



# Portfolio Project

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**[mroberts00.github.io](https://mroberts00.github.io)**

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## Overview

As an aspiring developer, it is important to be able to demonstrate your abilities to prospective employers.

A great way to do this is to design, develop and deploy a website that showcases your talent, abilities and coding experience.

## Goals

1. Design a creative portfolio site that will stand out from the rest.
2. Make it responsive to different screen sizes and accessible to everyone on the internet.

## Planning

### Who's the user?

Most people who view this page will not be programmers and so this layout has to be very simple yet well designed. However, I want to showcase this to prospective employers so the aim is to have imaginative design and code while still presenting a relatively easy to follow website. Simple

### One page or two?

After spending a couple of hours researching other programmers portfolio's the first major decision I have to make is whether to make a single page or multiple. I really like the clean look of the single page portfolio and have decided to go with this. I will still use a navbar at the top of the page which can link down to different sections through the use of IDs. Because it will just be one very long page, there is a great scrolling effect that some websites use instead of 'jumping' straight to each section. It gives the website a nice fluid feel so it looks like I'm going to have to learn some javascript!

### Sections

I will have five main sections to my website and a footer.

1. One the landing page which will consist of a hero image with a link down to the first content section of the site. I'm not whether I will include the navbar on this page or no, I will make that decision once I see how it looks.
2. 'About Me' which will include sections of past employment, coding strengths and interests. Would like a have icons of some/all language icons here if possible. Maybe also a personal picture.
3. 'Portfolio' which will have links and pictures of at least two projects. Will use my terminal app and any of my other projects - maybe splash page?
4. 'Blog' which will link through to my medium site. It doesn't look like you can embed Medium articles so will have to display the headings, date and description differently.
5. 'Contact' which will have links through to my linkin, github, codepen (maybe email).
6. Will have a small sixth section which will just be a footer for the copyright.

## Other tasks

- Create a flavicon - have found iconsflow.com to use for this. Will use this as personal logo.
- All images must be compressed and optimised. Can scale them down just using preview and then use tinyjpg.com and ImageOptim for the rest.
- Alt tags for all images
- Color scheme: white and blue. Maybe use very light grey.
- Find fonts: maximum three.
- Create a .xml sitemap (more of a formality as it is a single page site)

## Problems Encountered

### Javascript

I really wanted to use javascript to get the navbar to 'stick' to the top and have the fluid scrolling effect when a link was clicked. It took a lot of learning and trawling through google searches but both of these features now work on my site. Unfortunately I haven't been able to get the 'active' navbar feature to work. I think it may have been interfering with the 'sticky' JS and I couldn't get it to hold. While this isn't the most important feature on the site it does impair the accessibility of the page. The JS also seems to highlight each div as it scrolls to it, creating a blue border around it. It actually looks nice on the page but I would still like to understand why it is happening.

## Responsiveness

I had a lot of problems making my site responsive to different screen sizes. For a lot of the initial sizing I used pixels and so had to go back through my code and change this to 'em' or 'vw'. This then required little tweaks for different screen sizes using media queries.

## Centering Items

Centering all of the items caused a lot of headaches. I had been just trying to use flexbox but in the end used a combination of this and 'margin: 0 auto'.

## Blog Posts

I initially had the whole blog post link as an image, including the text. I realised that this would hamper the way a search engine could view the page and so decided to go with a background image with text on top.

## Image Optimizing

After I first went through and compressed my images many of them were still too big. I realised that many of them could be physically smaller and so went through and adjusted the size of each image so that I could still have the quality I need while decreasing load time on the site.

## Conclusion

I'm really happy with the final look of the site. I think it has a clean and streamlined feel to it with consistent design ideas throughout. As I improve my coding skills I will continue to update the site, especially to include more Javascript. It would be nice to find a way to automatically load new blog posts to the page however I'm not sure this is possible without the embedding support from Medium.