

Writeup

Part 1

For my final project, I made an interactive web portfolio for myself using React. The purpose of my website is to showcase both my web programming and interaction design skills, to recruiters, classmates, or anyone who is interested in learning more about me.

In my portfolio, I included a landing page that is “cool and edgy”, an About Me section, a Projects section, and an artwork section. These sections combined paint a pretty good picture about me and bring forth a couple of things that I am interested in from design to coding to doing artsy stuff.

I focused heavily on the design aspect of my website, using color schemes and large fonts to really capture the attention of my users. I had a ton of information on there but hopefully it doesn’t feel overwhelming to look at. I included navigation bar and links to help user navigate through my site and my art portfolio, as well as some animations for my projects to make it look interesting.

Part 2

- Navigation
 - Clicking/scrolling
 - Click on one of the four links on the top nav bar or the downward arrow to go straight to different sections on the page (or simply scroll down). The bar is also relative to the top of screen when scrolling.
- External sources
 - Clicking
 - Click on the orange texts in the About Me section takes you directly to external sources that I talk about
- Project detail
 - Hovering
 - Hovering mouse over each project card reveals information about the project and clicking on them takes you to the specific project
- Look through slideshow

- Clicking
 - Clicking on the circles navigates through the artworks on the page
- Go back up
 - Clicking
 - Clicking on the upward arrow takes you back to the landing screen

Part 3

I used React for my project and started with the Create React App tutorial from Facebook. I also used a npm package called 'react-slideshow-image' to create the slide animations for my artwork. Bootstrap is also intergraded with React, so I used some grid formatting here and there.

I decided to use React because I really wanted to learn the technology to prepare myself for my internship this summer, which requires me to code in React. Additionally, I had a website before built using static HTML and CSS, and it wasn't the prettiest thing in the world. So, I wanted to apply my design skills to build a "pretty" website and React seems to be a good way to do it.

Part 4

In my prototype, I wanted to make the landing page interesting with a big slideshow showing a couple of stock photos of what I like to do. This turned out to be a lot harder to implement and didn't look that great without proper images and formatting. I ended up adding an Artwork section to my website and used slides there.

Part 4

Debugging is extremely hard for React. I couldn't just put 'console.log' everywhere on the page since not everything was JavaScript, so I had a hard time figuring out where the issues were coming from.

Deploying is also a huge challenge. I was getting 404 errors and had to change my gitignore file a couple of times. My images were also not showing up. But it all worked out in the end!

Link to Website

<https://royxu.me/>