

Stage 3
COSC 3P94

Group:

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Group 17 Evaluation:

This evaluation is going to be in regard to the submission by group 3. Once the instructions listed with the submission are followed, you are able to access their webpage with ease. The first issue arises with their take of a homepage. Ideally, you would like a user to be presented with a page that outlines and introduces the service you will be providing to them. However, in this case, the user is instantly thrown into a page with listings and has no background or introduction into the service they are looking for.

The screenshot shows the homepage of OH|OUR HOME. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Login, Sell, Buy, Search, Home, and Inquiry now: 000-000-0000. Below the navigation bar are two property listings. Each listing includes a small image of a house, the price, a brief description, and an MLS number. There is also a "View Full Listing" button for each listing.

Property Image	Price	Description	MLS Number	Action
	\$523,000	2 bed 1 bath 1001 to 1500 sqft, detached	MLS:23748323	View Full Listing
	\$329,000	2 bed 1 bath 1001 to 1500 sqft, detached	MLS:23747353	View Full Listing

OH|OUR HOME

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Homepage

This might cause them to feel a little overwhelmed at the moment and create concerns for ease of use when trying to browse and figure out whether or not the service is worth looking into to begin with. When it comes to the design and overall look of the interface, it is kept quite simple and to-the-point. There is a navigation bar at the top with the left side having the logo of their site and the right side consisting of options allowing them to navigate to different pages/ parts of the website. Directly below it lie two listings (assuming that an actual working site would have all their listings but since this is a prototype

they decided to go with two to give an overall idea) of properties that are on the market and ready to be bought. The listings are arranged in containers with the top half consisting of a picture of the property and the bottom half containing the necessary details such as price, address, and a button to drill down further into the respective property. At the bottom of the page, you have a footer section which provides you with details such as a brief description of what the organization Our Home represents and some contact information. Apart from the aforementioned issue in regard to the content of the homepage, if this were to be a page that dealt with the listings area of the service, it would be a quite a decent fit. The best way to correct this would be to have this page connected through a jump button in the Search page. That way once they search and filter out exactly what they are looking for, the user is then presented with a set of properties fitting those details. Furthermore, replacing the homepage with a page that introduces the service to the user and gives them pointers or literature to help them navigate to whichever area they may be looking for, if interested, and providing them with reasons as to why they should invest their time and energy into using your website would be better as well. The footer section on this page was also a good addition. The next issue that can be addressed is in regard to the navigation bar itself. The overall arrangement of options in the navigation bar is well done however the effects used on it tend to drop the overall visibility factor.

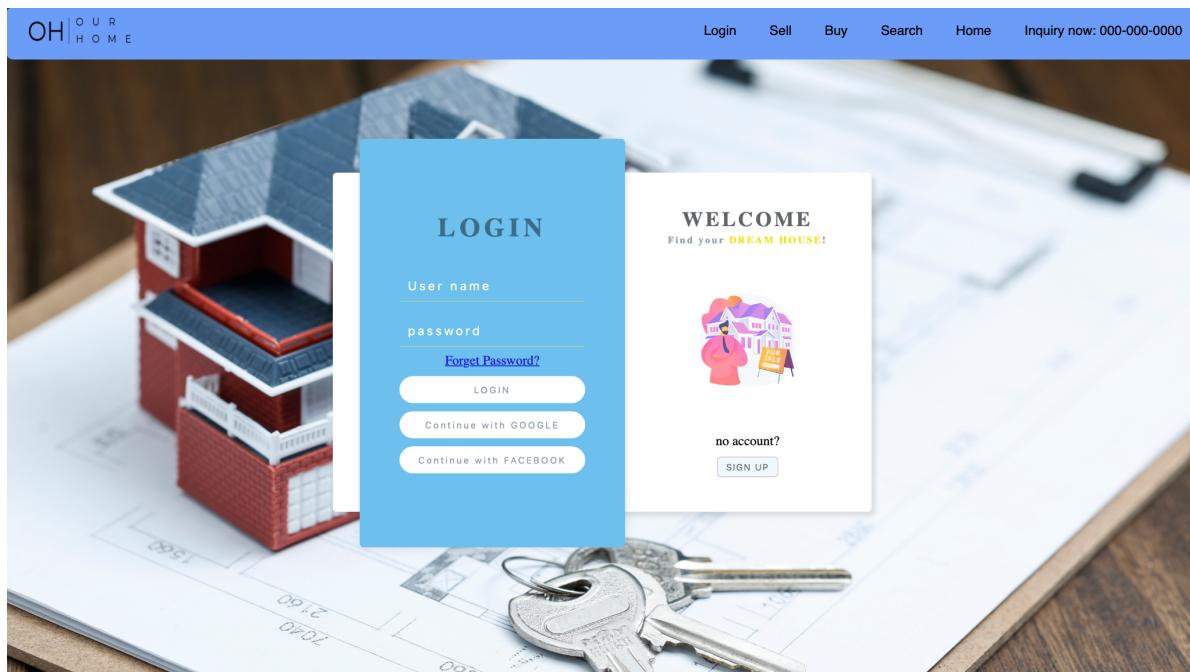


Navigation Bar

For instance, when you hover over the navigation bar's empty space or the logo, you get a blurred out navigation bar that blurs everything out apart from the logo itself. However this is slightly different when you hover over the individual options such as "Login", "Buy", "Sell", "Search", "Home", and the contact link with the phone number. When you do hover over these options, all other options except the logo and the option you are currently hovering over get blurred out. While the blur effect is a nice touch, it puts the visibility of the other options in jeopardy and might cause the user some difficulty. Especially when you

are dealing with people that have issues in regard to their sight. A suggestion to this would be to remove the blur effect and employ an effect on the buttons that highlight it in some way. This way all other options are visible but, at the same time, the option that the user is hovering over is in ‘focus’ in some way or another. Additionally, removing the phone number for inquiries from the navigation bar and replacing it with a button that links the user to a “Contact Us” page with all their contact information would be better. That way there is an evenness when it comes to the proportions of the options in the navigation bar and the user has a dedicated section they can go to in order to view contact information such as phone number, address et cetera.

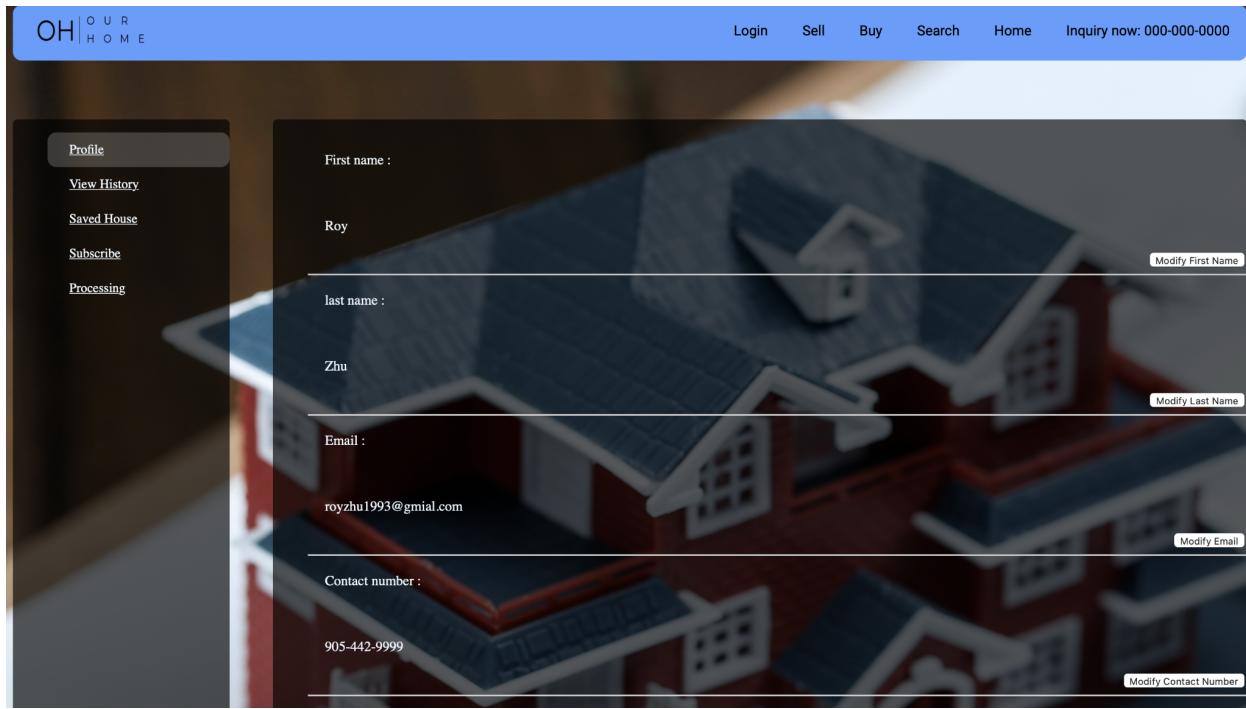
Next, the inclusion of a login page is an excellent addition as it allows the service to be more personalized to each and every user. On top of that, the way the sign up and login sections are meshed together but can still be viewed as separate entities is very well done. When it comes to the sign up option, while the input fields allow for input, you can still hit the sign up button with no errors being thrown if no text is entered in the fields.



Login Page

The “get code” button doesn’t seem to do anything either in that it has zero functionality to it. When moving to the login part of the page, we are presented with a similar form. And it is the same here. The input fields allow text to be entered but you can hit login and gain access to the homepage regardless. The added “continue with google” and “continue with facebook” buttons for login do not have any functionality added to them and thus do not work. The same goes for the “forgot password” button. Another instance that seems off is when you do hit the sign up button, you are redirected to the homepage as one would expect. However, there is no indication of being logged in or the fact that a unique user is currently using the service/ website. Generally, you would have an indication in the navigation bar such as your username being displayed or the “login” option changing to something like “my profile”. However, this is absent. I believe this addition would make the user experience more fluid, cause less confusion, and allow the user to know and recognize that they are logged in as a unique user. Another issue that occurs is one where there is a lack of consistency. When you hit sign up, you get redirected back to the homepage but when you hit the login button, you get redirected to this ‘secret’ page that outlines the user’s personal/profile information along with a couple other things. The consistency issue is that if one does want to redirect the user to the profile information page, they should do that either for both the sign up and login options or neither of them. Or simply redirect them to the homepage and have a usable button that acts as an indicator that a unique user is using the service, and once they click on that button, they get to access the profile information page. This page, as of right now, only seems to be accessible after hitting the login button which tremendously lowers accessibility to the page and increases the chances of confusion for the user.

Looking at the page itself however, it is divided in five sections - Profile, View History, Saved House, Subscribe, Processing.



Profile Information Page

The profile section is pretty straightforward and includes all the basic details one would want to view. However, the buttons allowing the user to modify said details lack any functionality. Moving on to the View History section, we can see what the motive for this section was i.e. the user's history of the properties that they have viewed. However, the dynamic element required here where the section updates the list of viewed properties based on what the user views is not present. There is simply a placeholder property (one of the properties listed on their homepage) and while testing, I decided to click on the other property in order to see if the history would update. The result was that the history still stayed the same. Thus, adding functionality to this section would greatly increase the effectiveness of it. Either that, or they could even do without the section as it isn't a necessity. Similarly, the "delete history" button associated with the property doesn't work but the "view full listing" button does take you to the drilled down page of the respective listing and works well. When it comes to the "Saved House" section, the layout is similar to the previous section. The "unsave" button and "view full listing" button do not have any functionality. The "Subscribe" section aims to be the section where the user enters a select set of filters that narrows

down what kind of property they are looking for, and is then contacted by the company via email or text message with properties that fit those attributes. All the buttons associated with the filter options work as expected along with the dropdown menus. However, the last button i.e. the save change button doesn't seem to have a notifier or indicator after being pressed that the changes or filters you have added have been communicated to the company or saved. Adding that functionality to the button would be a good implementation. Another small suggestion would be to move the email and message options above the divider along with the rest of the options. Having them be below the divider might make it feel like it's not part of the process at hand and having it placed above the dividing line would also allow it to be before the "save change" button which would be ideal. The last section is the "Processing" section. This section is divided into two subsections - one for buying and one for selling. Both sections carry the same purpose of verification. The primary concern for the buying/ selling property market is the validity of the properties that are listed. And this section aims to make sure that everything that goes on to the site is accurate, verified, and valid. There is a static loading bar in each subsection to visually indicate to the user how far along the process of verification they are. Maybe adding dynamic functionality to it in order to have it update as each step is completed might be ideal. The steps outlined below the loading bar is where it gets a little confusing. The first step asks you to fill out the basic form in regard to your property. However, there is no page, section or form that the website has that points towards this or allows the user to do so. Implementing something like a form would be an ideal fix to this. Simply adding a button that when clicked would take you to a page with a form to be filled out would be a good implementation to have. An amazing feature that this website features is actual document uploading functionality. Pressing the upload document button in either subsection takes you to a separate page where you are prompted to upload documents associated with important info crucial to verification such as proof of assessment, supporting documents, void cheques et cetera.

The list of document your should prepare for us

Proof of assessment

 Choose File no file selected

upload valid cheque

 Choose File no file selected

authorized letter

 Choose File no file selected

additional information

 Choose File no file selected Submit**OH|OUR HOME**

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Document Upload Page

However, once submit is hit, the page is simply refreshed. Instead of doing so, adding a popup indicating that your documents have been successfully uploaded and then redirecting the user to the profile information page would be a better alternative.

Going to the “Sell” page using the navigation bar, we see that it is a simple page that outlines the steps to accurately and properly list your house for sale on the website. The overall alignment of the pictures and text could be done better. There is an inquiry form in a container towards the bottom right of the page. I believe that its inclusion in a “Contact Us” section as mentioned earlier would be a better alternative. Especially considering that the header of the container itself says “Contact Us”. I have the exact same suggestions for the “Buy” page as well. It carries the same issues as highlighted in the “Sell” section. In regard to the inquiry box at the bottom right of both pages, there is no indication to the user that the inquiry has been submitted and the button can be pressed without any text being entered in any of the associated fields. A suggestion would be adding some functionality such as a pop up or ‘no input’ error handling.

The “Search” page is aimed at searching for listings that fit the user’s needs. The left side of the page is occupied by a search bar and a search button. The input area in the search field works as required, however the button can be pressed without having any input in the field. Changing this to only have the button work if there is any inputted text would be ideal. Second, the button should jump the page from the search page to a page with listings instead of refreshing the search page itself. The right side is a series of filters with dropdown functionality and one input field that work as expected.

Going back to the homepage, if we were to hit “view full listing” on one of the two listings, it takes us to a separate page that is a more detailed overview of the respective listing. It features a window-wide, spread out container that displays the images of the property that can be browsed through using the left-right buttons under it. Furthermore, it consists of information regarding the property such as the price, the beds and baths, the property type. Additionally, it also has a brief description of the property and nearby locations (which is a very good addition).

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Submit an inquiry

Annual Income
\$1 000 000

Interest Rate
2.49%

Monthly Debts
\$4500

Mortgage Length
24 months

Apply for credit

Misalignment of forms and footer

There is an inquiry form in this page regarding the property which is a good addition as well. In case the user wants to know more, they can be contacted by an individual related to the property that can fill them in with the information they are looking for. However, there is also another container with a form that seems to be directed towards applying for credit. This form needs to be aligned properly as its visibility is minimal and cannot be interacted with as needed. The same goes for the alignment of the footer on this page. Lastly, the “submit inquiry” and “apply for credit” buttons don’t seem to work. A suggestion would be to add some form of functionality to them.

Overall, the look and feel of the website is quite barebones. A suggestion would be to use a better font, better alignment on certain pages, and employing containers to place text or other elements in in order to make things stand out a little more while still looking minimal and not overwhelming the user. The second suggestion would be adding functionality to some buttons as mentioned above, and also having handlers in place when things such as text fields are left empty and the user hits the button indicating the end of the form fill-out process. Lastly, making the profile information page more accessible and visible to the user is key as the page consists of useful insights, some that are key to the process of buying/selling a property correctly.

If I were to rate this website on a scale of 1-10, I would give it a 6. It has a good idea of what is trying to be achieved and has the groundwork laid down well. What I loved the most about it was the addition of the login function, the login page animation, the way the signup-login forms were handled smoothly and in a minimal manner, and the excellent implementation of allowing documents to be uploaded. The marks deduction primarily occurred because of some major changes required such as the profile information page access improving, certain changes being made to the subsections of the profile information page itself and the overall look of the website’s elements and pages being changed in order to give a more premium feel and reassure the user that they are dealing with people who are well-versed in this industry and are professionals.

If I were to compare this project to our own, I believe our project is better. I think our website offers a better feel and look, a better documented process of buying and selling, and elements that work as required in order to make the user experience more smooth and easy going.