

Rationale - Project 1 Final

Audience, Goals, and Design:

I built a personal website that has three main parts: an interactive and visually appealing CS resume, an art portfolio, and fun facts/personal information. My theme is about showcasing each of these aspects of my life. I want to keep each facet relatively separate since the site is multi-purpose for different audiences while also keeping them cohesive. I combined all 3 in the art I made for my home page, which includes symbols of my personal, artistic, and academic interests (I made it by scanning a pencil drawing and editing with Photoshop). My website is actually available through the web now with GitHub's free domain:

<https://rsn55.github.io>

My target audience includes both potential employers like software companies, and anyone who may need my design skills, such as Professor White when he views my portfolio for Game Design class application at the end of the semester. It is also to give people a look into my personality and style that they cannot get from a formal resume, so I tried to add more 'fun' things like a picture of my dog and fun facts so that my audience can feel they know more about me than just my academic record, as well as links to follow any relevant social media (though I don't currently use Deviant Art much, I plan to in the future). My goals for this audience are to impress them with a simple yet pleasing design and good organization of information, make them smile with insight into my life, and be able to learn anything about me they want.

I also wanted to separate the different sections with clear navigation so that viewers coming to the site for one specific purpose can easily find the page they care about without being distracted by information not relevant to them. My titles of each page with my name followed by 'person', 'artist', or 'programmer' affirm these categories. Any outside links are set to open in new tabs so as not to disturb the browsing experience. The only page that does not have the main navigation bar is my course history and that is because I do not consider it a main page, but a sub-page of the resume. The general 'feel' I wanted my site to have is casual, simple, and cute but professional. As far as general format, I alternatively considered a single page of content with links taking people to different parts of the page

(scrolling down), but decided this current way would be easier to use and would more accurately reflect my design idea.

My resume section is perfect for future employers because it has links to actual code I have written and projects I have worked on, plus additional information that would not fit on my formal resume. The portfolio section will eventually have more content, but for now is well-divided into the different types of art I have produced, from more complex pieces to simple sketches, and allows viewers to click to view a full-scale image (the image becomes more transparent when hovering to indicate this ability). The 'about' section is short because the main purpose of the website is as a resume/portfolio, with personal touch more of a secondary feature.

The general design is supposed to be simple, but elegant, with some pops of color. The main colors are non-distracting so the focus is on the content. The fonts are professional, but not boring, and the bright purple in titles keeps it interesting to look at. Readability is good with the color scheme. I spent a lot of time designing the art for my home page so as to pull the whole site together with a bit of fun. I mostly used version 1 from the last milestone, but incorporated the best aspects of version 2, such as a different navigation bar style, centered text, and the bright purple color.

Changes and New Additions:

I mostly used version 1 from the last milestone, but incorporated the best aspects of version 2, such as a different navigation bar style, centered text, and the bright purple color. Besides changing this styling, since the last milestone, I added my portfolio content and found a way to show thumbnails as well as full-scale images. I organized the images with display: inline-block, as a TA suggested. I also fixed a broken to link to my GitHub code for this site and spent a long time designing and styling the home page art. I made the current tab a different color for improved navigation clarity. I also changed some of the fonts and made all the contact logos match, and just generally made things look more polished.

Testing:

I tested my website with two upperclassmen computer science students, since I could not test on actual employers. Since resume sites are common in our

major, they had some experience that helped them judge. I gave one the task of finding an example of some code I had written and the other the tasks of viewing a painting and sending me an email about it. Neither had too much trouble, but the one viewing my portfolio did not immediately realize you could click on images to enlarge. To fix this issue, I made the images transparent during hover and added a black border to hopefully make it more clear. I also received a comment that the white links did not show up well enough, so I slightly darkened the background. The test subject who viewed my resume thought that subsections were too difficult to find while scrolling quickly, so I increased padding and made each subsection title purple.

Above and Beyond:

I spent a long time on the visual design of my site, from creating art for the home page to carefully choosing and trying out different color schemes and fonts. I felt this would be very important to the audience since I am trying to advertise my art and design skills. I think my colors are visually interesting and my theme is clear in my navigation, page titles, and homepage art. I also think that with 5 main pages, my site is ambitious in terms of content, especially since I wrote so much for my resume and had to upload art photographs.

Questions:

I currently have two versions of each art picture- an individually square-cropped one and a full version, but I am sure there is a way to automate the cropping for thumbnails. How can I do this? Also, I want to make my site look good on different screen sizes- it currently looks horrendous on mobile. In particular, how can I make my navigation bar look better on mobile? If you can think of anything, is there anything I could add to make the site more fun and interactive?