Chris Skowronski

Project Part 2 Write Up

For my project part 2, I decided to do something completely different and not build off of my project 1. I was extremely happy with how my project part 1 turned out, however I was struggling to find any need for the use of PHP or MySQL. Because of this, I just decided to fix the CSS on my project part 1 and put it up as my own personal website and do a completely different idea for part 2.

For my part 2 I wanted to use a database to query search results, since this was something I was always interested in. It would be a simple database query, but it would be very nice looking and work properly. One of my biggest improvements in this semester has been really understanding how to make compelling looking websites. I never really understood semantic HTML and what tags really meant. I always would try to be lazy and do as little as possible with the CSS.

Now that I have a full understanding of how the display types and other CSS attributes really work, I feel that I am able to create something that looks much better. I believe that I wrote cleaner and more advanced CSS in this project. I also had a much easier time with the javascript and was able to improve on making my page come to life. In part 1 I just used someone’s plugin to get an improved scrolling experience, but in part 2 I was able to use a News API and AJAX to show IGN News and format it exactly how I wanted to.

My part 1 was a flat file one page layout using some jQuery. I know how a website that is backed by a database and I am able to query the MySQL database using forms. I feel that I have taken my web development experience a step further and have begun to really get some functionality with the help of PHP. I think that I did not have this same vision of functionality for my personal website and that may have led to me creating an entirely new project for part 2. If I had more time I would have liked to make my database returns into new objects, but I was only returning to a simple HTML list and did not need to add anything additional. I am very happy with how I have progressed and feel that I have begun to do some actual web development instead of someone who just makes website pages.