Michal Kowalczyk   02.01.2026

How I used Bootstrap 5

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1   Bootstrap 5 components and examples used

I utilized 11+ Bootstrap 5 components in my portfolio website:

- NAVBAR: Responsive navigation with hamburger menu for mobile devices, enabling smooth scrolling between sections.

- CARDS: Used throughout for displaying skills, testimonials, and about section content, providing clean visual hierarchy.

- CAROUSEL: Interactive slideshow for client testimonials, allowing space-efficient presentation of multiple reviews.

- ACCORDION: Organized skills information into collapsible sections, enabling users to expand only relevant details.

- MODAL: Welcome popup triggered by "Learn More" button, providing additional information without page navigation.

- FORM: Contact form with Bootstrap validation classes, enhanced with custom JavaScript for real-time feedback.

- BUTTONS: Multiple variants (primary, outline) for CTAs, form submission, and navigation with consistent styling.

- BADGES: Technology tags and skill percentages, providing visually appealing highlights for key information.

- PROGRESS BARS: Animated skill proficiency indicators with striped and animated effects for visual engagement.

- ALERT: Dismissible informational message in contact section for user communication.

- FOOTER: Structured footer with links and social media icons following Bootstrap examples.

2   Layout structure using the grid system

The layout uses Bootstrap 5's grid system with containers, rows, and responsive columns:

2.1   Containers:

Used "container" for most sections (responsive max-width) and "container-fluid" for hero section.

2.2   Grid system:

Implemented responsive breakpoints (col-md-*, col-lg-*) creating:

- Hero: Two-column layout (col-lg-6) stacking on mobile

- About: Side-by-side content (col-md-6)

- Skills: Mixed layout with accordion (col-md-6) and progress bars, plus three-column cards (col-md-4)

- Testimonials: Centered carousel (col-lg-8 mx-auto)

- Contact: Centered form (col-lg-8 mx-auto)

- Footer: Three-column layout (col-md-4)

2.3   Utilities:

Flexbox (d-flex, align-items-center, justify-content-between), spacing (mb-*, py-*, gap-*), and text utilities (text-center, text-muted) for consistent layout and styling.

3   Custom CSS and its purpose

Created styles.css to enhance Bootstrap with shadcn!-inspired design:

- Hero Section: Gradient background, custom padding for fixed navbar, icon styling with shadows

- Smooth Scrolling: Enhanced anchor link navigation for better UX

- Card Hover Effects: Transform and shadow transitions for interactive feedback

- Navbar: Custom shadows, transitions, and hover states

- Button Styling: Hover effects with lift animations

- Form Styling: Custom focus states with brand colors

- Responsive Adjustments: Media queries for mobile optimization

- Custom Scrollbar: Themed scrollbar matching site design

The custom CSS complements Bootstrap without replacing core functionality, maintaining responsive grid system and component behavior while adding personalized styling.

4   Challenges faced and solutions

• Fixed Navbar Overlap: Added padding-top to hero section equal to navbar height

• Smooth Scrolling: Implemented JavaScript that accounts for fixed navbar offset

• Form Validation: Combined Bootstrap validation classes with custom JavaScript for real-time feedback

• Responsive Images: Used img-fluid class with custom max-width constraints

• Carousel Centering: Applied mx-auto utility with col-lg-8 for responsive centering

• CSS Conflicts: Structured custom CSS to enhance rather than override Bootstrap classes

5   Other learning points

Key learnings include: Bootstrap 5 CDN integration (CSS/JS bundles), component interdependencies and data attributes, mobile-first responsive design principles, utility-first approach for rapid development, accessibility considerations (ARIA labels, keyboard navigation), performance optimization via CDN, Bootstrap Icons integration, form validation combining HTML5 and Bootstrap, grid system flexibility with breakpoints, and component customization while maintaining functionality.

6   Conclusion

This project demonstrates Bootstrap 5's capabilities for building responsive, modern websites. By combining Bootstrap components, grid system, and utilities with custom CSS enhancements, I created a professional portfolio that works seamlessly across all devices. The experience highlighted the importance of understanding framework capabilities and knowing when to extend with custom styling.

The project showcases proficiency in: Bootstrap 5 component implementation, responsive grid system usage, custom CSS integration, form validation, JavaScript interactivity, accessibility best practices, and mobile-first responsive design.