

PUI Homework 8 Write-Up

Part 1: Describe your website

- i. The purpose of my website is to display the tools that I have at my disposal in the UX design process. I divided my design process into the five sections as outlined by the Stanford Design Thinking process: Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test. Within each section, the user can see the different tools that are used at each step.
- ii. The information that I convey on my website are the research and design methods that we learned throughout the year in the MHCI program.
- iii. My website is interesting because it also acts as a teaching tool to prospective young designers. When I was an undergraduate, I wish that I had access to a website that gave a high-level overview of the design process, so this project is inherently interesting and useful to me. It easily encapsulates the entire design process, but it also teaches the specific things you can do at each step. In addition, it is engaging because it is visually pleasing and the particle.js library makes the background move.
- iv. The target audience is twofold: prospective employers who are interested in the skills that I bring to the table and young designers who may not have access to CMU's resources but still want to learn about the design tools that they should learn to become UX designers.

Part 2: How a user would interact with my website

- A user will load the page and see the entire design process
 - i. Interaction Type: standard web page
 - ii. Reproduce By: load page
- They will click into a step within the design process
 - i. Interaction Type: click mouse
 - ii. Reproduce By: clicking the "Test" text
- They will then click a design tool to learn more about it
 - i. Interaction Type: click mouse
 - ii. Reproduce By: clicking the "Heuristic Evaluation" text
- (Optional) They will then click external links to learn more about the technique
 - i. Interaction Type: click mouse
 - ii. Reproduce By: clicking the "10 Usability Heuristics for UI Design" text

Part 3: What external tool I used

- i. Bootstrap
 - ii. Bootstrap makes my website responsive, which is important in today's ecosystem, since mobile screens are our primary touch point to the internet. In addition, Bootstrap provides the most documentation for the accordion feature that I wanted on my website
 - iii. I used Bootstrap to divide my website into steps of the design process and to divide each step into a subsection that included each step.
 - iv. It adds structure and responsiveness to my website.
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- i. particle.js
 - ii. I chose to use particle.js purely for aesthetic reasons. Before implementing particle.js, my website was plain and I liked the fact that it gave movement and a "connecting the dots" feel.

iii. I used particle.js in the background of my website, since I didn't want it to be obtrusive to the experience. In addition, I chose to make the particles move slowly so that it was a calming animation.

iv. I believe that particle.js gave my website a cleaner, more sophisticated look. In addition, it communicates a technological aesthetic.

Part 4: How I iterated on HW7 mockups

Once I made my website, I realized that I wanted it to have more movement so I implemented particle.js. In addition, I needed to fill out the text and source the images for the different techniques within the design process.

Part 5: Challenges

At one point, I was challenged to get particle.js to extend to the bottom of the screen if the accordion was expanded. Before I fixed the bug, the section would expand down, but the bottom of particle.js' animation would remain static and the remainder of the page would be white. An additional challenge that I faced was allowing the user to click outside of the modal window in order to get out of that technique. I tried cycling through the different id's but eventually hardcoded the id's into a function that would collapse the modal window; in the future, I would like to implement this programmatically.