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Portfolio Card Sort
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Running card sorts on the content for my portfolio website was interesting and really helped inform some structural pieces that I hadn't thought of before. Even more helpful were the conversations around the card sorting from my roommates who weren't exactly sure what all of the content was. For instance, they weren't really sure what the "Recent Projects" and the "Recent Posts" were and why those would be different blocks of content than the general "Posts" or "Projects". After explaining, they would either place it in the group they thought represented the home page or they would just leave it as part of the respective page and have it be the first piece of content that a user sees. As you can see, they were pretty vocal in not only the sitemap but how they would lay out the rest of my website which was fun.

As far as the information architecture, I have decided to go with a very basic homepage, an about me page, a page for all of my blog posts and my projects and then a contact page where I will house my resume. Long term, I would like to have the resume be a dedicated page where I can develop it using HTML but right now, since it is just a PDF, I will simply link to it from the Contact page. This seemed to be the way my participants would want it too.

Originally, I was going to include the about me stuff and more biographical information on the homepage but after the card sort, that appeared to not be the best way to go about that. From the sessions that I did do, the participants had both the about me card and the photo of me card in their own group and would generally title that, "About Me" or something of that sort. I think that this makes the most sense as I want to be showcasing my work to my users and putting information about myself on the homepage didn't seem to be the best way to do that according to the responses I got.

Moving on to the next page, I want to include pictures and other assets for each project right on the project page itself. I think it would be beneficial and, judging from my participants and my persona, necessary to have the images there before you even select a project. It makes sense to have at least one asset to get a quick glance at the project before determining to dive in. I thought about this a lot when I was running through the card sort using the mentality of someone who is looking to hire me. I thought that I might not understand the title but that the photo of the project would give me a better understanding of the project.

Posts were pretty self explanatory. My participants had no trouble grouping them the exact way I figured they would be. Since they are kind of one their own, it made sense to both myself and my participants to give them their own page and keep them separate in that regard.

Contact was another fairly straightforward card. I originally thought, though, that I was going to put my phone number and email address in the footer or something so that it would be on every page but I don't think that is necessarily needed. After conversations with those that participated in the card sort, I think that by having the "Contact" tab as part of the navigation, meaning it will be on every page anyway, it would be redundant to have that information in the footer as well. With that said, I believe that I am going to have a simple form that users can fill out to send me a message as well as my contact information and my social media links. These were commonly grouped together so I will be putting all means of contact in one central location. This can also

help the user who is trying to hire me as they will know that this page will have every possible method for them to reach out to me.