PUI Fall 2019 – Final Project

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Part One

The site I created is very simple in concept – it is a site where you can view your horoscope each day. The daily horoscope for each sign is the main content and pulled in from an API. The site targets both people who are familiar with astrology and those who are not. In a desire for the site to be minimalistic, there is minimal apparent text.

Each sun sign button is only identifiable by its symbol, but if you hover over the buttons both the sign name and date range appear- therefore making it approachable for people whether they are familiar with their star sign or not.

To keep the site interesting and engaging, I made sure the aesthetics were nice and there is an entrance sequence animation to "wow" people first thing. The background is also animated to keep the site dynamic. Based on feedback of user testing with friends, the aesthetics and different animations were really striking to a lot of people.

Using an MVC (model-view-controller) framework was the best way to accomplish this concept. In order to be simple for the user, there is only one "webpage" that is updated based on how they interact with it including hover states and pop-ups.

Part Two

- After the home page animation of the sun sign buttons circling into place is complete, users can hover over the sun sign to find their sign if they don't know their symbol.
- Users then click on the sun sign button and a pop-up appears.
- The pop-up contains the daily horoscope for the sign they selected. After they are done reading, users can close the pop-up by clicking on "close" in the upper right corner of the pop-up.

- The pop-up then disappears, and the user is viewing the home screen again (without the animation, that only occurs on startup/refresh).
- Users can repeat the steps to view other horoscopes if they choose.

Part Three

Name of Tool: aztro API - Web API as Main Feature; also used JQuery, ajax, bootstrap and animations to support design.

Why you chose to use it? I chose to use a web API to pull daily horoscopes for each sun sign. I did this to create a site that emphasized my skills in being able to create a dynamic interface. I also wanted this project to live on after the project and as long as someone is updating the Web API the site will function.

How you used it? With help from the APIs documentation of how to integrate it, I was able to pull a daily horoscope for each sign and define it as a global variable. When users select their sign, the HTML of the pop-up is updated to reflect their sign.

What it adds to your website? Besides the API data being used as the main content for the site, I think it shows the point of the internet – connections. I could have created a portfolio site with all of my own content and projects, rather than utilizing the interconnected data you can readily access online, but I think that would just be … boring.

Part Four

My design was pretty similar to my Homework 7 mockups. The biggest changes where interface changes based on aesthetics (colors and font choices) or ease of implementation (for example, changing the buttons arranged in an ellipse to a circle). However, the basic structure of a singular webpage utilizing pop-ups stayed consistent.

Part Five

The most difficult aspect was properly integrating the web API. The API had pretty good documentation, but I struggled to define the API outputs to global variables to be able to update the HTML. This was all fixed with one line of code per POST request to make the AJAX synchronous whereas it is by default asynchronous. (A big face-palm moment that took me four days to solve.)