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Technical Report

Project Exam 2

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Word count

Summary: 286 | Main text: 1295

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1. Summary

I choose option 2, the Hotel Booking Website. I had one real client available actually, but the Hotel website seemed more fun. The first week was baically reading the brief, planning by Gant chart and starting to make a style guide. In week 2 I used the style guide and made a prototype in Adobe XD. I also did the setup of strapi with Heroku early to get that out of the way. I planned to use 4 weeks for coding and have the last week for testing, bugs, review and report writing. I am sitting here now 4 hours before the deadline and writing this report. The time schedule has not gone to plan as I predicted beforehand. The good thing is that I am done with the most important parts which is within the requirements pluss some extra features like google maps API integration, delete establishments and material design components. My design inspiration was AirBnb combined with a landing page protype I found on dribble (will be added to refrences). I decided to use Material design components for a big part of the UI. I like their designs, but it made my life a lot much harder when connecting it all up with react hook form. I struggeled for days setting it all up, but got it all working in the end, except for error handling on the date range picker. During coding I did do several design changes from my prototype as you can see. I planned to include several other features, like a price calculator for the booking form, skeleton loading, edit establishments, delete messages and enquiries and more filters. I am satisfied with the final result and have learned a lot!

2. Body

2.1. Introduction

The most challenging part of this exam has been the coding part, but also the most fun part. I decided to use Material designs for most of my forms, boxes filters and some other minor components. Learning to use third party libraries are time consuming, especially for an inexperienced developer. The material design inputs all worked in different ways regarding the input refs and ways to control the elements so they could interact with react hook form for validation and post requests. After a lot of documentation reading and google searches, I found ways to solve them all by using a controller. Another challenging part was to integrate google maps search and map functions. I know this was not a part of the brief, but it was a must have for me on a hotel booking site. The things that I feel I master without a struggle is the design parts with use of SCSS, flexbox and grids. I also have a good grip of using hooks like useState, useContext. I am still a bit confused on how and when to use the useEffect. I also used localStorage to store values that I want to persist. My challenges with CSS, is how to organize it in a good way and to be consistent. I feel that my CSS is a mess, but I might be wrong.

2.2. Main section of report

Forms are probably what stole most of my time on this project. I could have choosen the easy path with native inputs, dropped the date range picker and drag and drop images. Since I made up most of my design before implementing functionality, I was determined to stick with what I had started. I have probably spent nearly 2 weeks just on implementing these forms with MUI, date range picker, drag and drop, google maps, checkboxes, radio buttons and dropdowns. Its my first time doing POST requests in React, I had only done it in vanilla javascript before. It went pretty smooth using the basic knowledge from javascript and some documentation online. Reading documentation is something else I have learned the importance of during this project. I also understand the importance of finding third party libraries with good documentation. Organization and project structure is something I planned out during the planning stage. I decided on going for a folder structure where all parts of a component is in one folder. Smaller components are in a components folder, while child components which are only used in one parent are in the same folder as the parent. I have global SASS files in one folder and using scss modules for styling of a single component. I didn't manage to make the active class in the navigation to work with modules, so I added the whole navigation as a part of the global part, same with the admin part. I have some third party libraries where I am overriding the css classes, so they are also put as a part of the global css folder. I myself thinks it's a bit of a mess and probably not easy to understand for someone else. I have tried to group my imports, so that react imports at top, then custom components and third party components last.

The site has two unsolved issues that I know of, I wont call it bugs, but it could be improved. First is the rating input for adding establishment. It should be a number between 1.0 – 5.0, I have used valdation rules to make sure it dosen't go outside that range and made the input only accept numbers. However I wanted to make the input field only accept numbers and maximum two numbers. I managed to make it accept two numbers, but then it wouldn't accept commas or dots. I could have used more time on it, but decided not to since its working and not a big issue. Second issue is that the date range picker on the details page dosent show an error when no dates are selected. I managed to show the error messages, but then they didn't go away when dates were set. Probably have to read more MUI documentation to make this work. My solution was to set a default date for the values (today and tomorrow). However the user can still remove these default values and submit with dates empty. The MUI date range picker is a pro feature which I haven't purchased, so there is a watermark above the picker, but it's fully functional. For the admin part I was planning to have an admin menu on desktop on the right side of the content like seen in my prototype. Because of time schedule I went for a backup solution with a dropdown menu from MUI. For mobile I made a custom dropdown inside my burger menu.

2.3. Conclusion

The design ended up almost as planned, except for the admin part where I changed the menu layout and dropped the dashboard page. I could have probably used more time and been more efficient during the two first weeks of planing and designing. For the coding part I have spent around 10 hours every day the last 5 weeks, so the effort is definitly there. I have tested the site on a couple of friends and they didn't find any bugs or issues. Like I said before, the structure and CSS could be improved. Overall the project is withing the scope of the brief, I just wished I had one more week to make it exceptionall! I will probably finish the rest of my plans after this exam and keep it as a part of my portfolio.

3. References

Design Inspiration:
https://dribbble.com/shots/16397479-Hotel-Resort-Airlines-booking-landing-page
https://airbnb.com

Static images:

https://unsplash.com/photos/mNRPJW7ylrI
https://unsplash.com/photos/lYszPcbA7vg

icons:
https://fontawesome.com/
https://mui.com/material-ui/material-icons/
https://icon-sets.iconify.design/fa/tripadvisor/

Third party libraries:
https://mui.com/material-ui/getting-started/overview/
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-burger-menu
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-search-autocomplete
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-share
https://www.npmjs.com/package/google-map-react
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-image-gallery
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-geocode
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-responsive
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-helmet
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-loaders
https://react-dropzone.js.org/
https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-hide-on-scroll
https://mui.com/core/
https://momentjs.com/
https://www.npmjs.com/package/yup

4. Aknowledgements

Code Review:
More consistent folder structure and use of SCSS. You could probably make some components smaller to keep things under control better. Some repetitive code some places, like for example the background boxes used for forms and admin. Good organization of imports and code formatted nicely.