Postmortem Reflection

By:

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CHURCH WEBSITE

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*Abstract* —The title of this project is “church website”. The goal was to create a platform where potential or aspiring users can find church information such as church location, contact details, and other information. Additionally, we aimed to incorporate new features on the website, including an attendance page, admin dashboard, donation functionality, and more. With that said, the primary objective of this project is to provide users and administrators with the necessary information and tools.

# Introduction

For this project, I decided to create a church website for a church in Fargo. The church needed its website rather than just having a WhatsApp or Facebook platform. But to have a website that contains vital information about the church. That said, I decided to work closely with the church Pastor as my client to be able to create a user-friendly and well-functioning website.

This platform aims to provide users with any church information they may need and will also provide them with some church resources such as links to Facebook pages or recordings, as well as an option to watch the service via YouTube. I find this especially useful and resourceful for those who want to grow and know God in or from a good setting. Likewise, the church realizes that sometimes, people are unable to make it to church, so providing a platform like Facebook or YouTube will provide them with the latest service. The plan Is to upload every Sunday service to the church website weekly after streamlining it on Facebook. Additionally, users can see upcoming events of the church and decide whether or not they will be available to attend.

The purpose of the website is to provide a platform where we can inform the community about the activities of the church and facilitate outreach efforts to invite people to attend services. The primary purpose of the website is to serve as a platform where members of the organization and other potential users can access information about the church. Additionally, it will offer updates from the organization to keep potential users informed. Moreover, the website is designed to provide new users with the necessary information and guidance on how to locate the church when needed. By creating this website, the church plans to win souls to God or bring people closer to God even via their online service.

The reason this project is important is because it focuses on the mission and vision of the church. Through the website, the church can communicate its service to the world. Secondly, It facilitates keeping church members informed and up-to-date. By sharing information with the public, it contributes to the growth of our membership. Additionally, funds generated from/through the website will be used to support various church initiatives. It serves as a platform to communicate our vision to the public.

The problem the church is trying to address is that they are aware that some individuals are unable to attend church physically, and the church aims to share the word of God with them primarily through our online services, hosted on social media platforms such as Facebook. Our website serves as a portal to connect people with the church and provide regular updates. It offers valuable information for both the congregation and the public. Additionally, the website facilitates online donations. What sets it apart from other church websites is our plan to track attendance for each member. This allows us to foster a sense of community, enabling everyone to recognize each other and providing an avenue to reach out to those who couldn't attend church on a particular Sunday.

Furthermore, the people this project will help include

the congregation and potential members, as well as believers in Christ who are seeking a church but have not yet found one, and the general public.

## Accomplishments

Throughout this project, I was able to achieve the following: my ability to complete the HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript code, and SQL queries. During this time, I was able to not only learn about the various aspects of the project, but I learned diverse ways to approach things in terms of this project. Additionally, I am proud of the fact that I was able to accomplish the goal of the project. Secondly, I am proud that I was able to communicate effectively with my client for information about the website. I also collaborated closely with my clients to get ideas on how they wanted the website to look; then I created a design mockup based on the class requirement and what the clients wanted.

1. **Effective Communication**: For this aspect, I effectively communicated with my client and professor to get clarity on the project requirements. This was helpful in the completion of the project. During this time, I learned that communication is key and will go a long way in the completion of the project.
2. **Design Mockups**: I created the design mockups to meet the needs of the client. This helped me while I was trying to create the actual website using PHP, CSS, and JavaScript. To accomplish this aspect, I utilized various resources such as draw.io (for design) and other resources for ideas.
3. **Complete Code**: Having made the design mockups, it was easy for me to transition into what I wanted the actual website to look like. It made the work easier and the process flow easily. I utilized HTML, PHP, CSS, and JavaScript to accomplish this aspect of the website.

## Main Takeaways

While working on this project I was able to gain new skills in front-end and back-end programming. I was able to learn and grow in my communication skills (by interacting with clients). I learned how to design website mockups and utilize my project management skills to schedule and complete all projects on time to meet all deadlines.

# What Went Well

The best thing that went well in terms of this project is that I was able to complete all the requirements from milestone 1 up until milestone 4. During this time, I learned how to manage the project, make website decisions, and create user stories and scenarios for the website and the system. Additionally, communication with my client went well and was helpful in the completion of the website.

## Completing the different milestones (1-4)including the code

The reason this aspect went well is that I was able to complete and accomplish the goal or requirement for each milestone. Overall, I learned about effective time management and developed or grew in my project management skills because this helped me in the completion of the project and meeting the deadline.

## Communication with Client

At the initial stage, communicating with my client was highly effective and that led to the progress of the website and helped me in the decision-making of how the client wanted the website to look. I thought it went well because I got most of the information I needed from my client at the earlier stage. I learned that effective communication is key. Communicating the needs of the website to the client helped me to progress faster in website development or building.

# Challenges and Resolutions

One challenge I faced during the implementation and execution of this project was that I had an issue connecting my database locally with Visual Studio Code. But that was fixed with the assistance of my professor. Secondly, at some point, it was becoming challenging to find time to meet with my client and discuss the goal and the design decision for the website.

## Isuues connecting to Database

I had issues connecting to the database locally. So, I decided to seek assistance from the professor. That said, this was challenging because it took a while for me to know what the problem was. And this slowed me down in my project. I could not progress with the CRUD aspect of the website. To solve this, I asked for help from my professor, and this was solved.

## Getting information from the Client

During the initial stage of creating the website, it was easier to get information from my client, but as I got deeper into the creation of the website. it was challenging getting information from the client due to other things they were doing. To resolve this, I sent a follow-up message via text, and I also spoke to them in person. But at the time I am writing this report, I am still awaiting the response of my client. But I hope it gets resolved.

# Second Chance

Firstly, I would like to say that I am proud of my accomplishment for this project because I was able to meet the requirements. However, If I had a second chance to work on this website, something that I would like to change is the structure of the website. I would like to try out a different structure or layout. Also, may try a different color scheme. Additionally, I would like to add some other new features -not sure what they would be yet!

# Conclusion

In conclusion, this project focused on creating a platform where users can find the church information on the website and provide the users with information and help them to grow, by providing them with resources that will help them know God for themselves. I aimed to create a user-friendly and well-functioning website for the users of the church website. Overall, I was able to accomplish the goal stated above.

The experience overall, I had a great. I was able to learn new skills such as creating or working on the admin aspect of the website which I haven’t done before. I was excited to learn the various aspects of this page as well as the other pages of the website.