Sarah Hand

PUI Homework 8

Homepage link: https://sarahj930.github.io/sjh_portfolio/#/

GitHub link to deployed files (minified): https://github.com/sarahj930/sjh_portfolio/tree/gh-pages

GitHub link to original files: https://github.com/sarahj930/sjh_portfolio

Part 1:

I made a portfolio site to host my design work and share a bit about myself. I share selected projects that I have completed and the details regarding the process I went through to achieve the final product. I also have some information about myself, including my background and my design philosophy. To make the site interesting apart from my projects, I added a unique SVG animation of my initials as well as animate on scroll features on the home page. On other pages, I included large pictures of myself and my work to add interest. The target audience is both my HCI peers and recruiters.

Part 2:

- Visit the home page of my site and immediately see the SVG animation on the home page. The animation will repeat upon refreshing the page or revisiting it.
- Scroll down to see my highlighted projects. They will fade in on scrolling down (used animate on scroll library).

- Scroll to my “KST Affinity” project, and click the carrot on the right to see details of the project and process. (This is the only detail page I implemented as an example of what it would look like).
- Scroll all the way down to the bottom to see my contact information (this is in the footer of every page). The links are interactive and will take you to my Linkedin and Instagram. My email is presented as static text because I always hate when I click on emails and it opens up my email app.
- Back at the top, find the navigation bar and click About Me to navigate to that page. Here, you can read information about and see a picture of me.
- Click on the “Resume” tile in the navigation bar to download my resume.
- Click on the “Contact” tile in the navigation bar to see a full page with my contact information.
- Click on either my name or the “My Work” tile in the navigation bar to return to the home page.

Part 3:

React

- I chose to use React because I had never made a React app before and this felt like a good time to learn and experiment.
- I used it to make the whole UI of the website. I made functional components that took in props and for every page of the website I rendered a set of these components, passing in the content I wanted to display using the props.

- If it had not been my first time attempting to use React, I think it would have made it easier to implement given that you can reuse components easily. It just took me more time than it would have using vanilla JS because of the learning curve, but I'm glad I learned!

Bootstrap

- I chose to use Bootstrap because I had never used it before and did not really know what it was helpful for. I wanted to learn how to use it.
- I used it to make the navigation bar and the layout of the websites (rows, columns). It was extremely helpful in making the site responsive and it was much easier to implement compared to doing it by hand.
- It added a consistent and effective navigation bar and easy to use layout that easily become responsive. The biggest thing it added was easy responsiveness – I didn't have to worry about too much in this area because Bootstrap was so useful!

Animate on Scroll Library

- I chose to use AOS because I had seen interesting scroll animations on other websites and wanted to learn how it worked. I didn't know it would be as easy as using an AOS library which was great.
- I used it to add a fade up animation on all of the project components on the home page of my website. I decided not to use it on any other page because it felt overused if I continued it onto all the other pages. To implement, I imported the library and just had to add a couple of lines of code in the app level component and in the components I wanted to animate.

- It added a higher level of sophistication to my website. I think it looks much more professional, interesting, and dynamic with the AOS.

SVG Animation

- I chose to use SVG animation because I wanted to add something really cool to my website and I wanted to learn how it worked for future uses (I had never tried to use SVG animations before this).
- I used CSS to animate an SVG on my home page so that it looked like the site was drawing my initials. To implement this, I made an SVG file from a drawing of my initials that I made on my iPad and got the path from that file (this took a lot of attempts). Once I had the right path, I used CSS to adjust the dash-array and dash-offset of the stroke to the length of the path. Then, in keyframes I adjusted the dash-offset to 0 when it reached 100%. Using this method, the animation is formed from a dash the length of the path traveling the SVG path and restarting at the beginning when it gets to the end. The result is the appearance of the initials being drawn in!
- I think the animation adds something really interesting to the site as well as some personality. When the user enters the site, they are greeted by something really unexpected and cool which intrigues them to explore the rest of my work. It is likely very different from a lot of other portfolios.

React Hash Router

- I decided to use Hash Router basically because I had to. I that because I wanted to make a multi-page website with React, I would have to use a Router to connect the pages. I started with Browser Router, then, when I wanted to host the site on GitHub pages, I had to switch to Hash Router.

- I used Hash Router to connect all of the pages of my site together. In my top-level App component, I created different sets of components that would render on specific Hash paths to form each page. I then connected each link in the navigation bar and buttons on the page to the correct paths to render the new pages on click.
- It added necessary functionality to my site by allowing me to make a multi-page site. I did not want to make a single page site because it would get too confusing given the different components I wanted to include.

Part 4:

I followed the prototype from HW7 pretty closely for the majority of the website. On the home page, I added a new project that I wanted to make a detail page for (KST Affinity). On the project details page, I did not follow the layout I had prototyped because I had more content and less images than the prototype called for. I just ended up making a new Figma prototype for the layout given the content I needed to include. Finally, I added a contact page because I ran into issues linking to anchors to the contact footer of each page once I had to switch to Hash Router (it worked fine using Browser Router).

Part 5:

I ran into a lot of problems initially when trying to figure out how to start using React; there was a really steep learning curve just figuring out how to set it up and create/use components. I also had to try a lot of different things to get the SVG animation to work, and it ended up being a problem with path – I had to make sure the path was in the right order not only the right pattern. In the end, I had a lot of problems trying to get my site to deploy correctly – I tried both GitHub

pages and Netlify and ended up using GitHub pages and switching to HashRouter. There was also a steep learning curve with figuring out how to deploy correctly, but overall, I'm glad I spent this time working through these common issues so next time I will know what I'm doing a little better.

[Note: I'm not sure why but for me, there are errors in the console saying that it can't find the index.css, but it is clearly connected and working. If you see this, do not assume the index.css is not connected – it is. Likely has to do with the fact that the CSS file being used was minified during deploy]

Help Cited:

Starter React help:

- https://reactjs.org/docs/create-a-new-react-app.html
- https://medium.com/better-programming/creating-a-simple-app-with-react-js-f6aa88998952
- https://reactjs.org/docs/add-react-to-a-website.html

Bootstrap: https://react-bootstrap.github.io/

Navbar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0U0GzuFkEM

Page animations on scrolling:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcHLxzrsRS4&ab_channel=Arslan

AOS GitHub (used for animations on scrolling): https://github.com/michalsnik/aos#animations

Help with SVG line animation: https://medium.com/@sterling.meghan/svg-line-animation-for-beginners-51857c88357f

Creating an svg from png: http://zevross.com/blog/2019/03/21/convert-procreate-illustrations-into-web-friendly-svgs-for-interaction-and-animation/#step1

React router: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRfD8xIOroA&ab_channel=techsith