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About

Responsive Web Development from Scratch— Front End and Back End

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In less than twenty days, I will be graduating from Marquette University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Finance and Information Systems. Following my graduation from college, I will return to my home country — China.

I believe this is a good time to think about the future. While I double majored in finance and information systems, my four-year undergraduate education has shown me clearly that my interest lies in technology instead of finance. Therefore, I expect to launch a career in technology. The problem now is that I studied information systems instead of computer science. Information systems is a technical academic program at a business school, which means it is more technical than other business disciplines but less technical than computer science. That said, I am likely to pursue a technical graduate degree before I enter the workforce.

In the summer of 2020, I helped a client based in Atherton, CA to build a campaign website. I did not use WordPress, so I built the entire website from scratch. I worked with a small, inexperienced team comprised of college students. We relied heavily on Bootstrap to build the responsive layout of the website, and I used code from my class

projects for the back end. However, in order to become a real technician, I need to understand the inner workings instead of replying on predesigned solutions. Hence, I am considering learning responsive web development after graduation.

To do this, I have opened two GitHub repositories — Responsive Web Development Front End and Responsive Web Development Back End. You can find both on my GitHub profile at https://github.com/mrlizhaozhi. I plan to upload my code to these repositories to track my learning progress.

Front End

On the front end, I will refer to Bootstrap to rebuild everything from scratch including but not limited to responsive layouts, navigation menus, electronic forms, and carousels, etc. My goal is to understand how HTML, CSS, and JavaScript work together to create those functionalities and visual effects. After that, I will try to build my own solutions. I believe it is necessary to understand the inner workings because it will help me design unique websites and is more efficient than modifying Bootstrap code.

Back End

On the back end, I will refer to WordPress and Django to rebuild everything from scratch using PHP and/or Python. These may include editors, search, form submissions, and recommendation systems, etc. My goal is to understand how each component of the back end works so that I can build customized solution efficiently.

Timeline

I will focus on the front end first then incorporate back end development. I may also learn both simultaneously. The next edition of my GitHub Pages website https://mrlizhaohi.github.io shall be developed completely on my own. I aim at completing this journey in six months (December 2021).

Li Zhaozhi

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