Final Project Write-Up

Assignment 8

Part 1

My website is a personal portfolio site that I built last summer. On the site I include examples of my past projects, writings, and other work as well as a description of myself, my professional goals, and a form to contact me. The target audience would be recruiters looking to hire a full-time employee and keep things engaging for them by using many large images and several microinteractions, such as the underline in the navigation bar or the arrow on the See More links.

The newest feature that I built into my website for my final project is a chatbot. The purpose of the chatbot is to provide recruiters with an entirely new way for users to interface with my website and learn more about me using a method similar to a job interview or customized elevator pitch. As noted in the instructions, this feature should also help my portfolio stand out from a number of other portfolios with a much more engaging form of interaction and also help demonstrate my technical skill.

The chatbot has been programmed to answer about a dozen common questions that a recruiter might ask, including "Tell me about David," "What was David's last job?" and "How can I contact David?"

Part 2

For the chatbot, which is specific to this final project, one would interact with the feature as follows:

- Open the chatbot: Go to the home-page of my website and click on the green circle in the bottom right of the screen.
- Ask a question: Use the text area to type a response to the chatbot's initial prompt. Ask a question to learn more about me, or ask "What questions can I ask?" Pressing enter or clicking the paper plane will send the question.
- Converse: Continue to ask the bot questions as explained above until you are satisfied.
- Close the chatbot: Click the 'X' in the green circle at the bottom right.

Part 3

My personal website was built using Bootstrap, SASS, jQuery, PHP, Twig and hosted on Heroku following the MVC standard as these were the technologies I used during my summer internship happening the same time I built this website. Specifically for this project, I added...

- Voiceflow Runtime Client SDK
- I'm using Voiceflow in another class at the current moment and wanted to learn how to integrate the technology into a personal project. Since I already had to learn the software, I decided to stick with Voiceflow with this project. The SDK is provided by Voiceflow and there are few other options to do such integration.
- Integrating the SDK required downloading the runtime client as a JavaScript file, then adding additional JavaScript to my website to connect it to the front-end. I also needed to create a Voiceflow project and connect the SDK via an API key. Like an API, the SDK simply retrieves user input from my website, sends it to Voiceflow, and returns the output.

• The SDK adds the ability for me to easily integrate Voiceflow's advanced natural language processing capabilities into my website. Without the SDK, it wouldn't be possible for me to create such a powerful conversational tool in such a short amount of time.

Part 4

My HW7 mock-ups were very useful in guiding the design of my website and saved me time deciding what to create. I made almost no design changes except keeping the 'X' at the bottom of the mobile responsive view. This was purely because of the technical complications of positioning the 'X' at the top of the screen and within the chat div.

Part 5

The greatest challenge was adapting my code to be responsive without creating a giant mess of duplicated HTML. I had to make a compromise keeping the 'X' at the bottom of mobile screens to close the chatbot to work around this challenge. Fortunately, using SASS to generate CSS helped tremendously with writing clean and responsive code.

Test out the chatbot for yourself now at www.daviddomalik.com