CSS -

The first tutorial that I decided to have a look at, and that proved very useful, was the CSS tutorial. I chose to look at this tutorial mainly just to refresh my memory - having done this tutorial before and used CSS in previous projects. The course is really useful to go through as it gets you back into the rhythm of writing out both html and css and explores a whole range of possibilities for using and editing divs. I chose to take this course in preparation for Project 2 as I knew that CSS would be a main part of my coding - as from previous experience I know that CSS is a major part in getting a website to function cleanly and look good.

Although the tutorial on CSS is quite long, it was really useful in the making of my project. Mainly useful in the fact that it refreshed my memory with the language and how it is written, but it also made me realise just how much I could do with CSS. For example, in my pitch for this project I planned to write a dominant amount of my code in HTML and CSS and then for the login, sign up and search sections I would use javascript to make them actually interactive. However, from looking through the CSS tutorial I realised that I could make a box that can be typed into in CSS which was incredibly simple to do - just a few lines of code - and I could customise it to how I liked. Because of this, I wrote my code in only HTML and CSS.

In terms of how I can develop this code in the future, I would like to keep playing around with tutorials online and learn everything there is to know about CSS as I believe it is a really useful and fun language to use. I would really like to improve my style when I’m writing both HTML and CSS as I know at the moment that everything is everywhere and it would be quite confusing for someone else to come in and read through.

Javascript -

When deciding on tutorials to have a look at before starting my project, and thinking about the rough ideas of what I wanted to do I decided on having a look at Javascript. In my initial pitch for this project I wrote that I wanted to have a look at Javascript to make my website professional and interactive and I definitely still believe that Javascript is a great code to present a website in this way. However, as I mentioned above, the main use I had in mind for using Javascript in this project was for the sign up and login so I could have bars that my user would type into. However, as I discovered that I could create this using CSS - a language that I am at the moment far more comfortable using - and as I understand for this project we only have to make an example of where the user is going to type, I decided on just using CSS.

In the tutorials however I learned a whole range of really cool things that I’d love to have a go at experimenting with in the future. Because the design of my actual webpages is quite simple - it is only really to be used as a sign up site, the rest of the interaction with the user will mainly be through a plugin, there wasn’t a need to use Javascript which from my knowledge makes a website interactive through movement etc. I would, however, in the future love to use Javascript in a project or just in my own time to really explore the opportunities available with it as they seem endless. Another coding style that I would like to explore would be Bootstrap. This is because at the moment, my webpage can only be in one screen size which is pretty unrealistic and unprofessional so I would like to have a look at Bootstrap tutorials and work out how to create a website that can shrink and expand without any issues.

Data Structures -

When deciding on a third tutorial to have a look at for this project I decided on data structures, which I didn’t actually intend on using for the project. As crazy as that sounds, I mainly wanted to have a look at it for any coding going forward regarding this website as I understand there would be a lot of data involved in accounts and passwords and information etc. I therefore thought that to get a better understanding of my website I should have a look at the basics of data structures and what they do.

From looking at the tutorial I will admit that it was quite complicated in parts and a little difficult to get my head around. However, I did notice some links between the ideas I was reading about and coding I’ve done before - particularly with Java. In particular how they suggest to sort and hold the data: where they talk about stacks and queues which I have worked with before. When working with them I found the concept a bit hard to get my head around, but have a reasonable understanding of how they work and how they hold data. This also means I have an understanding of how these methods can be used.

Obviously, for the realm of this project this tutorial probably wasn’t entirely necessary to have a look at and learn but I believe that it has given me good insight into coding steps I would need to take going forward to actually create my live website. Of course, I only have a small understanding of the basics right now, but you’ve got to start somewhere!

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