

Assignment 2 Report

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What issues and problems did you notice with the some of the previous website and how did you address them?

Most issues came from the organization and aesthetics of the website rather than performance. To describe these, a page by page explanation will be used.

The first page that a student sees, which is the homepage looks quite boring. Also as most people using this website are future software developers, a dark theme is a necessity. So to revamp the boring homepage we used a dark theme, and added flex boxes. To make it *spicy* we added simple hover animations. When hovering over a card or a sub-element in the card we get a shadow, and when hovering over the title it zooms in (just in case the course name was unclear). To change the organization we transferred the information on the homepage to cards that look much more organized and clean.

The next page that we really overhauled was the "lectures" section which on this website is referred to as "syllabus". Organization-wise the main issue is the link placement. If one looks at the last 2 columns one will have a hard time differentiating what link is what. Also the names are pretty long when instead simpler names get the same information across. One can also see that the table that is currently being used is in fact quite boring. And since cards/boxes are more readable than tables, all information on the table was transferred over to cards. The links were also more spaced out with shorter more informative names for the worksheets and slides. Then again to add more *spice*, animations such as blue highlighting when hovering over links and shadows when hovering over cards.

Now tutorials, or on the website "labs" was pretty much the same situation as the "syllabus" or lecture section. And the changes that were made were pretty much the same, but since there was less information to add, the cards came out much smaller.

Assignments again is very similar to the above two. Instead of tables however, just a plain set of three in-text sections. This section, much like the homepage had a severe lack of *pizzazz*. Thus the procedure for the other sections was applied and all information found on that page was converted to readable cards. The *pizzazz* was found in the application of color and CSS animation. When hovering over the due date, an alerting and frankly intimidating red glow follows to give a sense of urgency, but when hovering over the "Submit to Gradescope" button a calming and encouraging green glow follows instead. Then for the two files for the assignment itself, a blue highlight was used.

piazza and markus was kept as a simple redirect. The calendar page also remained the same. For the feedback section an embedded google form was used, for both functionality and looks.

Challenges faced

Most of the challenges we faced was due to our ambitious wire frame and our desire to follow it, and also add our own spin on things. For example, to get the hover animations as well as the flex boxes to work we faced many challenges as they often did not flow the way we wanted them to, or animate the way we wanted them to. And as the case usually is for these types of problems, research was the solution. We researched and read numerous guides and YouTube videos to get the website done. We also consulted the websites the professors provided for us for supplementary information on how to work with flexbox designs and grid styling guides.

One of the specific challenges I personally faced was figuring out how to make the footer. At first, I thought it was simply going to be another block of HTML code after the code of every page, but it wasn't turning out how I wanted it to. I had to change the position of the footer and make it relative instead of

fixed so it would show up at the end of the page, not just at the bottom of the screen even if we are not at the bottom of the page.