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Link: https://smcgibbon516.github.io/index4.html

Part 1) In 300 words (only!) describe your website (I will stop reading at 300 words, so please be concise). Include the following:

- i. What is the purpose of your website?
- ii. What information do you convey with your website?
- iii. How is it interesting and engaging?
- iv. Who is the target audience?

For Assignment 8, I created a portfolio website to host those projects which I hope to share with recruiters, colleagues, and peers in the technology and human-computer interaction community. The selection projects that will eventually be hosted on my portfolio website (for now it contains only one called “Tutoroo,” intended to act as an exemplar/template for future projects) will communicate the breadth and depth of my learning and professional experiences thus far, at CMU and beyond. Be it that the website is intended to serve as a vehicle for viewing my work (and less of an artifact in its own right) I wanted to avoid over-the-top animations that might distract from my work. Therefore, the functions, features, and animations included are intended to be somewhat minimalistic, meant to enhance the user experience only insofar as it concerns viewing and consuming the work to be hosted on the site. The website is intended to be consumed primarily by recruiters and colleagues in HCI, however it’s quite likely that it will also be shared with friends and peers.

Part 2: Use a bulleted list to describe how a user would interact with your website. For each item in your list, say:

- The interaction type you implemented
- How I should reproduce is (i.e. click on X on page Y, or scroll on page X, etc)

- **ON HOME PAGE**
    - Scroll down to view the various projects, written articles, “about me” section, and contact form. Note how, as you scroll, each section header (“Stu McGibbon,” “Projects,” “Writing” etc) changes appearance as it enters the viewport. Also note that the corresponding item in the main nav (top of the screen) highlights at the same time.
    - Hover over the items listed in the main navigation bar at the top of the screen (“Projects,” “Writing” etc) and note how the hover effects compel the user to click and explore.
    - Click on any item in the main navigation bar to navigate to the corresponding section on the homepage (with the exception of “resume,” which simply opens a copy of my resume in a new browser tab). Note the scroll effect/animation that

occurs as the webpage navigates to the corresponding anchor, and how each section header “highlights” as you do.
    - Hover over each content card in either the “Projects” or “Writing” Section. Note the overlay transition effect which provides the user with a preview of the kind of content they will read about inside, and invites them to click in.
    - Navigate to the contact form (under “get in touch”) and fill in your name, email, and a message for me. Click send and, assuming the site is live, I’ll receive your message in my email inbox.
    - Click on the buttons at the bottom of the page, in the footer, to navigate to either my medium or linkedin page.
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- **ON EXAMPLE PROJECT PAGE (“Tutoroo”)**
    - Scroll down past the header image to activate the Side Navigation menu (note, browser width must be 1200 pixels wide or greater). This menu will act as a table of contents, allowing the user to click through to various anchor points in the case study (e.g. “intro,” “research,” “prototype” etc). Each menu item also highlights as the user enters the corresponding section of the case study (so “research” would highlight as the user is viewing the research section, for example).
    - Scroll to the very bottom of the case study to find the live embeded Invision prototype of the project described (the Tutoroo Mobile app). The prototype is a fully interactive iframe element, demonstrating the final results of my work on the project.
    - On either the project page or the home page, make the browser window very narrow to activate the dropdown hamburger menu. Click the menu button to open the dropdown and view the menu options (projects, writing, about me, etc.) and note the hover effects. Click the menu button again to toggle the dropdown, or simply make the browser window wider (with the dropdown menu open) and observe that the dropdown closes automatically and the hamburger menu reverts to the main navigation.

Part 3: Describe what external tool you used (JavaScript Library, Web API, animations, other) Following the bulleted list format below, reply to each of the prompts.

- Name of tool
- Why you chose to use it?
- How you used it?
- What it adds to your website?

NOTE: I used multiple external tools, though each varied tremendously in complexity and the extent to which I used it on the website.

- **External Tools Used:**
    - ScrollReveal (JS Library)
    - Bootstrap (Front End Framework)

    - Material Design for Bootstrap (JS Library)
    - Formspree.io (Contact Form API)
    - Invision Embed (... possibly an API?)
- **Why I chose them:**
    - **Material Design for Bootstrap (JS Library)** -- The MDB library made it very easy to implement the more complex hover-state animations that I wanted to use with my content cards (projects, writing) and nav buttons.
    - **ScrollReveal (JS Library) --** The ScrollReveal library made it incredibly easy to implement a subtle "lazy load" effect on my homepage (i.e. sections load as you scroll down the page)
    - **Formspree.io** -- Though I had originally locked into using custom PHP or the AWS API to implement a contact form for my website, I discovered that the formspree.io API would allow me to turn a static form into a contact page that would actually direct email to my inbox with literally one line of code.
- **How I used them:**
    - **Material Design for Bootstrap (JS Library)** -- I used this library to implement simple yet appealing hover- and active-state animations on the buttons in my nav, the content cards on the home page, etc.
    - **ScrollReveal (JS Library) --** I used the scroll reveal library to implement simple "lazy load" effects on my home page, with a single line of code in the header and another corresponding to each section (ex: <div data-sr id="section2">)
    - **Formspree.io** -- I dropped a single line of code courtesy of the Formspree API into my contact form to make it live (<form class="contact-form" action="https://formspree.io/stuart@mcgibbon.com" method="POST" />) This form will now send messages from visitors on my site directly to my inbox.
- **What it adds to your website?**
    - **Material Design for Bootstrap (JS Library)** -- The simple yet attractive state animations make the website more engaging, more visually appealing, and in some cases more usable (e.g. the ability to give users a preview of the project/article content when they hover over the content card).
    - **ScrollReveal (JS Library) --** This library mainly adds a slight aesthetic boost to my website, as the "lazy load' animation effect contributes to the professional appearance of the site. It might also make the page load faster, as not all elements have to be properly loaded the first time the user loads the page.
    - **Formspree.io** -- This API is tremendously important for adding functionality to my site. I had originally tried to implement this form using custom PHP or more complex API's but given the time constraints, this very simple API made it possible for me to host a live, functioning contact form so that visitors to my website can actually get in contact with me!

Part 4: Describe how you iterated on your HW7 Mockups, if at all, including changes you made to your original design while you were implementing your website.

My design ideas changed quite a lot between the original submission and my actual implementation, mainly due to time constraints and my own current technical limitations. Though I had originally intended to implement a chatbot, I realized that doing so was a very complex undertaking in its own right, and after talking to Jason, he suggested that I first focus on implementing a simple, solid portfolio site, and then think about adding flashy, more complex features like a chatbot. As I explored the types of APIs and Javascript libraries that were available, and learned about what they could help me do, I made changes to my homepage design based on the ideas that I got whilst exploring.

Part 5: What challenges did you experience in implementing your website? (2-4 sentences max)

There were no shortage of challenging moments throughout the project. Early on, I faced many challenges concerning my attempts to implement a chatbot API, and later, to implement my contact form using more complex APIs, and after considering the time constraints, these challenges led me to make changes to my plan for the assignment. Later on, I experienced many challenges making (and keeping) the website responsive, as after I would make changes to my code or implement new features (i.e. the dropdown menu, the table of contents sidenav) i found that these new elements would break the existing patterns that had previously been responsive. The last (and perhaps most frustrating) challenge I faced whilst working on my project was getting it to go live on github, as only after pushing I realized that github had case-sensitivities and dependencies that caused all of the images on my page to fail to load (even though they had loaded just fine locally). After fixing all of the file names repeatedly, I'm still not positive that everything is loading properly.