910 | island_santa@gmail.com