COMPSCI 719

Assignment 1 Reflection

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1. **What were your experiences using Bootstrap? How effective is the documentation, and other aids? Is there anything that was easier than you expected? Harder?**

Personally, Bootstrap offered a very different experience from that we had of writing normal CSS as we were taught in the course so far. I found it very interesting that packages like bootstrap exist to help simplify the whole process by getting rid of the need to write a CSS file completely and relying on pure HTML to achieve the same results. The documentation online was very helpful and made it very easy for me to follow. I utilised the likes of w3school and getBootstrap documentation to help with this assignment. It highlighted and explained in detail the varying features that the package was capable of and was very easy to understand. The Bootstrap community were also very knowledgeable and helpful in forums, which also helped solidify the basic concepts. The hardest part about the assignment was getting started and implementing the package into the HTML since I've never handled a similar package like it before. The different classes and how they were supposed to be implemented were a little bit tricky. But it was very similar to writing HTML, so it was not too hard. After completing tasks, reading documentations, and familiarising myself with the syntax, it became a lot easier. I also found it interesting how it is an evolving package with new updates, and features are implemented over time. The possibilities that this package has in the future is very exciting. It made me realised that there are so many other packages like Bootstrap that helps programmers and the likes, and I would like to explore those options in my leisure.

2. **Compare and contrast Bootstrap with writing your own CSS. What are the benefits and drawbacks of each approach?**

The method of implementing Bootstrap is very different to writing your own CSS. Bootstrap is written directly onto the HTML file. One of the benefits of bootstrap is that we don't have to define our own class names as they already exist. I also like the fact that I didn't have to tab between files since I'm not writing a CSS file which made it much simpler. The drawback of Bootstrap is that you must know these classes in order to properly utilise them. I also found that Bootstrap allows you to create a responsive webpage unlike, CSS which is helpful when creating interactive and adaptive webpages like the assignment. CSS also has its advantages. I like the customisability and the flexibility of the script as you can name the classes and IDs anything you want. CSS, I believe also has a much easier learning curve. There is nothing overly complicated and concepts are very easy to grasp. Overall, I prefer writing my own CSS, just because of the customisability and the fact that I know how to use them. Once I become more familiar with the Bootstrap package, I would love to use them in my future projects.

On another note, I thoroughly enjoyed the JavaScript part of the assignment also. It further solidified my understanding of AJAX concepts as we learnt in the course content. By putting it into practice, it helped me understand the concepts of fetching and helped understand how different data is transferred.