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COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGIES
Information Technology Department

A Web Hosting Documentation
IT113 - IT Fundamentals

By:

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Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this portfolio website is to serve as a digital showcase of my skills, projects, and personal growth throughout my IT studies, specifically focusing on website development using HTML and CSS as part of my Introduction to Computing course. This website is my final major project for the first semester. It aims to provide an overview of my learning journey, achievements, and aspirations to both IT faculty and students.

The content will reflect different aspects of my education and interests, allowing viewers to gain insight into my capabilities, creativity, and vision for the future. The website will include sections dedicated to self-introduction, IT coursework outputs, and creative projects, all aimed at demonstrating my proficiency in web development and design.

Scope

This portfolio website will include the following webpages:

1. **Home Page**: A landing page that provides an introduction to myself, including hobbies, skills, and future aspirations. It will feature links to my social media pages and a visual representation of my vision for the next 8 years (either as a video or an infographic).

2. **Blog Page**: A section dedicated to documenting my IT coursework, including outputs and learnings from each lesson. It will highlight my favorite lesson or the one that posed the most challenge.

3. **Flex Page**: A creative space to showcase achievements, personal projects, works of art, and anything that I am proud of. It will allow for creative expression and visual storytelling.

Target Audience

The primary audience for this portfolio website includes IT faculty and students. The content is designed to appeal to individuals interested in seeing practical examples of IT coursework, learning outcomes, and personal projects. It aims to engage with those who can provide feedback, mentorship, and collaboration opportunities within the field of IT.
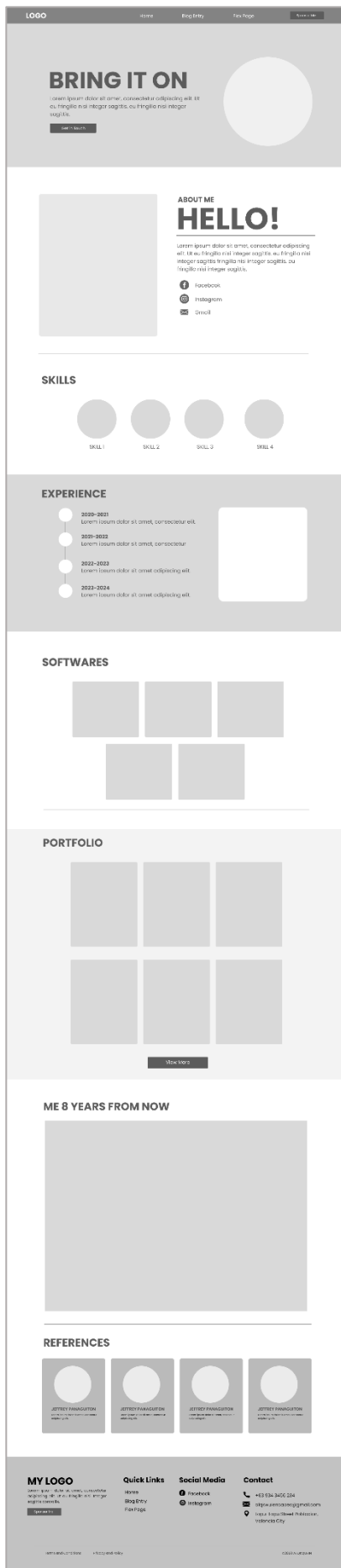
Wireframes

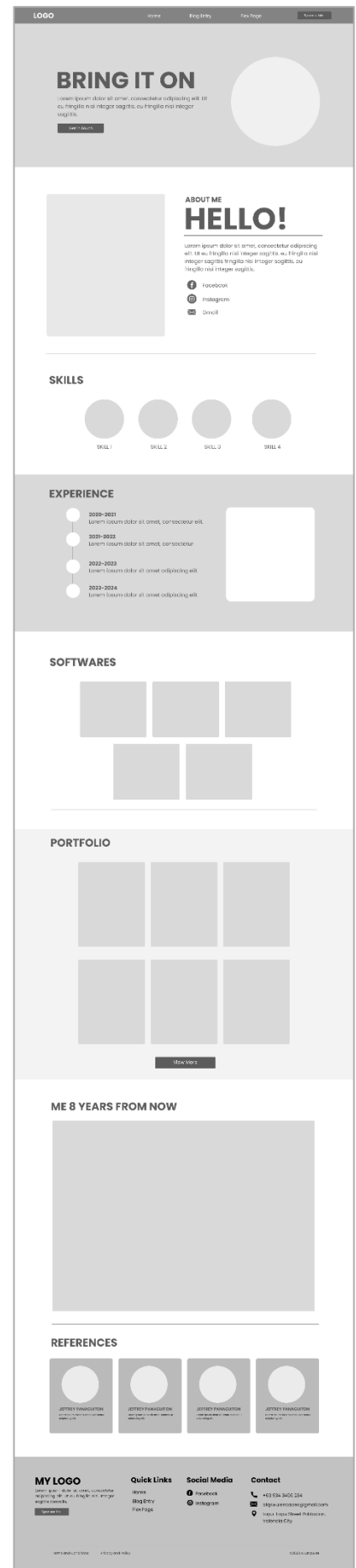Figure 1.1: Home Page

Figure 1.2: Blog Page

Figure 1.3: Flex Page

The design of the portfolio website focuses on creating a visually appealing and user-friendly interface that effectively communicates the content while maintaining consistency.

Color

The chosen color palette plays a key role in defining the overall aesthetic. The dominant color, #323445, creates a strong and professional background, while the accent color, #232533, adds depth and contrast to enhance the visual hierarchy. #FFFFFF ensures readability for detailed information and select headings, and #FCC15C is strategically used for headings and buttons to draw attention and encourage interaction. These colors were inspired by a portfolio website design.

Figure 2.1: Selected Color Palette

Typeface

In terms of typography, the Poppins typeface was chosen for its modern and bold appearance, aligning with the clean and contemporary design of the website. The font enhances readability and ensures the website looks polished and professional.
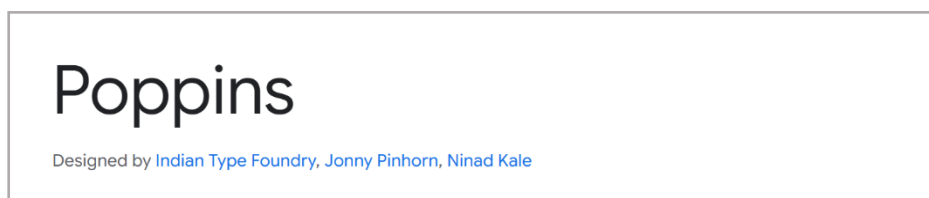

Figure 2.2: Selected Typeface

Icons

Icons were carefully selected to ensure consistency across the site. These icons represent skills, software, and social media links, providing users with intuitive visual cues. The consistent style of icons reinforces the overall design cohesion and helps users navigate the site easily. Together, these design choices ensure the portfolio is both functional and aesthetically pleasing, leaving a lasting impression on viewers.
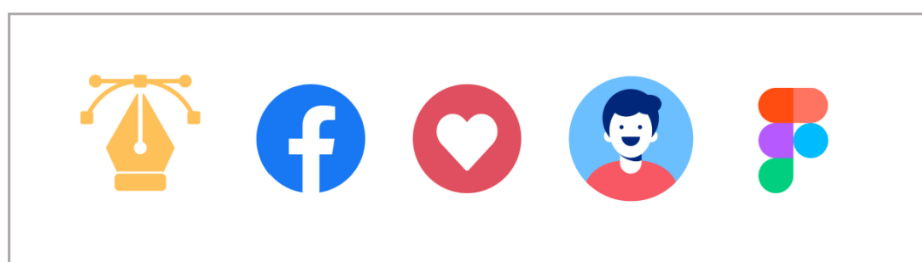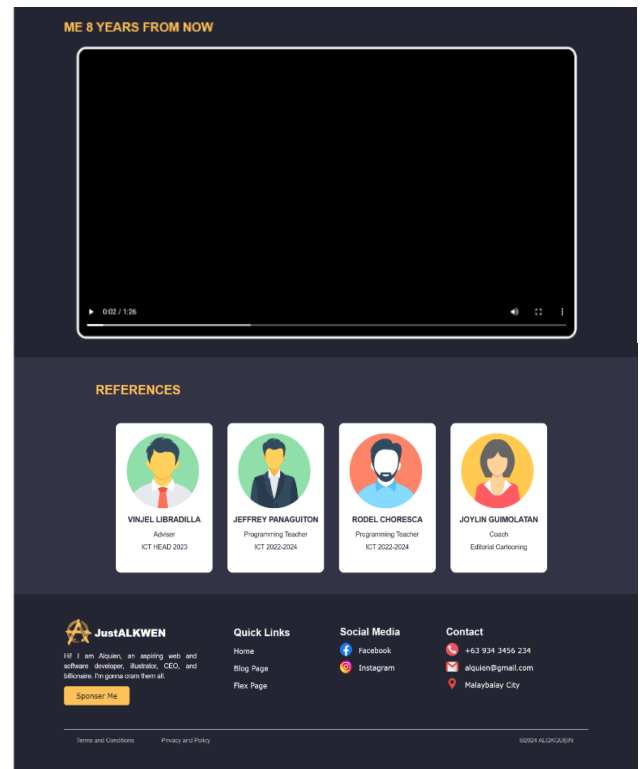

Figure 2.3: Icon Variations

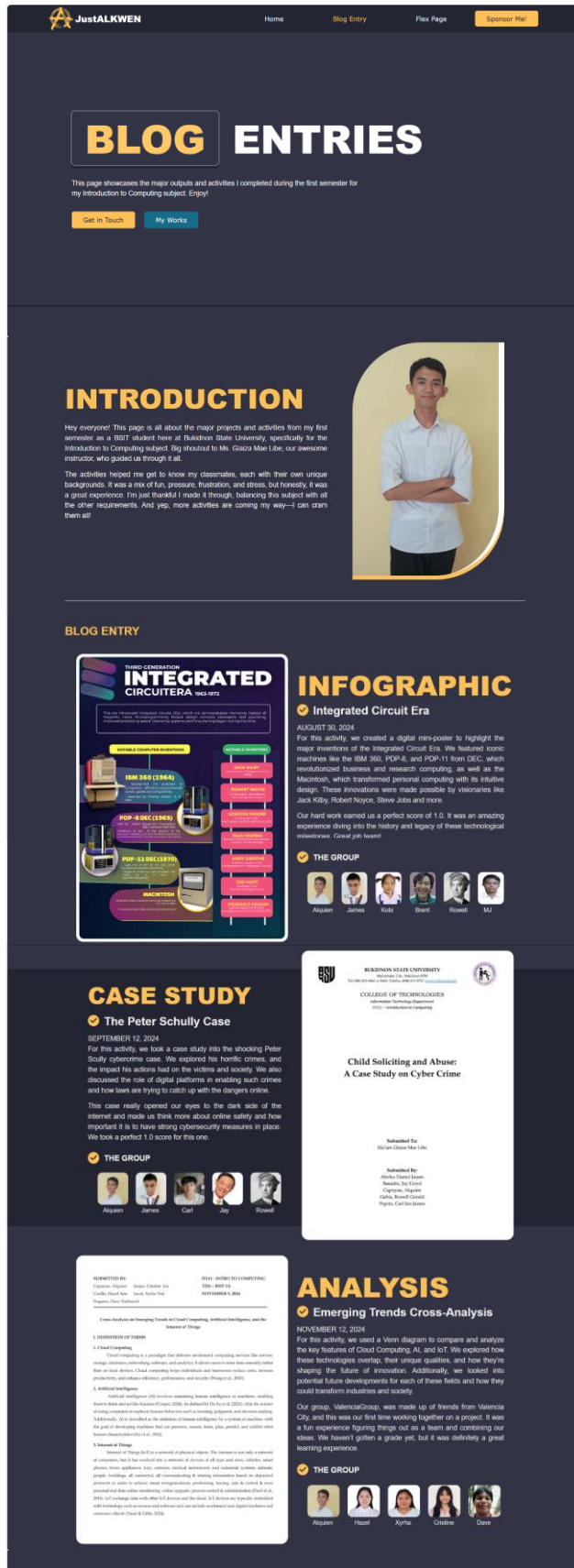Figure 3.1: Website design for Home Page
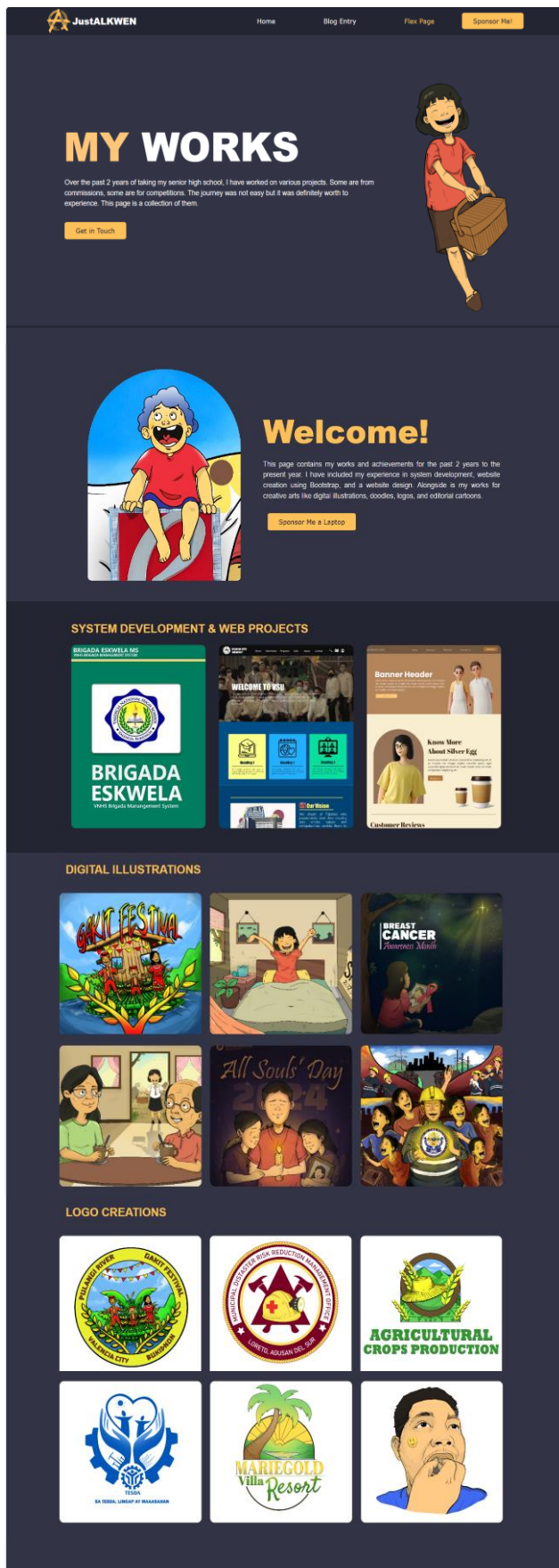
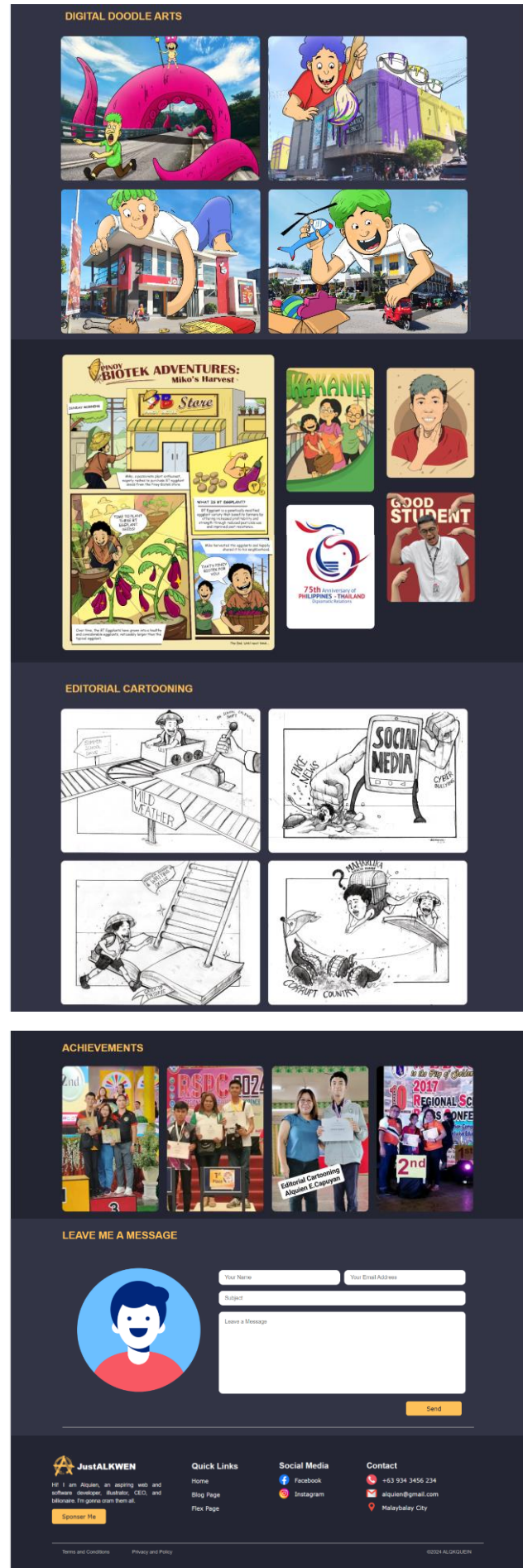Figure 3.2: Website design for Blog Page

Figure 3.3: Website design for Flex Page

Requirements

Domain Name

The domain name for the website should follow the given format: LastName-FirstName-SectionCode. This structure ensures consistency and facilitates effective organization and management of websites across different students from various sections. Moreover, it allows instructors, peers, and administrators to easily identify the content's author and section affiliation.

For instance, the domain name for my website will be: Capuyan-Alquien-T218.

Hosting Plan

The instructor has instructed us to use **Netlify**, a platform that offers free web hosting services for static sites.

Netlify simplifies the deployment process and provides features like automatic builds and free SSL certificates, making it a great choice for hosting portfolio websites.

Figure 4: Netlify Logo

Technical Requirements

To successfully deploy the website, students need to meet the following technical requirements:

1. **Finalized Website Files (HTML and CSS)**: Make sure all HTML and CSS files are complete and properly structured.

2. **Gmail Account**: This is needed for account registration and communication with hosting and version control platforms.

3. **GitHub Account**: Required for version control, where we will manage our project's codebase.

4. **Netlify Account**: Essential for connecting the project to Netlify for automated deployments and hosting.

5. **Internet Connectivity**: Reliable internet access is necessary for uploading files, committing changes to GitHub, and deploying the site on Netlify.

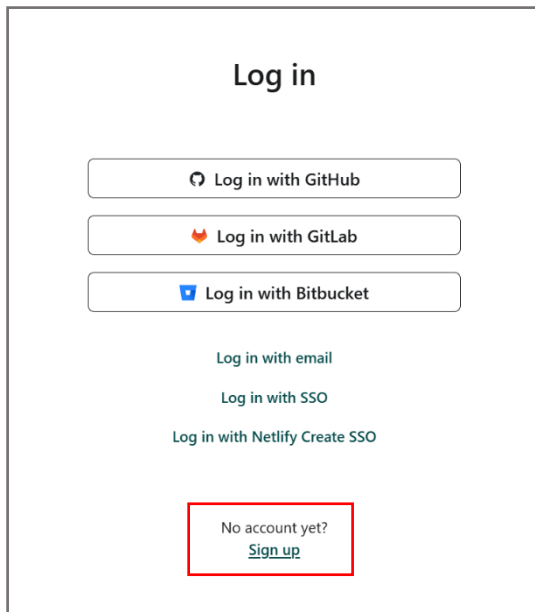# Account Setup

Creating an Account:
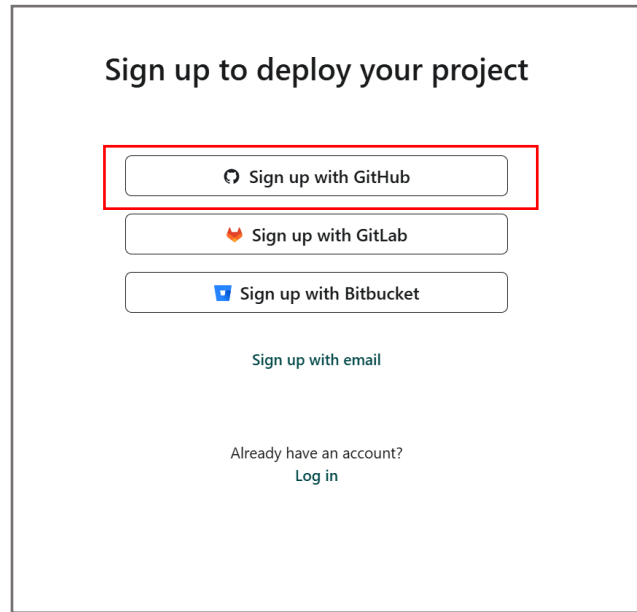

Figure 5.1: Clicking on Sign up link
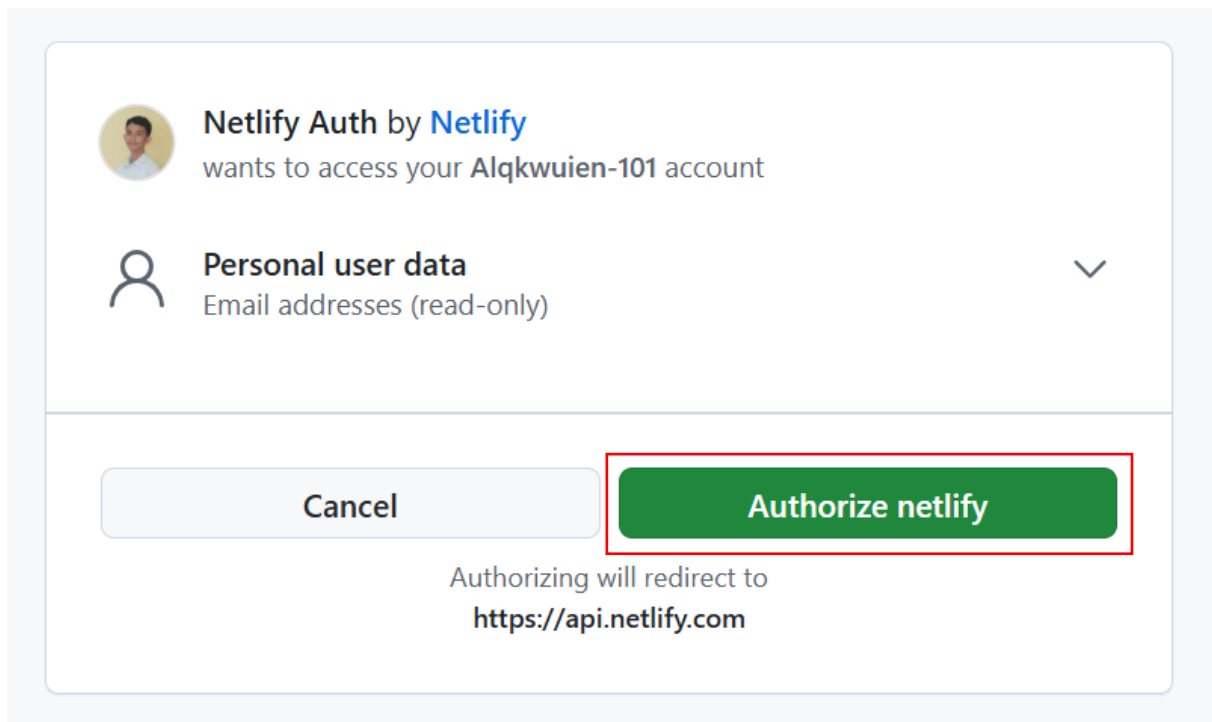

Figure 5.2: Sign Up with GitHub

Figure 5.3: Netlify authorization with GitHub user data

Figure 5.4: Completing the Forms and Proceeding to Deployment.
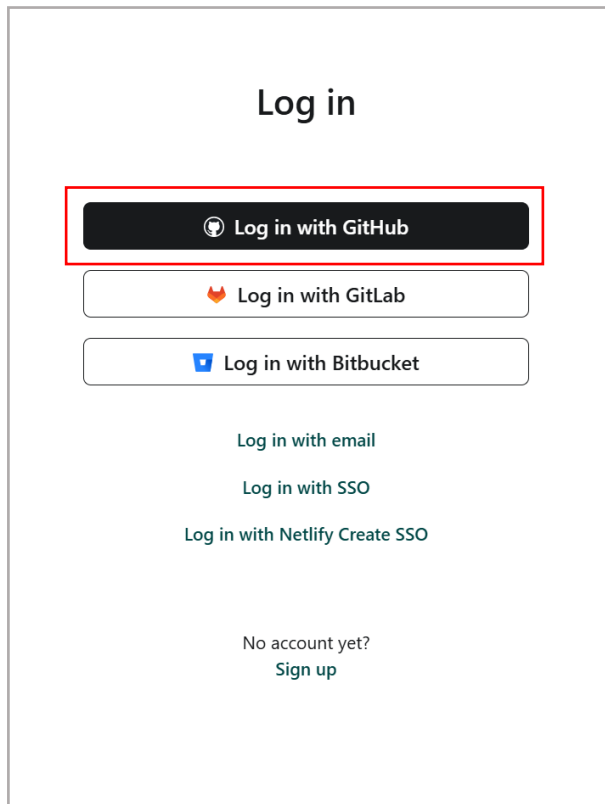
Logging In

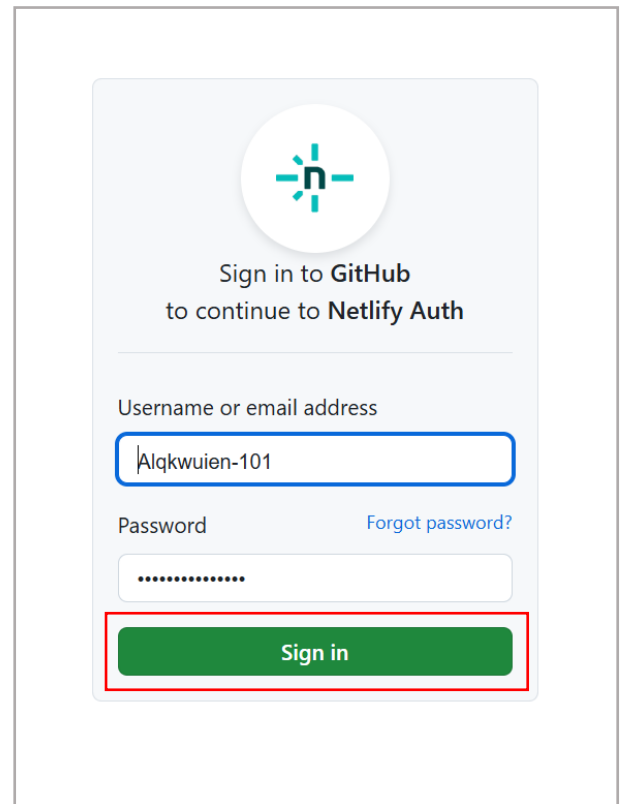Figure 6.1: Logging in with GitHub Account.

Figure 6.2: Logging in with the Correct Credentials.

Domain Registration

The student will not register any domains separately and will only utilize Netlify's free website hosting, which includes a built-in custom domain feature. This approach is more cost-effective for the course project since registering a domain would incur additional costs. Netlify provides an easy way to connect a custom domain to your site without the need for separate domain registration.

This setup simplifies the deployment and management of the portfolio website and aligns with the course requirements.
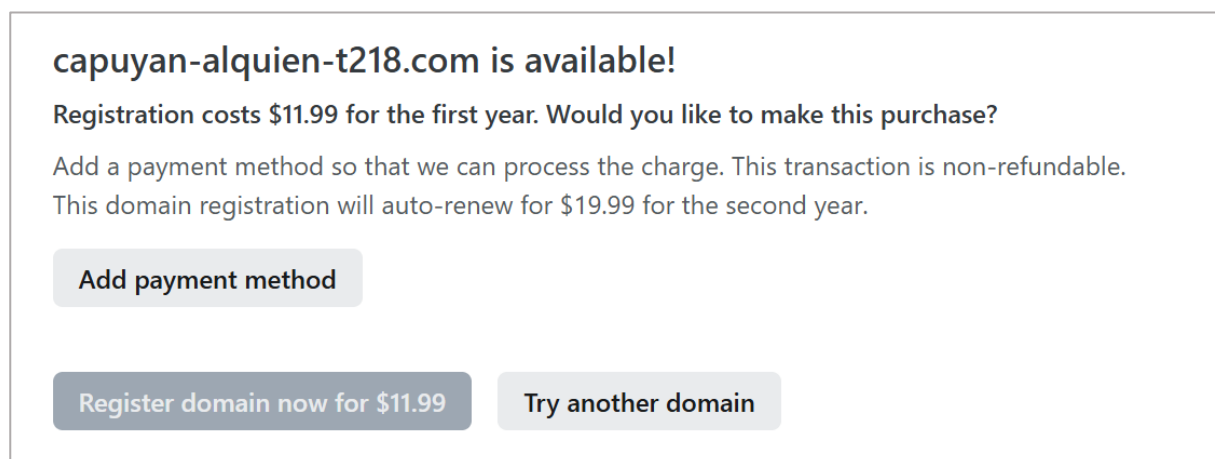

Figure 7: Domain registration attempt.

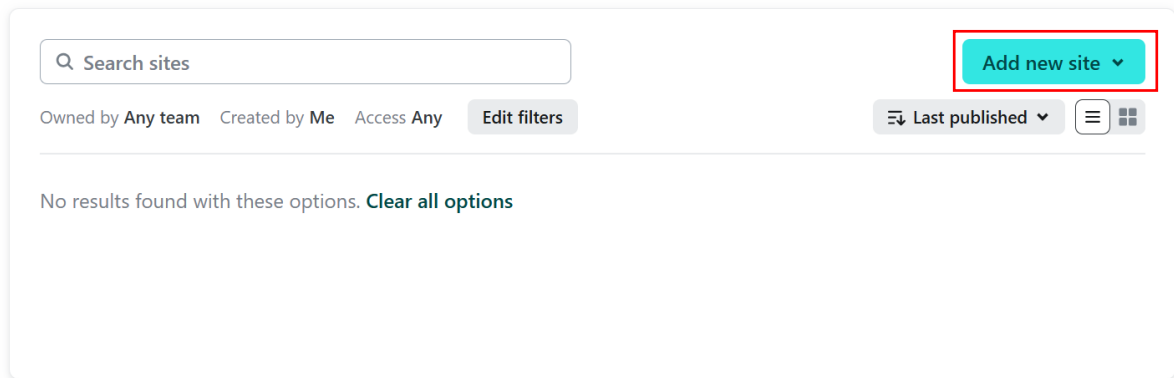# Website Deployment

Uploading Files

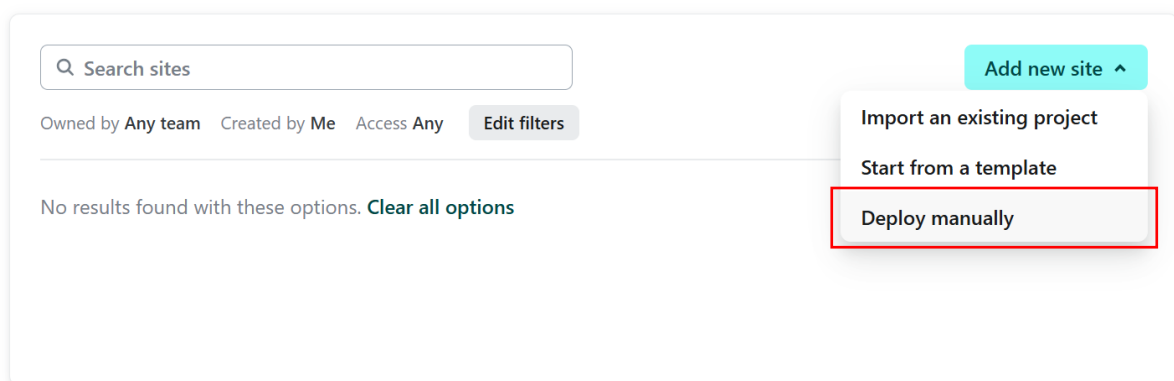Figure 8.1: Clicking on the "Add new site" button.
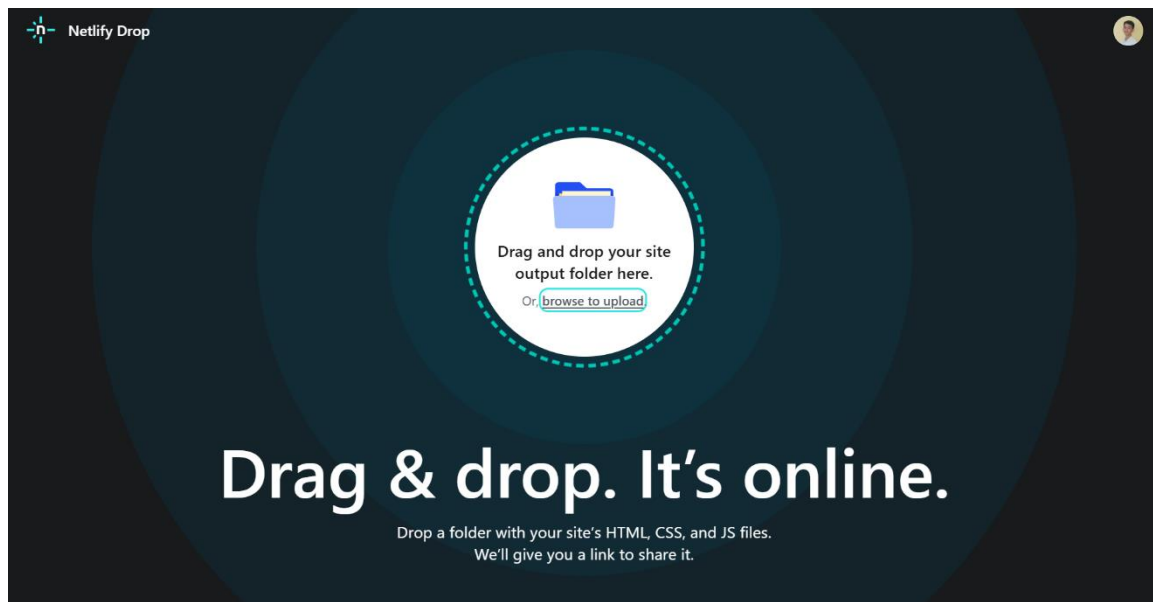

Figure 8.2: Selecting "Deploy manually".

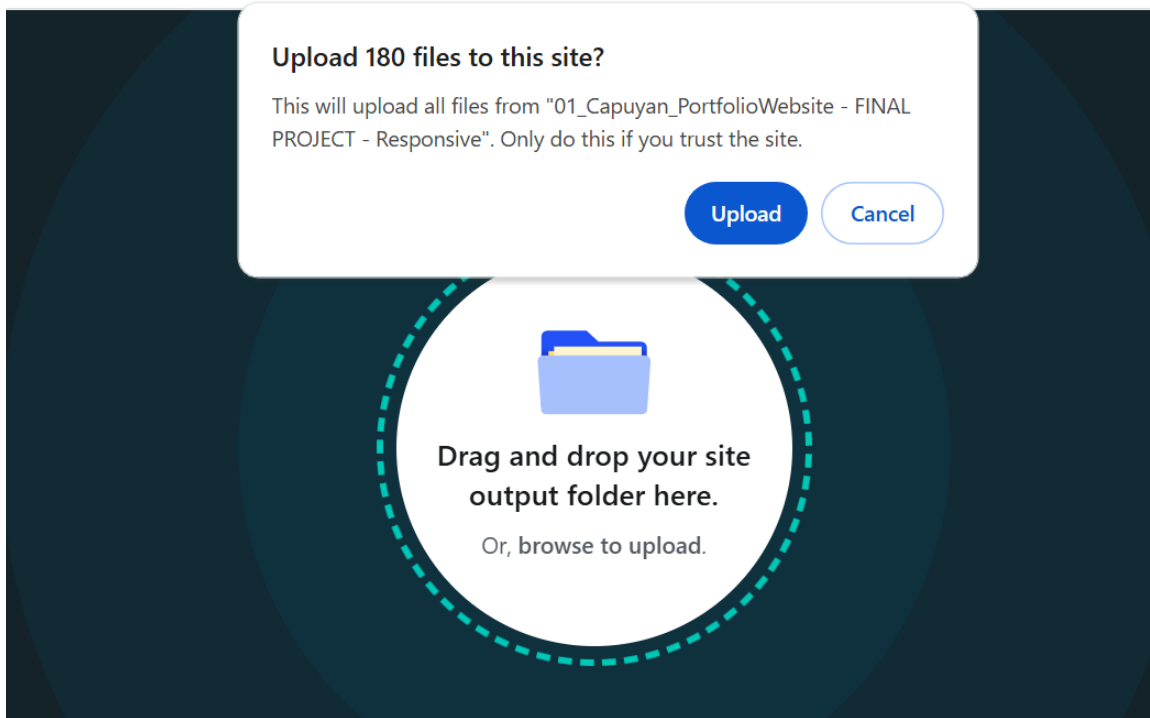Figure 8.3: Netlify drag and drop page for file uploads.

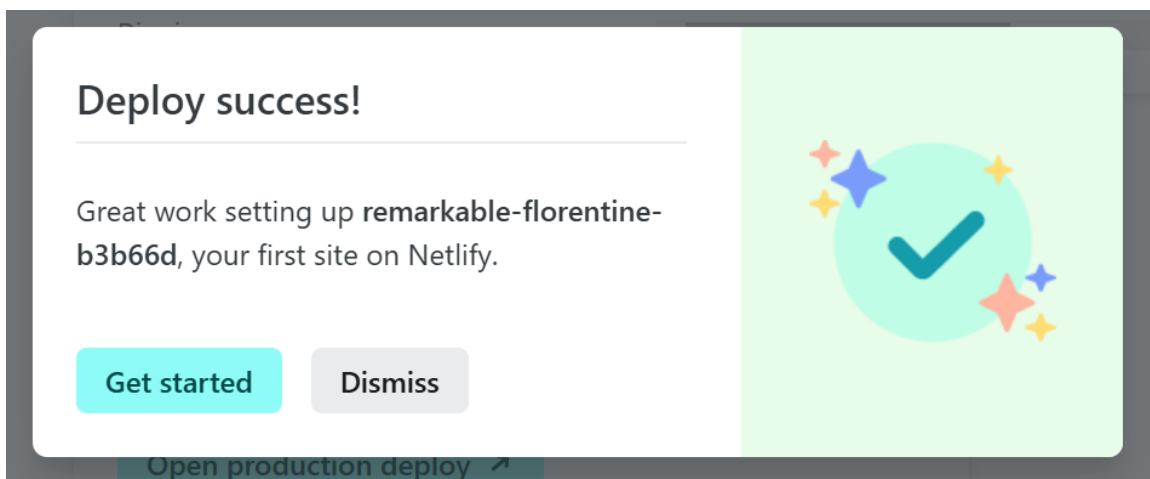Figure 8.4: Netlify upload confirmation.

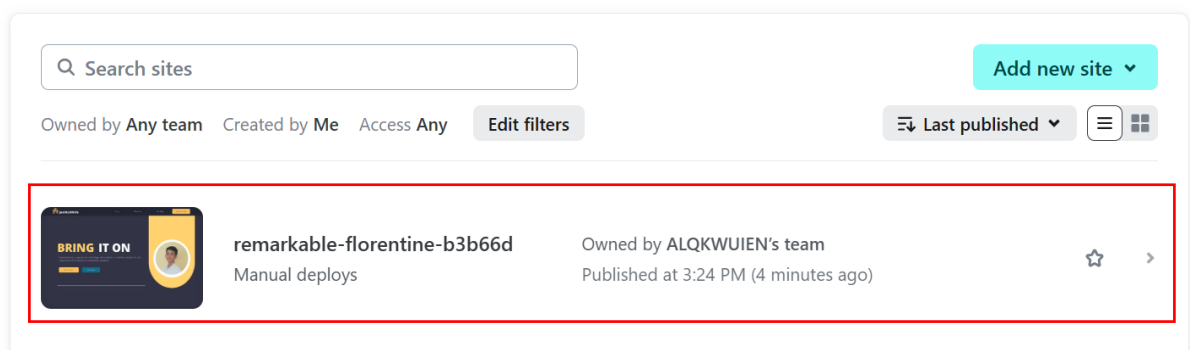Figure 8.5: Successful website deployment.

Figure 8.6: The uploaded website will be shown here.

Discussion on the Web Deployment

Deploying a website using Netlify is a straightforward process that begins with setting up an account and logging in. Students can sign up by linking their GitHub account, ensuring seamless integration for version control and easy deployment.

Once the account is created and authorized, logging in involves using the correct credentials or the linked GitHub account for quick access. This setup process is crucial as it establishes the foundation for managing and deploying the website efficiently.

The deployment itself is equally simple, leveraging Netlify's user-friendly interface. After logging in, students can upload their website files by selecting the "Add new site" button, choosing the manual deployment option, and dragging and dropping their HTML and CSS files.

Once uploaded, Netlify automatically processes the files and provides a live link for the deployed website. This free hosting option includes a built-in custom domain feature, eliminating the need for additional domain registration costs.

By simplifying both the setup and deployment process, Netlify empowers students to focus on their projects while gaining hands-on experience in web development and hosting.

Conclusion

Summary

This portfolio website development and deployment project serves as the final major project for our Introduction to Computing course, focusing on website creation using HTML and CSS. The website comprises three main pages—Home Page, Blog Entries Page, and Flex Page—each designed with unique content and navigation menus. The project employs Netlify for hosting, which provides free and efficient services tailored for static sites, and GitHub for version control and project management.

The project does not involve registering custom domains to avoid additional costs, relying instead on Netlify's free hosting features. To deploy the site successfully, students must prepare finalized website files, have active Gmail, GitHub, and Netlify accounts, and maintain reliable internet connectivity. This project emphasizes technical proficiency, creativity, and organization, enabling students to showcase their learning and personal achievements effectively.

Personal Reflection/Opinion

Working on this portfolio website has been an insightful and fulfilling experience. It allowed me to put into practice the concepts learned in Introduction to Computing, such as HTML and CSS development, file organization, and deploying websites using tools like Netlify and GitHub.

Through this project, I gained a deeper appreciation for the intricate process of building and hosting websites. The challenge of aligning the content and design of each webpage with the project requirements tested both my technical skills and creativity. Additionally, managing the deployment process taught me the importance of attention to detail and proper version control.

Reflecting on this journey, I feel more confident in my ability to create functional and visually appealing websites. I also realize how essential it is to stay adaptable and open to learning new tools and methods. This project not only strengthened my technical skills but also motivated me to explore web development further as a potential career path.

References

File naming conventions. (n.d.). Data Management. https://datamanagement.hms.harvard.edu/plan-design/file-naming-conventions

Programonaut. (2022, June 17). Host Your Web Application For Free With Netlify (step-by-step). Programonaut - Maximilian Kürschner. https://www.programonaut.com/host-your-web-application-for-free-with-netlify-step-by-step/

Shinde, V. (2024, June 8). How to host website on Netlify for FREE. DEV Community. https://dev.to/mecodervicky/launch-your-website-in-minutes-a-beginners-guide-to-hosting-on-netlify-1f28