

Wednesday: Portfolio Workshop

Portfolio Creation Guide

What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is a compilation of materials that exemplify your skills, qualifications, education, training, beliefs, and experiences. It provides insight into your personality and work ethic. Your portfolio is a personal website containing similar information to your LinkedIn, only with much more room to display your projects.

Why do you need a portfolio?

1. Display your abilities and give more insight into your work than a CV alone. Showcase who you are, what kind of work you do, how you do that work, where you want to go next, and who you really want to work with.
2. A portfolio gives you the opportunity to create your Personal Brand. A Personal Brand is an image or impression in the mind of others about who an individual is and what is their expertise. Your personal brand is important because:
 1. A personal brand distinguishes you. The job market is crowded. Plenty of people are vying for the same position and have similar certifications and experience. Having a strong personal brand makes you stand out as the person to go to for X skills.
 2. As a developer, personal branding matters when you are looking to find a job or looking to change your job. You want your employers to hire you not only as a good developer but also as an innovative, high-potential leader in your field. To make that possible, you need to cultivate a personal brand that can highlight your value to your potential employers.
 3. Your personal brand helps a potential employer get to know a little bit more about you and not the technical things. For example, if you include your blogs in your portfolio then the portfolio viewer gets to really know what time of a person you are in terms of your personality. So when they get to hire you they are sure that you will fit well in their organization
 4. Creating a personal brand helps you shape how others see you professionally. Your personal brand consists of your work experience, digital footprint, online profiles, and anything that pops up when a recruiter Googles your name. Your personal brand is your public reputation.
3. Interviewers often review your portfolio website, and it provides a great talking point during an interview by giving you the chance to showcase what you know and make a lasting impression. You are the determinant of what impression you leave people with about yourself, so if your portfolio leaves the wow effect, the interviewers will be more excited about it and about you.
4. A portfolio also helps you stand out from a sea of other candidates in an interview. When your portfolio makes an impression to the interviewer, it raises the chances of you getting hired.

What to include in your portfolio

Home

In this section of your portfolio, share the key information about your professional persona. Introduce yourself by name and state what type of developer you are. Do not go overboard lots of details - keep it short, simple and to the point, only including the most essential, important parts.

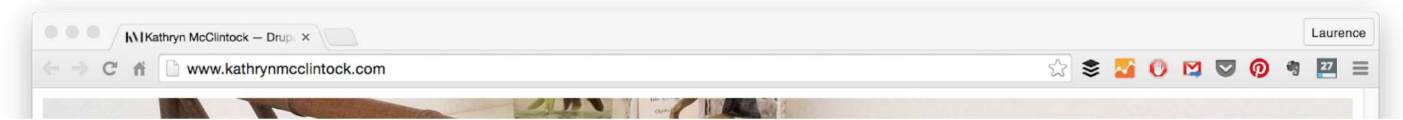
This is your chance to share your personality. Other professionals may have your skills and experience, but your unique personality is what makes you, you, and are what make you exciting to work with! Make yourself sound personable and interesting. Everything from the interface design to the information you share. Likable people have an easier time getting hired.

You may also add a photo of yourself, which creates an immediate connection with the portfolio reviewer.

Examples 1: [Pierre's' home page](http://pierre.io/) [_ \(http://pierre.io/\)](http://pierre.io/) (

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Examples 2: [Kathryn's home page](http://www.kathrynmclintock.com/) [\(http://www.kathrynmclintock.com/\)](http://www.kathrynmclintock.com/)(



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[Task]

Following the instruction given above, create the homepage for your portfolio

Projects

This is a chance to showcase all of your hard work. Include only your **top** software applications, at least 4-6 that you think represent your skills and you would be excited about showing to a potential employer. Employers look at this section to understand your capabilities.

Because coming out of Moringa School, you have experience on a lot of projects, you have the luxury of choosing projects based on the image you want to project to the viewer. You want this section to convey your specialization and coding interests. The projects you choose influence how people (including potential employers) viewing your portfolio see you, your potential, and your skill level.

The applications that you add to your portfolio convey the type of projects you are interested in working on. For instance, if you want to land a job as a Ruby on Rails developer, make sure to emphasize projects/work experience related to Ruby on Rails.

Example: [Peter's project section](http://petermuturi.xyz/portfolio) [_ \(http://petermuturi.xyz/portfolio\)_](http://petermuturi.xyz/portfolio) (What I've done



Nairobi Tech Week

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Task

Think of what you want your portfolio viewer to perceive about you when she or he looks at your projects. Now, select the top software projects that project the personality and skills you want the viewer to perceive.

Project details

After narrowing down your list of top projects, include relevant details for each project, including:

- Project name
- Screenshot of the working project
- A high-level description of the project and how it works (1 sentence)
- Skills, programming language, and technology stack used
- Link to the project's GitHub repository
 - Link to the live site if the project is hosted
 - If the project is not a deployable application, make sure the Github README includes installation and use information
- Your role in the development cycle

- Make sure the project is deployed and accessible to employers! It must be something they can see online, an undeployed project is not a complete project and it will look very bad to employers.

Make sure that all of the Github repositories linked to are very polished, include only clean code that you would excite for a potential employer to look at, and **have great READMEs**. The first step to a great project is a great README - it's baseline polishing that is extremely important. The deployed applications must be fully functioning and polished as well - employers **do** look at your portfolio, it is the only way for them to see what you can build.

Example: [Emily's project details section](http://emilyporta.com/) [_\(http://emilyporta.com/\)_](http://emilyporta.com/)

MY PORTFOLIO

Hover over any video below to see the site in action.

You can also see my code and fork my projects on [Github](#).



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[_\(http://emilyporta.com/\)_](http://emilyporta.com/)

Task

Now that you have your top software projects listed on your portfolio, use the above information as a guide fill in the relevant details for each project.

Skills

Remember your technical skills on your CV? Present them in the skills section on your portfolio.

Include only your strongest skills and ones that will prove useful in the type of job you're looking for. For example, if you're looking for a back-end job, emphasize the skillsets this position is looking for on your portfolio. **Do not** include information about skills that you do not know or lie about your abilities. Employers are typically very senior software engineers and will immediately see through your lies, which can ruin your reputation in the developer community. If your interviewer is not technical, they will create expectations for your productivity when you begin - if you lie, you will have great difficulty in the workplace.

Example: [See Pierre's Skills section](#) [_\(http://pierre.io\)_](http://pierre.io)(

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Task

Fill out your technical skills that are relevant to the type of job you are looking for or technical skills that you would want the portfolio viewer to know you have.

Contact

Must be very easy to find. If you cannot be reached, then what's the point?

It is not necessary to give out a phone number if you are not comfortable doing so.

Attach your email address and a link to your Github, and optionally include other **professional** social platforms on which you can easily be reached, such as LinkedIn and Twitter. Some employers will review all of your social media sites.

Example: [Caferati's contact section](https://caferati.me/contact) [_ \(https://caferati.me/contact\) _](https://caferati.me/contact) (

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Task

Add your contact information or social platforms that the viewer can easily reach you in case they are interested in your work

(Optional) Open Source Projects and Contributions

If you have contributed to open source projects, you include a section in your portfolio that features your work. After all, open source contributions provide insight to who you are as a developer outside of Moringa School, indicating your involvement in the developer community and a deeper interest in coding.

For all contributions, provide the project's name, description, and main repository link. If applicable, provide a link to your contribution commit, and (optionally) the number of lines of code or number of source control check-ins to provide some measure of the size of your contribution to the project.

Having open source contributions shows that you love coding and are dedicated to the developer community, and that you are willing to go above and beyond to assist.

Task

For all open source projects that you have contributed to, provide:

- Project name
- Project description
- Main repository link
- A link to your contribution

Awesome Portfolios from Moringa School grads

- [John Mutavi](https://jonnygovish.github.io/#) [_\(https://jonnygovish.github.io/#\)](https://jonnygovish.github.io/#)
- [Pauline Mbabu](http://pauline-mbabu.surge.sh/) [_\(http://pauline-mbabu.surge.sh/\)](http://pauline-mbabu.surge.sh/)
- [Brian Marete](https://brianmarete.github.io/) [_\(https://brianmarete.github.io/\)](https://brianmarete.github.io/)
- [Steve Kiarie](https://stvkre.github.io/stvkre3.0/) [_\(https://stvkre.github.io/stvkre3.0/\)](https://stvkre.github.io/stvkre3.0/)
- [Philippe Hong](http://philippehong.com/) [_\(http://philippehong.com/\)](http://philippehong.com/)

Feedback and Polishing

After reading through the above workshop and discussing it with your peer partners, go ahead and start creating your portfolio.

Make use of the remaining time to create the first draft of your portfolio.

Have the first draft of your portfolio ready by the end of the first day of the portfolio creation exercise so that you peer partners can review your portfolio and give you feedback.

When giving feedback to each other feedback, use the below checklist as a guide:

- The home section should have all the information that pertains to it.
- The project section should have projects that are related to what the student wants the portfolio viewer to know about him or herself. These projects should be well detailed.
- The contact section should be easy to find with the student's email address, link to their github and other professional social platforms through which the student can be easily reached.
- The skills section should contain the relevant technical skills
- If the student has open source projects that she or he has contributed to, they should all contain the relevant information that pertains to the open source projects section.

Use the rest of your evening to make corrections suggested to the first draft of your portfolio by your peers.

When the portfolio exercise commences the following morning, allow your peer partners to review your Portfolio after implementing their suggested suggestions.

When you and your peer partners are completely satisfied with all your Portfolio, invite the Professional Development Instructor and your Technical Mentor who will have a final review of your portfolio.