Nora Luna

Final Project Journal

CS 510- Intro to Web Development

Professor Paun

7/27

I’m currently brainstorming the layout I’m going to want for my website and working on sourcing some images. I’m a fan of simplicity, so I’m thinking about using black and white for a color scheme with single pops of color on the different sections of my page. I may also use some of my photographs for the pops of color and to make the site visually appealing. I may also find some stock images instead of using my photographs, since my photographs are not necessarily applicable to CS or this project, but I do like that they are unique to me. Stock images may be a better option, but I’ll make a decision on that once I’ve got a layout complete. I’ve also been collecting some fonts that I like from fontspace.com

The first piece of my website I wanted to implement was my nav bar. My plan is to make it fixed and span across the entire top of the page, as the user scrolls, so that they can easily access any part of the site they want no matter where they are on the page. The next thing I’d like to implement is the layout. I’m probably going to use bootstrap, as I really like how simple it is to use. I will have 4 different sections, and two columns in the first 3 sections, then something different for the contact form. Perhaps some icons that link to various social media sites, like LinkedIn.

7/28

Today I worked on the layout of my About Me section. I am using bootstrap, using two columns with one row. I also made an empty row at the top of the page to make space for the nav bar, especially when it begins to wrap at smaller screen sizes, it made sense to just make an empty row that I can adjust the size of. It was super challenging adjusting the padding and margins of my two grid areas, especially when making it responsive. The way the bootstrap grid works is not as expected most of the time and it takes a little bit of guesswork and a lot of inspecting where the elements are located on the page. I noticed that my image likes to go over its container in the grid, but I don’t understand why or how to fix this. After spending quite a bit of time experimenting, I think I have a bit better understanding of how margins and padding works, and I’ve managed to make my page layout look the way I imagined. I did also want to use titles in my sections, but I may add those at the end if I can get my other sections completed on time.

8/1

Today I worked on my contact form. I wanted it to be a small box at the bottom of my screen (instead of something that takes up the whole page) with a nice border to make it obvious that it’s a form. I also implemented a header in the about me section to match the font of my contact form header. I’m beginning to get a better idea of how my layout will look. I’m working on the form today to make sure I can get the Javascript functionality working for this and I think it will be the most complex part of my website. I also added links to the bottom of my page that connect to some social media links. I am using bootstrap icons for all my social media links at the bottom of the page and updated the classes and styling of them.

I worked on input validation for my form, and figured out how to make popup messages to alert the user that they need to enter information into the input boxes.

Works Cited:

<https://www.w3schools.com/js/js_popup.asp>

I’m still not sure how to implement javascript with my form for it to work the way that I was hoping for.

8/2

I was having trouble with my responsive layout, so I completely re-did my layout and media queries today which took the whole day. I initially was not designing my site mobile first (by accident), but changed my entire layout so that it is mobile first. I am using a little bit of bootstrap and flexbox to get the layout how I want. The way I set up my new layout is by lining up my individual section photos, then text, in a column format which will be the layout up to around 1200px screens. Once a user has a larger screen, the images will be side by side with the different text sections. I changed the ordering for some sections so that the images and text would be on different sides of the page for each progressing section. I figured this would add both balance, and asymmetry to the page in a way that I enjoy. It feels less bulky having all the images on one side of the page. However when the person is using a mobile device up to a small screen, they will see a very consistent layout, with image followed by text. I still would like to do a little work on the margins and padding of my mobile layout.

8/3

I did some text editing, as well as adding in some links and readme files in my github project repositories.

As I was reading through Chapter 15 of the Eloquent Javascript textbook today, I came across a section about key events (page 251) that talked about changing the background color of a document using a key press. I was intrigued by this so I made a “secret theme” that could be changed with the press of a key. I really liked this functionality, but thought it would make more sense to have this function as a button that the user could select. My original color theme is a “dark theme”, so I created a button at the bottom of the page for a “light theme” option. I showed a classmate this function and she suggested that I make the button toggle so that a person could switch between the dark and the light theme with just a single button. This seemed like a good idea to me, so I looked up how to toggle a button and found something that sort of resembled what I wanted to do. I took the concept from this website, and applied it to my color theme button which will toggle between the two color schemes. I’m really excited about how this turned out, and I feel like I understand Javascript’s capabilities much better after working through this implementation.

<https://www.delftstack.com/howto/javascript/javascript-toggle-button/>

I spent a long time fixing some errors related to responsiveness this evening. My nav bar was taking up half the screen on a mobile device and some fonts were too large for a mobile screen, so I did quite a few media queries just changing font sizes and padding. I think this will make the site much cleaner and easier to view with different sized devices, especially smaller devices. I also added some styling to my images, rounding the corners of them and my contact form for consistency. One thing I noticed is that my color theme button on my mobile device has a different color. I looked through my css but couldn’t find any place in my code that might contain the bug… Still need to see if I can send my contact form to my email.

8/4

Today I worked on how to get my contact form to send to my email. I found a way to do this using emailJS which allows you to set up a template email and a forwarding email address. I consulted the emailJS docs which are pretty straightforward and simple to use. I would definitely recommend this service to anyone who wants a contact form sent to their email but doesn’t have a backend set up.

<https://www.emailjs.com/docs/sdk/installation/>

<https://www.emailjs.com/docs/sdk/send-form/>

I’m very curious about captcha and how I might be able to set this up on my site. I did a little bit of searching and it looks like the site must be hosted in order to use captcha. I’m going to do more researching tomorrow to find out if I need a custom domain name to use it, or if hosting through github will suffice. I did purchase a domain name, as I thought this website would be a useful tool once I start searching for internships. I’ll probably change a few aspects of this website hosted on my custom domain name, and then I will definitely have a captcha so that I’m not getting a ton of spam.

8/6

I updated some accessibility errors. My links were showing up as “empty” which I didn’t realize meant that there was not a description in them. I am using bootstrap icons for several social media links, but I did not think about the fact that a screen reader is not able to “read” an icon to the user. With the help of a classmate, I figured out that I needed to label my links with an aria label so that a screen reader can read where the links lead. Now my accessibility ratings with both Lighthouse and WAVE are 100%.

8/8

Putting the final finishing touches on my site, removed unnecessary CSS with the help of this resource: <https://uncss-online.com/>

Surprisingly, I didn’t have any unnecessary CSS, but I think I’ll keep this resource around for future use. Making some small edits, updating my readme file, etc. Feeling confident about the final product. I’m going to share with a few friends and classmates to get some final feedback and see if there’s anything else I need to change before submission.

Other resources used:

Eloquent Javascript by Marijn Haverbeke

HTML & CSS by Jon Duckett

Intro to Web Dev course Channel by Caterina Paun