

Fontys University Of Applied Science
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THE READING GUIDE PORTFOLIO

Name: Mazoun Al Habsi
Student Number: 437904
Email: m.alhabsi@student.fontys.nl

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The Overview

This document delves into a comprehensive exploration of a portfolio project undertaken during the Fall Semester of 2023 at Fontys University of Applied Science. The project, initiated by Mazoun Al Habsi, aimed to create a cutting-edge portfolio website using React, spotlighting their achievements, workshops, and courses completed during the semester. The overarching objective was to craft a digital space that harmoniously integrated the latest web design trends of 2023 with user-friendly principles.

The document is structured into five key sections:

1. The Project: Detailing the inception, purpose, and methodologies behind the portfolio development, with a focus on blending modern web design trends and user-friendly principles.
2. Process and Results: Exploring the challenges faced in web development, insights derived from benchmarking, trends analysis, and design pattern searches, and the dynamic elements incorporated in the portfolio based on extensive literature study.
3. Reflection: Offering a candid reflection on the learning journey, encompassing challenges faced, skills acquired, and the commitment to continuous improvement.
4. Evidence: Providing a tangible display of the acquired skills and knowledge, organized according to learning outcomes, demonstrating the alignment of the project with educational goals.

Throughout these sections, the document illuminates Mazoun's growth, showcasing their adaptability, research skills, and technical proficiency in the constantly changing realm of web development.

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The Project

What is The portfolio?

The portfolio is a website that I made to showcase the projects and tasks I have done, the workshops I attended, and courses I participated in during semester 7; advanced media. The initial idea is that this website is made for my assessment and for hiring employers to view my skills, but it is also a chance to upgrade my knowledge in the programming field. This is why I decided to use React framework, to learn it, to enhance my skills and to show a marvelous portfolio website as you will see later on when viewing the website.

What's more, the main idea of the portfolio is "How can a programmer design a modern and user-friendly portfolio website that effectively incorporates the latest web design trends of 2023 while ensuring a smooth user experience and achieving the desired website goals?". The main idea can be categorized into aspects related to 2023 web design trends, user-friendly design principles, portfolio presentation, website objectives, and user experience enhancement. For each category, various CMD methods have been assigned depending on the type and needed information. These methods are described in the process and results section below.

The Process and Results

Main Question

How can a programmer design a modern and user-friendly portfolio website that effectively incorporates the latest web design trends of 2023 while ensuring a smooth user experience and achieving the desired website goals?

Sub Questions

1- What are the primary challenges programmers face when implementing the latest web design trends, and how can these challenges be addressed effectively?

Method selection

I have used the Benchmark Creation method from the Library strategy, where I conducted benchmarking to identify challenges that face the web developers effectively.

Collected information

The process of collecting information involved rigorous benchmarking, delving into the nuances of contemporary web design challenges. Extensive industry-related articles, reports, and resources were reviewed, providing a broad spectrum of insights into the hurdles faced by programmers.

Analyzed information

The analysis highlighted key challenges in modern web development, encompassing browser compatibility, user experience, technology stack selection, project goal definition, performance optimization, scaling, security, third-party integrations, and maintenance. The report offers suggested solutions for these challenges, providing essential insights for navigating the complexities of contemporary web development. This understanding serves as a valuable guide for reading the report and evaluating the showcased portfolio, offering a comprehensive perspective on the underlying challenges and solutions in the field.

Conclusion

This research sheds light on the complex challenges in modern web development, emphasizing the need for technical expertise, strategic planning, and operational finesse. The derived solutions offer actionable insights for developers, enabling them to create outstanding web applications that meet evolving client and user expectations. These strategies ensure a seamless user experience amid the dynamic digital landscape.

2- What specific web design trends and visual elements, prevalent in 2023, should be considered to create a modern and visually pleasing interface for showcasing work?

Method selection

The chosen methods for this research were Trend Analysis and Design Pattern Search. These methods were selected to stay updated with the latest web design trends and to effectively identify and incorporate relevant design patterns.

Collected information

The process of collecting information involved the following steps:

- **Trend Analysis:** This phase began with a comprehensive review of articles, reports, and resources. The goal was to identify and understand the emerging web design trends for 2023. This involved reviewing sources such as blogs, industry publications, and reports.

Analyzed information

After gathering information through trend analysis and design pattern search, the data was analyzed:

- **Trend Analysis Results:** The trend analysis revealed several prevalent web design trends for 2023, including pastel colors, ultra minimalism, layering, drag interaction, scrolling effects, typography trends, gamified design, and the scrapbook aesthetic. Each trend was examined for its visual appeal and relevance to creating modern interfaces.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the research process allowed for the identification of key web design trends and visual elements for 2023. These trends, such as pastel colors, ultra minimalism, and drag interaction, were deemed valuable for creating visually pleasing and modern interfaces for showcasing work. By understanding and incorporating these trends, designers and developers can enhance user experiences and keep their interfaces up-to-date with the latest industry standards.

3- What should the portfolio website include?

Method selection

I have used the following cmd methods:

- Literature Study (Library): Conduct an in-depth literature study to gather and explore what content should be included in the portfolio.

Collected information

The literature study provided a rich source of information, outlining the diverse elements that contribute to a compelling portfolio. These elements, ranging from personal branding and relevant skills to awards, community involvement, and quantifiable achievements, were identified as crucial components. The study emphasized the dynamic nature of a portfolio, urging developers to view it as a canvas where their skills, passion, and personality merge into a digital masterpiece.

Analyzed information

A personal portfolio is more than just a static collection of projects; it's a unique digital canvas where the skills, passion, and personality of the developer converge. Key elements identified from the study included a custom logo and tagline for identity representation, a killer site design emphasizing usability, personal branding elements like colors and fonts, and a clear presentation of relevant skills, education, certifications, and past job experiences. Additionally, the study emphasized the importance of including downloadable resumes, a bio page for personal connection, professional photos, visible contact information, social media profiles, testimonials, awards, a blog, videos, personal projects, volunteer work, explanations of work processes, open source contributions, quantifiable achievements, community involvement, speaking engagements, links to guest writings, unique design elements, free resources, and a clear call to action for visitor interaction.

Conclusion

In summary, the portfolio, as outlined by the literature, represents a dynamic digital masterpiece. It mirrors the developer's journey, growth, and aspirations. By integrating essential elements such as personal branding, relevant skills, achievements, and engaging content, a portfolio transforms into a powerful tool for making meaningful professional connections. Regular updates are crucial; they ensure the portfolio's ongoing relevance, making it an indispensable asset for showcasing expertise and attracting valuable opportunities.

The Reflection

Looking back at this project phase, I realize it wasn't too easy or too hard—it was just right. I've learned that planning is something I'm good at, but sometimes I tend to take on too much. I tried to fix this by focusing on doing fewer things, but doing them well.

Learning new things, especially React and Three.js, was tough. I struggled with a tutorial that I thought would take a day, but it ended up taking more than a week. Understanding the code and the reasons behind certain actions was tricky, especially because my JavaScript skills aren't very strong. I'm confident in my HTML and CSS abilities, but JavaScript is a challenge.

Changing the main question and sub-questions just days before the first deadline was hard too. It meant I had to do more research, and I didn't have much time. But I'm determined to catch up and do my best.

Overall, I'm feeling okay about my progress, but I know I can do better. I believe that progress leads to improvement, and I'm committed to getting better in this project.

The Evidence

Completion of the table in the appendix with where to find the 'evidence' for the learning outcomes that you must demonstrate in the Advanced Media Design semester. In fact, this refers to the same “products” that are also referred to from the description of the “process”, only this time sorted by learning outcomes. It should be a simple display of all the tasks you have done and products you have made, in an overview. Preferably make it clickable, so you can also use it as navigation. Most users like that. Don't link directly to research material (appendix-files) but always to product pages on your portfolio to give the reader some extra context.

Appendix: Evidence

	Learning outcome	Proof
1	User interaction (analysis and advice)	Design trends of 2023 - Sketch - Prototype
2	User interaction (execution & validation)	-
3	Software development	-
4	Future oriented organization	-
5	Investigative problem-solving	Project plan - Design trends of 2023
6	Personal leadership	-
7	Goal-oriented interaction	-