Evaluation

This project has allowed me to explore a topic of great interest for me, and helped me gain extensive knowledge on the website programming and designing areas. I also improved a wide variety of skills with this EPQ that will help me on my further education, such as: time management, the production of quality research and presentation skills. As a prospective Computer Science university student, this type of skills are of immense help when facing such a mathematical subject. Time management skill is the most important as in most degrees, coursework always has a deadline that must be met in order for it to be accepted, therefore making this skill crucial for further education.

By doing this project I have also learned many front-end programming languages such as HTML, CSS and Bootstrap, as well as JavaScript (a back-end language). I gained experience in these languages by doing different types of courses in SoloLearn, which helped me learn the basics and some of the intermediary level material. Having this type of experience in these languages has helped me develop my problem-solving skills as well as my web developer background, which will boost my university application, as they are usually searching for experienced programmers to add to their Computer Science courses.

The original client brief stated that the website has to be both attractive to teenagers and designed with a budget of £0, but should also create a revenue stream via a 3rd party shop or advertisement. When it comes to making a website attractive to such a young generation, I had to do a considerable amount of research in order to get an idea of what GenZ audiences were looking for. For this type of research I used various articles and website which were very thorough and detailed on the process of designing a website, and helped me understand the techniques required to retain users into my page. The second objective of the client required me to create the website without having any type of cost. That means I had to create all of my materials and decoration, as I couldn’t buy them from anyone, and then launch the website in a free hosting service. I successfully managed to fully design and create the website without the need to spend any money as I produced all the content by myself, while also using materials from other websites by using links to redirect the user to them. This strategy allowed me to stay within the client’s budget while also including enough content for the users.

I created my presentation on Prezi, a presentation software website. I used photos from both my research and development section and also information from my project brief in order to provide up to date information and to help me with illustration. Before doing this presentation, I did extensive research on how to do a good presentation and the factors that are of most importance.

From this research I obtained various tips that I used while doing the presentation, such as: maintaining eye contact with the audience, ask rhetorical questions and to move around while explaining or showing the slides so the presentation is not boring. I think that all of these tips helped me do a successful presentation as I had great feedback from fellow students, as well as many questions from the audience which shows that the presentation was engaging.

While doing this project one of my main strengths was the ability to research and learn the different programming languages that were required to build a website. Being already knowledgeable on this topic also helped me understand the logic behind designing websites, which reduced the time needed to learn the different programming languages. On the other hand, a small weakness of my performance in this project was the time management while building the website. Looking back into what I did, I think I should have spent more time trying to add more subjects into the website, instead of attempting to add monetisation to the website. Nevertheless, if I was to do this project again I would make a project plan in order to organise my time in a more efficient way so my website can have more subjects. In conclusion, I think this project has been a clear success when talking about its performance and the personal development I obtained out of it, as it allowed me to increase my expertise in an area of interest.

This project has a substantial amount of potential to be a successful website if launched properly under a healthy budget. Nevertheless, much more work should be put in the website before anything can happen. More subjects should be added so the website is useful to more people and therefore engaging a bigger audience and also a monetisation scheme should be put into place in order to gain money from the website. Once this and another minor fixes are completed, this website could grow to be helpful and lucrative, which is the main goal of any web developer.

Along this project I faced many difficulties that could have been avoided if I just knew before doing anything. A piece of advice for future students would be to never underestimate the time that you have while doing this project because this type of work can’t be rushed, as if you do, it will end up not being of good enough quality. Another tip would be to begin this project with a clear plan. I did this at the beginning of my project; it helped me a lot to have deadlines that I had set myself specifying what work must be done before a set date.

Undertaking the EPQ has brought me an immense amount of new skills, as well as improve other ones in which I had a weaknesses on. This allowed me to develop myself both as an individual and as a web-developer, which will help later in my career when applying to Universities or to jobs. I am also very grateful for this opportunity as it helped me understand my strengths as a programmer and also helped me grow my web-developing experience.