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05430 — PUI

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Assignment #8: Write Up

Part 1

For the final assignment, I built a personal portfolio to showcase my design projects and skills as a UX Designer. I also added a “Play” page to give a glimpse of some of my interests and hobbies outside of design. It also allows users to have a more personal interaction with my website! Although I only added informative content in one of the projects (“Hatch”), my website intends to convey all my ideas, thoughts, and design processes for each project. I immediately wanted to catch the audience’s attention with my home page — an animated emoji of myself with a brief introduction. I implemented dynamic elements, animations, visual content, and an engaging play page to make my portfolio feel a lot more personalized. The main target audience for my site are job recruiters and hiring managers. However, I still expect other users (friends, family, HCI community, professors, TA [shoutout to Jianzhe], etc.) to take a look and get a taste of who I am — professionally and personally!

Part 2

- Responsive Web
 - Minimize window to see it in mobile view (Hamburger menu shows up)
- Button to go to project section on the home page
 - Press “View Projects” on home screen
- Hover over projects to see title + project type
 - Hover over each of the project cards to see the title and type
- Dynamic change in words
 - Look at the changing of titles in the home page introduction!
- Easily go back to home page at the end of a project description
 - At the end (after Reflections) of Hatch project, user can click the “Go back home” button to avoid having to manually scroll up

- Run p5.js project on Play page
 - Press the “play” button on the top left for the p5.js window
 - Press on the canvas to turn Pittsburgh skies from day → night!
- “Back to Top” button at the end of Play page
 - Similar to the “Go back home” page — except it takes the user to the top of the play page once they click the “Go to top” button at the end
- Change in color and weight when hovering over links
 - Works on Navigation Bar links, “Human Computer Interaction” on home page, “Resume”; “LinkedIn”; “Email” on play page
- Link in sentence leads to another website
 - “Human Computer Interaction” on home page introduction goes to the MHCI website
- Look at resume, LinkedIn, and email Jennifer
 - In the about page, links are available for users to quickly look at Jennifer’s resume, LinkedIn, or email her

Part 3

1. Animation
 - a. Like we learned during class, when animation is used well, it can better enhance and engage user with the site. I added animation (when the user hovers over each project card, it pops up) to better clarify users’ actions through the site — specifically providing feedback to their interactions.
 - b. I implemented a fade-in animation through CSS and a blinking animation for the “typing” animation (from the dynamic change in words for the home page introduction).
 - c. Animation adds a playful and interesting aspect to the website — so I’m glad I added it!
2. Bootstrap
 - a. I chose to use Bootstrap to build a responsive website — it’s a great framework tool.

- b. I first added the links and JS scripts to load Bootstrap onto my HTML. I then read into the different columns, grids, and overall alterations of the layout to implement it into my website (<https://getbootstrap.com/docs/4.0/layout/grid/>).
- c. It adds great value in making the site responsive — especially in mobile view! Take a look by playing around with my site.

3. P5.js

- a. P5.js is an amazing tool for creative coding and it was one of the first things I wanted to showcase on my play page. It's so fun to play around with — which is why I wanted to present my code alongside the actual content I created. It's a great way for users to personally interact with the site and I genuinely enjoy working with this JavaScript library.
- b. I learned how to use p5.js on my own; but there were many resources online to guide me as well! I implemented it onto my play page by using the <iframe> tag to internally place the p5.js site that I developed my project from.
- c. It not only shows my versatile skillset; but like I mentioned before, it's a playful way to engage with my portfolio! I am really happy with how it turned out.

4. JQuery

- a. This goes hand-in-hand with animation; but I chose to use JQuery when implementing my dynamic change of words on my home page introduction. I thought this was a great way for users to get a sense of who I am, in a unique, playful way.
- b. I mainly used JavaScript to implement this but JQuery was used to run the JavaScript code as soon as the page's DOM becomes safe to manipulate (through .ready).
- c. The feature I used for this (dynamic change in words) is something that easily captures an audience's attention. Not only due to the animation, but also reading through each title that is presented.

Part 4

I didn't iterate from my Homework #7 too much; but it was helpful to have a general visual framework of the project before developing it! I kept the home page and project (Hatch) page very similar to Homework #7; however, I added the links to my About Page (Resume, LinkedIn, Email) to ease the navigation through the website. I also added the back to home and back to top buttons to remove unnecessary manual interactions for the users. The page I changed the most was my play page — I added a lot more exciting, passion projects of mine and it's definitely one of my favorite pages on my portfolio.

Part 5

One of the biggest challenges I faced was adjusting to working with Bootstrap. Understanding how to use columns and adjusting margins were really important in implementing a responsive website. However, once I got the hang of Bootstrap, I was so glad I applied it to the website because it helped me SO much (once I got the basic framework down). It was difficult to size the images in my Hatch project page — and if I had more time, I would size my images in a more consistent matter.