Project Plan

Portfolio

September 2023

OVERVIEW

I will create a professional personal IT portfolio website that effectively showcases my learning outcomes while focusing on using React. Additionally, I will explore the possibility of integrating three.js for added interactivity.

GOALS

1. Create an engaging and user-friendly portfolio website.
2. Showcase my learning outcomes and skills gained during the semester.
3. Achieve a fine balance in content presentation for both teachers and hiring agents.

DELIVERED PRODUCT

A fully functional and responsive front-end portfolio website with logical and visually appealing design choices, emphasizing user-friendliness.

Main Research 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?
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?
3. What should the portfolio website include?

APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

I will be using the DOT framework approach. This approach supports switching perspectives to examine the problem from several aspects. The combination of various research strategies in this framework helps to balance the research. Following is some examples of the strategies that I may use in the process;

1. Library research

A. Analyze existing top websites from 2023 to identify design trends.
B. Study literature on effective CSS styling, responsive design, and user experience principles.
C. Explore design patterns and trends that align with my vision.

2. Field research

A. Conduct interviews with potential users to understand their preferences and needs.
B. Observe user behavior and gather insights on how they interact with portfolio websites.
C. Create domain models to better understand the context in which users will interact with my portfolio.

3. Lab research

A. Perform usability testing to evaluate the website's components and interactions.
B. Test different coding approaches and experiment with CSS styles for optimal results.

4. Showroom research

A. Seek feedback from design specialists and peers through peer reviews.
B. Compare the portfolio with students and generic design guidelines.

5. Workshop research

A. Ideate and prototype various design and interaction ideas.
B. Experiment with different design tools and co-create design elements.
C. Make multi-criteria decisions to prioritize design and development choices.

The used CMD methods for answering the sub questions

Challenges in Web Design Trends:

Benchmark Creation (Library): Conduct benchmarking to identify best practices and trends in web design, helping address challenges effectively.

2023 Web Design Trends:

Trend Analysis (Library): Perform trend analysis to stay updated with the latest web design trends in 2023.

Design Pattern Search (Library): Explore design patterns to identify and incorporate prevalent 2023 web design trends effectively.

Portfolio Content Inclusion:

Persona (Stepping Stones): Create user personas to guide content inclusion decisions based on user needs and preferences.

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

SMART

Development goal	How to work on this?
Enhance research skills on the design aspect	**Specific**: Research is an essential aspect of any study. I intend to enhance my research skills in the designing aspect. **Measurable:** By the end of the semester, I should be able to name different types of design choices. **Achievable:** Ask talented or professional individuals in the out world field or ask the teachers. **Relevant:** Enhancing my research skills is key to moving forward in my study; I'll need to spend 70% of the time doing research. **Time-bound:** In 19 weeks, I should have enhanced my research skills to the point where I am capable of naming different design choices.
Enhance design skills	**Specific:** During the semester, I want to enhance my designing skills and choices. **Measurable:** At the end, I want to prove to myself that I have decent designing skills and I am capable of using different design tools. **Achievable:** Watch state-of-the-art design trends on YouTube. Read tweets and articles about bad design choices. **Relevant:** Enhancing the design skills would help me understand where I stand in the real world and what I need to improve. **Time-bound:** Enhancing my skills may require additional training or experience. I can look up information and ask for feedback.
Strengthen coding skills	**Specific:** Level up coding skills. **Measurable:** I should illustrate better coding skills. I can complete various coding courses for the languages I want to improve in. **Achievable:** Look up coding courses and watch YouTube tutorials. **Relevant:** I can gain the right skills with having a good plan and schedule. **Time-bound:** Strengthening my coding skills may require additional training or experience during the semester.
Implement three.js (3D graphics) integration	**Specific:** Integrate three.js to add interactive 3D components to the portfolio website. **Measurable:** The website should feature at least one interactive 3D element, such as a rotating model or an interactive scene. **Achievable:** Learn the basics of three.js through online tutorials, experiment with different 3D models, and implement them into the website. **Relevant:** Adding 3D elements can make your portfolio stand out and demonstrate advanced web development skills. **Time-bound:** Complete the integration of three.js components within the first 5 weeks of the semester.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Week 1-3: Initial Website Development

- Research top websites from 2023 for design inspiration.
- Begin designing the portfolio website using Figma.
- Start coding the website, focusing on responsive design principles.
- Complete a React course.
- Explore three.js tutorials to prepare for integration.

Week 4-5: three.js Integration

- Dive deeper into three.js and practice creating 3D elements.
- Integrate the selected 3D component into the website.
- Ensure seamless interaction between 3D elements and the rest of the website.

Week 6: Website Testing and Optimization

- Perform initial testing of the website's functionality and responsiveness.
- Identify and address any issues or bugs.
- Optimize the website's code and assets for performance.

Week 7-18: Ongoing Content Updates

- Regularly update the website with new projects and learning outcomes.
- Reflect on my progress and add content that showcases my growth.
- Seek feedback from teachers and other students for improvements.

Throughout the Semester: Skill Enhancement

- Continuously improve research, design, and coding skills.
- Take online courses, watch tutorials, and practice regularly.
- Stay updated on design trends and coding best practices.

Monitoring and Feedback

- Track progress using milestones and key performance indicators.
- Collect feedback from teachers, peers, and potential employers.
- Make adjustments to the project plan as needed based on feedback.