

Assignment 8 - Prototyping a Web Portfolio (Final Project Pt. 2)

Personal Portfolio Writeup

Portfolio link: <https://songyh1996.github.io/portfolio>

Part 1.

The purpose of my website is to showcase my design work and to introduce myself as a user experience designer - it's a portfolio. There are many information on the website, most of them are my project processes and final results of the projects I've done as a designer. It also includes my goal and vision as a designer, and finally my résumé.

To make the website interesting and engaging, I used subtle animation effects to grab the user's attention from the get-go. The thumbnails of the projects will also slowly ease in, giving users satisfaction of a well animated website. Each project pages include images and moving gif files to keep the user engaged, and to assist their understanding of my process work. The About Us page includes a custom made SVG animation, which was very fun to experiment with, which showcases my skill as a designer who is also able to work on front-end development environment using React.

The target audiences are the recruiters of various corporations, and designers in design teams who are seeking to recruit new user experience designers to their team.

Part 2.

1. Navigation Bar Resizing
 - i. I implemented an interaction where the navigation bar gently resizes when the user scrolls down the website.
 - ii. To reproduce, please scroll down the homepage, and you will see the navigation bar creating a gentle shadow, and shrinking vertically to maximize content view. Scroll up to the top to restore the original size of the navigation bar.
2. About Me Page Custom SVG Animation
 1. I implemented a custom SVG animation, a custom built animation using SVG image files and continuous loop of animation.
 2. Please go to the About Me page, and you will see the wave-form animation looping itself for visual appeal.
3. Project Info Box Dissolve Appear
 1. I implemented an interaction where when the user travels to a project details page, the project detail box will gently appear with smooth animation.

2. Please go to any of the project details page, and you will see the project details box appear immediately.
4. Hover effect on all images
 1. I implemented a hover effect for all image files, which will gently get larger for better view.
 2. Please travel to any project details page, hover of any of the images, and you will see the image get larger while hovered on.

Part 3.

1. ReactJS
2. React is very useful because it supports reusable components. Because my product detail pages share very similar structure that requires only some modifications, it made sense to use React's reusable component system to reduce development time and maximize code reusability. It has very high scalability when I have more projects in the future.
3. Each major <div>s in my portfolio are created using reusable components - items such as project thumbnails in the index page, navigation bar, footer, project details introduction section, and paragraph formats are all made using components.
4. React's component system runs much faster than other frameworks in terms of performance. As I have a lot of animations, large images and other contents, React has given me a huge performance boost. Current website loads significantly faster than my previous portfolio websites (Squarespace, Wix, etc).

Part 4.

First change I made is the font stack. Previously I combined Larseit and Roboto Mono, but I quickly realized that Roboto Mono does not combine well with Larseit, so I changed everything to Larseit. Second change I made is the layout of the product details page. The boxed layout seemed too confined, so I removed the boxes to give more breathing room to the content.

Part 5.

Understanding how Components, Props, and States work was a bit challenging. Since it required me to manage multiple files that communicated with each other, it was very hard to grasp the concept of a component system. Hosting the website on github was also challenging, as router modifications were required to make the navigation paths for the url correct.