Coursework 2 Report

Emily Bak

40340508@napier.ac.uk

Edinburgh Napier University - Module Title (SET08101)

1 Introduction

For this project, the blog page opens with a simple design for the user. On my main page, I provided a simple introduction for the user to familiarize them with this blog and how it works exactly. There is another description page with details at the bottom of the page if the user wishes to know more about the page. There is also an option to scroll all the way back to the top of the page if the user wishes. Within the blog post itself, the user is able to post the small paragraph that they wish, and add in the option of a photo as well.

2 Software Design

Planning this project included looking at other blog websites that have already been created. This included Tumblr, and WordPress. I have found that from the past the easiest way to work out a design is to take it back to pencil and paper. I drew out what I thought I wanted my design to look like, with a couple of optional additions if I could make them possible. After looking at the sites, drawing out potential options and working through the functionality, I was able to come up with a design for my project. I implemented a similar design to the websites in my project because they are simplistic, user friendly and overall, successful.

I knew that there were a list of requirements that I wanted with my site. I wanted to improve on my design from the first project, and add user friendly options to make a more pleasant experience. I did some research in order to find the best options to add into my site to improve the functionality. I found that a scroll to top button helped the user go back to the top of the page if they are looking at previous blog posts. I also wanted the color of the text to change so the user could tell when they were clicking on a link. I personally love to post photos as well, so I made this a requirement for my blog post. I wanted the user to be able to show what they were talking about as well as writing.

3 Critical Evaluation

Requirements for this project discussed creating a simple blog platform that comprised a server and the elements allowing the user to add a new blog post, edit that blog post, and delete the blog post if they choose to do so. The server created must retain the data that the user inputs. The blog I created has a server to keep track of the data, an option to post images or words. It also has key design details that make the website more than just a simple blog.

Colors, font and background were carefully chosen so that the site would be pleasing for a user to navigate through. Navigation is made clear in the header, and the site is very easy to work and self explanatory.

Other blog platforms that I originally looked at were WordPress and Tumblr. I found that both are very different in both very good ways.

A possible improvement would be a user interface. Although it is possible to make blog posts, it is hard to differentiate who exactly, is making the posts unless it is explicitly typed in by the user. Again, I found the design element challenging because it is harder to create a design with little content, and I struggled with designing a potentially large blog with not much content to begin with.

4 Implementation

Listing 1: JQuery Functionality

```
1  jQuery(document).ready(function() {
2      var offset = 220;
3      var duration = 500;
4      jQuery(window).scroll(function() {
5          if (jQuery(this).scrollTop() > offset) {
6              jQuery('.back−to−top').fadeIn(duration);
7          } else {
8              jQuery('.back−to−top').fadeOut(duration);
9          }
10      })
11      jQuery('.back−to−top').click(function(event) {
12          event.preventDefault();
13          jQuery('html, body').animate({scrollTop: 0}, ←
    duration);
14          return false;
15      })
16  })
17
```

I wanted to add some functionality that other websites used to make the website more user friendly. After doing some research online, I found that this would be a simple way for the user to scroll back to the top of the page without using the scroll bar. [1]

Listing 2: Server Updates

```
1  app.get("/location/blogpost", getAllPosts);
2  app.get("/location/blogpost", getPostById);
3  app.post("/location/blogpost/ :id", createPost);
4  app.delete('/location/blogpost/:id', deletePost);
5  app.put("/location/blogpost/:id", updatePost);
```

[3] W3Schools, "How to - clickable dropdown," p. 1, Feb. 2018.

For the updating the server, I found it would be easiest to find through Id, since deleting and updating depended on focus to the specific post. [2]

Listing 3: Server Updates

```
1    title:{type: String, required: true},
2    body:String,
3    Date: {type:Date, default: Date.now()}
4
```

I made the title a requirement so the user cannot make a post without properly naming the post. I also set the default time for the post so that the user can see when they posted. I didn't find it necessary to set any requirements on the body. [3]

5   Personal Evaluation

After completing this project, I feel that I have learned a lot about the Web Technologies course as a whole. I struggled a lot through this project because I had little to no experience with JavaScript, CSS, HTML, and Node.js. However, I feel that from the lectures, labs, and first coursework I was able to get through the project successfully. The first coursework taught me a lot about functionality, and how important it is to have a properly functioning site. From functionality on the first coursework, I was able to focus more on design. I used W3Schools and CSS once again to enhance the design of my blog.

The biggest challenge I faced was working with Node.js. I have had no problems in the past when working on a windows computer, but when attempting to work off of my MacBook, I found many problems. After downloading and attempting to build off of the command line, I found an error on terminal informing me that post-install setup did not complete successfully. When trying to troubleshoot, permission was denied. I am not entirely sure why I kept running into this error, and attempted to see what would happen if I bypassed it and found I was not able to host any HTML files. I also ran into another error when installing express, which was also unexpected. Both of these issues set me back for an extended period of time which forced me to make design and other decisions in order to meet the deadline.

Performance-wise, I believe that I could do better in the HTML and CSS perspective. I wanted to make sure the program was running correctly before I made design and user interface changes. If I had not encountered the setbacks, I believe I would have been able to improve upon both aspects. I have learned a lot both in lectures and spending more time researching online.

References

[1]

[2]