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Project 2 Home Page w/ Bootstrap

Project 2 Reflection

For the second project, I had ultimately desired to create a website from the ground up, coding each line to better understand the inner workings of Bootstrap and CSS. However, due to the spread of COVID and the inevitability of catching it, the time I would have to work on the project greatly decreased. After recovering from the virus, I decided that my time was better spent freshening up a template, as instructed, to create an overall better assignment. Despite using a template to create the home page/resume, I still ran into many problems, most of which I believe I handled to the best of my abilities.

After reviewing the information from the Canvas documents and reading how Brackets was the professors recommended IDE, I decided to switch from Atom and give Brackets a chance. This was my first mistake. I suppose this IDE might be beneficial to others, however I found the changes in structure and function too different to achieve any real productivity. Not long after, I decided that my preferences lie within the Atom IDE, and I switched back to using my original program.

My biggest discovery (which was a past discovery presently forgotten about) is Emmet.io. Emmet is a shorthand application that runs in tandem to the IDE to achieve a much quicker code writing ability. Shorthand completions allowed me to type code and thoughts much more efficiently, allowing more changes by the minute and ideas to flow. Emmet is by and large

the most crucial utility to me. Without Emmet, my code writing speed diminishes greatly, overall slowing down my creativity and efficiency.

In addition to Emmet, another new feature that I discovered while editing my page was another utility within Google Chrome's Inspect feature. In Project 1, Chrome helped to visualize varying aspect ratios, as well certain CSS properties not so accessible to the IDE. While browsing through the Inspect feature, I stumbled upon a CSS mini screen that helped to highlight certain tags and the elements that are tied to its respective tags. Upon editing the website, I was easily able to identify where I wished to make changes, what line of CSS it could be found on, as well as an in-browser function that allowed me to visual any changes before time was spent back in the IDE. This feature greatly streamlined the work I was doing and will be used as a tool when building websites from here forward.

When checking the correctness of the HTML code, verified by the W3C, I used an online verification site that scans and reports any possible errors included in my HTML code. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the errors I had were minimal and easy to fix. I found ways to correct the errors without having to recode any major blocks.

Normally, my process of building a website includes a visual model built on Adobe XD. In the initial stage of the project, pre-COVID infection, I had plans drawn for a specific look for a website that were no longer relevant after the infection. Due to the lack of time to create said website, time took over my central decision process and I wound up side-stepping my drawn plans. It was at this point I decided to follow closer to the rubric for the project and utilize a template to create my website.

From my point of view, the most challenging part of the project was my inability to create the website I desired and find an alternative that could follow-up behind those ideas. Although many free website templates built on Bootstrap exist, I found it difficult to settle on a design that I found both visually and functionally alike my original attempt. This obstacle led me from template to template, spending a day at a time on a design I thought would appease me, only to find myself starting from scratch with a new template the next day. After three days and over five almost-complete websites, I settled upon the design you see now.

After the completion of this project, it is undoubtably truthful to say that this project was more difficult than the first. While I had a foundation for both HTML and CSS prior to this class, building a website so heavily concentrated on visual layout from CSS and Bootstrap tools was no piece of cake. Minor errors would bleed through and expose other errors. Marginal differences with Bootstrap lingo create a completely new look for your website and makes coding a tailored site much more difficult. Overall, I look forward to expanding my knowledge of Bootstrap. The observable benefits are grand in length and the outcomes from this tool are apparent.