

PUI Assignment 8 - Denny Check

<https://dencheck.github.io/PUI7wirling/index2.html>

a.

i. My website is an icon explorer that displays icons I have created for previous projects. The site will function as a component of my larger portfolio website to showcase the diverse icon styles I'm capable of, and future clients could be pointed to this page to get an idea of what icons they would like for their specific project.

ii. Icons available, icon styles available, some idea of my web development and art direction capabilities

iii. The site creates a more engaging experience throughout the ability to sort icons by a number of criteria (color, date, or random.) A subtle animation on hover (on desktop) also allows some interaction with the icons. The lack of labeling on the icons invites the user to experiment with different settings. The user can test out various background colors to see how different icons look in different situations.

iv. Target audience: peers, potential employers and freelance clients. Mostly people with design experience, who won't be turned off by a more stylized, minimalist interface.

b.

- Page is loaded: standard web page with dynamically-sorted grid
- User presses shuffle button: Icons rearrange randomly with an animation
- User presses rainbow button: Icons rearrange in rainbow order with an animation
- User presses hourglass button: Icons rearrange in order of date of creation with an animation
- User presses color picker: a popover color picker appears and allows the user to choose a color for the background of the entire site (to see icons on a contrasting/different-colored background.)

c.

i. Isotope.js library

ii. I chose this library for dynamically sorting and filtering grids, out of a wide variety of dynamic grid libraries, because of its robust and easy-to-understand sorting mechanism. It also responds to screen size adjustments easily, and includes pleasing animations for the act of resorting/reflowing grid items.

iii. I used this library to build the main icon grid and implement the sort buttons. Sorting via color (I manually assigned color values), date created, and random order are included. I modified a periodic table applet that isotope.js included in their documentation.

iv. This grid forms the main piece of my site, and the animations and dynamic reflowing add visual interest and polish. The ability to sort provides the main novel interaction on the site.

i. Bootstrap.js

ii. I used Bootstrap for the navigation bar because of its robust documentation and several nav bar example available online. I drew from <https://getbootstrap.com/docs/4.1/components/navbar/> to build my navigation bar.

iii. I used Bootstrap to build a responsive navigation bar that collapses into a hamburger menu at smaller screen sizes. Elements in the nav bar also stay centered dynamically as the window is resized. On mobile or small sizes, the menu extend down vertically to accommodate all the nav bar's buttons.

iv. The nav bar anchors the page and is the site of the user's interaction with the Icon Explorer. It gives a separate visual/conceptual space to the control icons vs. the icons being displayed.

i. jQuery

ii. This library enables some other pieces of my site, such as Isotope and the color picker, to work. I chose it based on its widespread utility, specifically for Isotope and during the process of figuring out how to implement a color picker.

iii. It supports other functions in the site as detailed above.

iv. Enables other critical functions.

i. color picker

ii. I used a color picker based on a codepen by Dmitri Voronianski (<https://codepen.io/voronianski/pen/zpahm>). I chose this picker for its simplicity and ease of implementation. The Spectrum.js library also plays a role in the color picker implementation.

iii. I modified the color picker to be able to change the background color of the site as a whole. I implemented it in the menu bar along with the other action buttons.

iv. Enables the user to change the main color of the site, which could be useful to view icons on a different backing (to see how they look in different applications.)

d.

I used a discrete color picker rather than a smooth (wheel or spectrum-based) picker, mostly for ease of implementation. I dropped the information card aspect (for now) as it would have entailed creating 100 additional elements, straining my resources. As a stylistic choice, I slightly changed the color and style of the nav bar elements, using the more abstract hourglass rather than the more literal clock for time sorting, and highlighting the active filter in white for increased salience.

e.

I struggled to implement a color picker because of the wide variety of examples online and the intricacies of including different ones—I settled on a relatively simple example. I found positioning the nav bar elements to be the most significant challenge, as they had to be built in a specific way to relate to the button sorting classes used by Isotope.