

Communication Labs

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Assignment 1



**“Time.Lapse”
30MFF Website**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of this project was to create a web page to showcase a 90-second timelapse video created as part of the 30 Minute Film Festival (30MFF). The web page was designed with a focus on branding the film and telling its story. An interactive element was also incorporated into the web page to enhance the user experience.

The project centered the story of the webpage around the timelapse video itself. To achieve this goal, a website was created that not only showcased the video but also taught visitors how to create their own timelapse videos. The website includes a home page, a tutorial section, and a gallery of timelapse videos.

This documentation report details the process of video production, creating the web page, including the design decisions, implementation steps, and challenges faced along the way. The report also provides a detailed description of the interactive element incorporated into the web page and the thought process behind its selection.

This is the working link to the [final website](#).

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Concept

The concept for the website was centered around the timelapse video and the goal of teaching visitors how to create their own timelapse videos. The website was designed to be both informative and visually appealing.

The home page was created as a landing page with links to the tutorial section and the gallery of timelapse videos.

The tutorial section was created to provide visitors with step-by-step instructions on how to create their own timelapse videos. The section included detailed explanations of the equipment needed, the software used, and the techniques involved in creating timelapse videos.

The gallery of timelapse videos was created to showcase some examples. It was designed to house the 30MFF timelapse video and to provide inspiration to visitors looking to create their own timelapse videos.

2.2 Inspiration and Target Audience

The inspiration for this project came from my personal interest and love for timelapse videos. I was inspired by the unique storytelling opportunities presented by timelapse videos, as well as the technical challenges involved in creating them.

The target audience for the website includes anyone interested in creating capturing scenarios through time, from beginners to more advanced users. The website was designed to be accessible to visitors with varying levels of technical expertise, with the tutorial section providing step-by-step instructions and the gallery of timelapse videos providing inspiration and examples.

3. VIDEO PRODUCTION

The process of video production involved a number of steps, including storyboarding the idea, setting up and recording, and finally editing.

3.1 Storyboard

The storyboard for the video was one frame long that defined the placement of the camera and the scene that was supposed to be captured.

3.2 Video Recording and Editing

The recording took place during the 30-min Film Festival. The timelapse video for this project was recorded near the fountains beside the Campus Center at New York University Abu Dhabi with the Palms standing in the background. The camera angle was set up from the bottom up on a tripod, and the time interval was set to capture one frame every 5 seconds.

After capturing the video, it was imported into Adobe Premiere Pro for editing. The footage was cut and made into the appropriate length. To enhance the visual experience of the timelapse video, stock music was added that went with the vibe of the video. Animated cinematic black bars were also added to the top and bottom of the video, providing a cinematic look and feel.

Once the editing was completed, the video was exported in the highest codec of H.264 (mp4 format) to ensure the best quality for viewers. The final result is a visually stunning timelapse video that captures the beauty of the location and showcases the technical skills involved in creating timelapse videos.

This is the link to the [hosted video](#).

4. WEBSITE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The process of website designing and implementation involved a number of steps like creating wireframes, thinking on UI and UX elements, and finally coding the final website.

4.1 Wireframing

The wireframe of the website was created on Figma and designed for desktop screens only. This is the link to the [initial wireframe](#). There have been some changes in the initial wireframe that have accumulated through the process of creating the website.

4.2 Creative Design – UI and UX

The user interface and user experience decisions of the website were carefully thought out to create an memorable experience for the user. Fonts like "Questrial" and "Inter" were selected with appropriate text and background color, font weights, and font sizes to enhance the overall visual appeal. The Navbar was designed to include the [website logo](#) and increase easy navigation to different parts of the website. Hover effects were added to the Navbar elements to add to the interactivity of the website.

The background image on the homepage immediately conveyed a huge part of what the website was about to the audience. Several elements of interactivity were added throughout the “Tutorial” and “Explore” sections with content fading in and out with scroll animations. The overall color theme of the website was built over alternating black and white, and even the scrollbar was styled to match the color theme with hover effects added.

The tutorial section was particularly long, so a navigation arrow was added to ensure that the user could go back to the home section at any time from any place on the website. All of these design decisions contributed to an enhanced user interface and user experience.

4.3 Technical Design

The website was implemented using vanilla HTML, CSS, and JS. Some of the important pieces of code are highlighted below.

Navbar – Element Hovering

“index.html”

```
<!-- Navbar -->
<header class="header" id="heading1">
  <!-- Logo -->
  <a href="index.html" id="logo"></a>
  <nav>
    <ul class="nav_links">
      <!-- Linking Navbar options to different sections of
the website -->
      <li><a href="#section2">Tutorial</a></li>
      <li><a href="#section3">Explore</a></li>
    </ul>
  </nav>
</header>
```

“style.css”

```
.nav_links li:hover {
  scale: 1.08;
  cursor: default;
}

.nav_links li a:hover {
  color: cyan;
}
```

Interactivity using Scroll Animations

“style.css”

```
/* Used for scroll animation */

.hidden-steps {
  opacity: 0;
  filter: blur(3px);
  transition: all 1.5s;
}

.show-steps {
  opacity: 1;
  filter: blur(0);
}

@media(prefers-reduced-motion) {
  .hidden-steps {
    opacity: 0;
    filter: blur(5px);
    transition: all 1.75s;
  }
}
```

“app.js”

```
// Making an IntersectionObserver object and defining a specific
// function to excute
const observer = new IntersectionObserver((entries) => {
  entries.forEach((entry) => {
    console.log(entry);
    // Switching between adding and removing the show-steps class
    based
    if (entry.isIntersecting) {
      entry.target.classList.add("show-steps");
    }
    else {
      entry.target.classList.remove("show-steps");
    }
  });
});

// reference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T33NN\_pPeNI

// Selecting DOM Elements
const hiddenSteps = document.querySelectorAll(" .hidden-steps");

// Executing the observe function for each element with the specific
// class
hiddenSteps.forEach((elem) => observer.observe(elem));
```

Explore Timelapses section – Iframe Integration

“index.html”

```
<div class="hidden-steps">
  <!-- Videos embedded as iframes from Vimeo -->
  <iframe
src="https://player.vimeo.com/video/795127011?h=a72cd106e4"
width="1200" height="550"
    frameborder="0" allow="autoplay; fullscreen"
allowfullscreen></iframe>
  <p>CommLab 30MFF Timelapse</p>
</div>
```

Scrollbar Designing

“style.css”

```
/* Styling Scrollbar */
/* width */
::-webkit-scrollbar {
  width: 7px;
}

/* Track */
::-webkit-scrollbar-track {
  background: #000;
}

/* Handle */
::-webkit-scrollbar-thumb {
  background: #fff;
  border-radius: 5px;
}

/* Handle on hover */
::-webkit-scrollbar-thumb:hover {
  background: cyan;
}
```

The Navigation Arrow

“style.css”

```
.go-to-top {
  position: fixed;
  right: 100px;
  bottom: 100px;
  /* background-color: yellow; */
  height: 35px;
  width: 35px;
```

```
}
```

“app.js”

```
// To find the location of the scrollbar
window.addEventListener("scroll", (event) => {
  let scroll = this.scrollTop;

  // When the scrollbar hits a particular point in the website,
  toggle between display block and none
  if (scroll > 900) {
    up_arrow.style.display = "block";
  }
  else {
    up_arrow.style.display = "none";
  }
});
```

5. KEY CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

- Deciding on an appropriate color scheme and font pairing that would be visually appealing to the user and enhance the overall design of the website. To address this challenge, a lot of research and experimentation was done to find the perfect pair that would enhance the overall design of the website. The selected font and color scheme was tested with a focus group to ensure that it was visually appealing and aligned with the website's objectives.
- Creating a tutorial section that was both informative and engaging, while keeping it easy to understand for beginners. To address this challenge, the tutorial section was designed to include step-by-step instructions with visual aids to make it easier for beginners to understand. The language used in the tutorial was kept simple and friendly to make it engaging for the user.
- Another challenge we faced was with integrating scroll animations into the website. I wanted to make sure that the content faded in and out as the user scrolled through the page. After trying various methods, I finally settled on using the Intersection Observer in JavaScript to achieve the desired effect. This allowed me to trigger animations as the user scrolled through the page, and greatly accentuated the overall user experience.
- Finally making the website navigable to the home section from every place of the website required the implementation of a navigation arrow that would remain at a fixed position throughout the website, clicking which would immediately take the user to the home screen. The challenge here was to make the arrow appear only after the user entered the tutorial section. Finally, the fix was to use a scroll event

listener and find toggle the navigation arrow between display block and none based on the scrollY position of the scrollbar.

6. REFLECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Reflecting on the entire project, I am incredibly satisfied with the final result. The original concept of creating a website that teaches how to create a timelapse was fully realized, and the final working version exceeded my expectations. Throughout the process, I faced various challenges, but I was able to overcome them through extensive research and experimentation.

I am particularly proud of the creative design of the website, with the careful selection of fonts, colors, and images, as well as the integration of interactive elements to enhance the overall user experience. The video recording and editing process was also a great learning experience for me, and I was able to utilize new skills in video production and editing to create an engaging timelapse video.

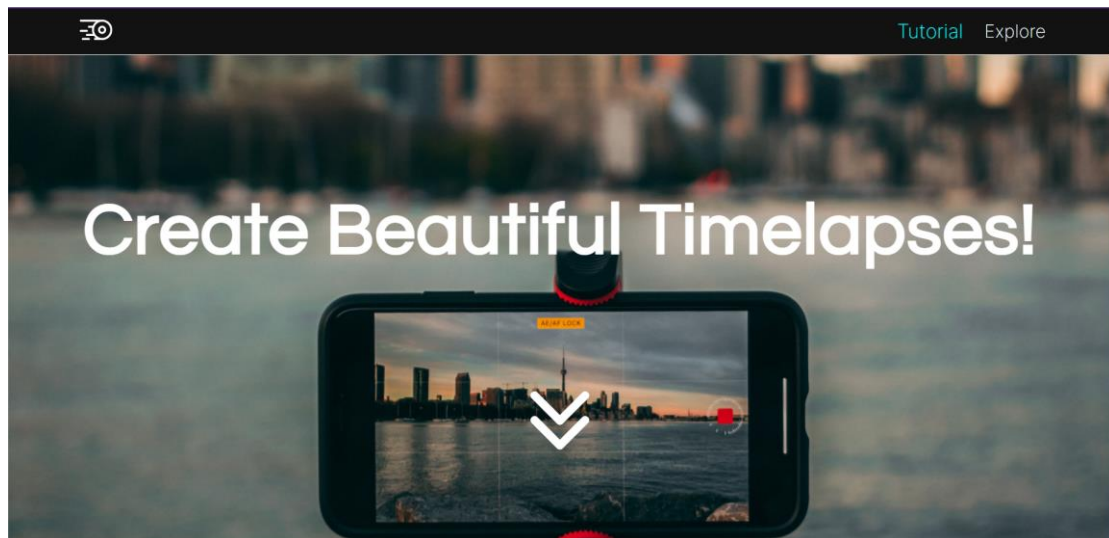
As for the next steps and potential improvements, the website could be made more user-interactive by adding a form element to accept video links from people, storing them in a database, and hosting them live on a Community section of the page. This would encourage people to share their work and appreciate other people's work.

7. REFERENCES

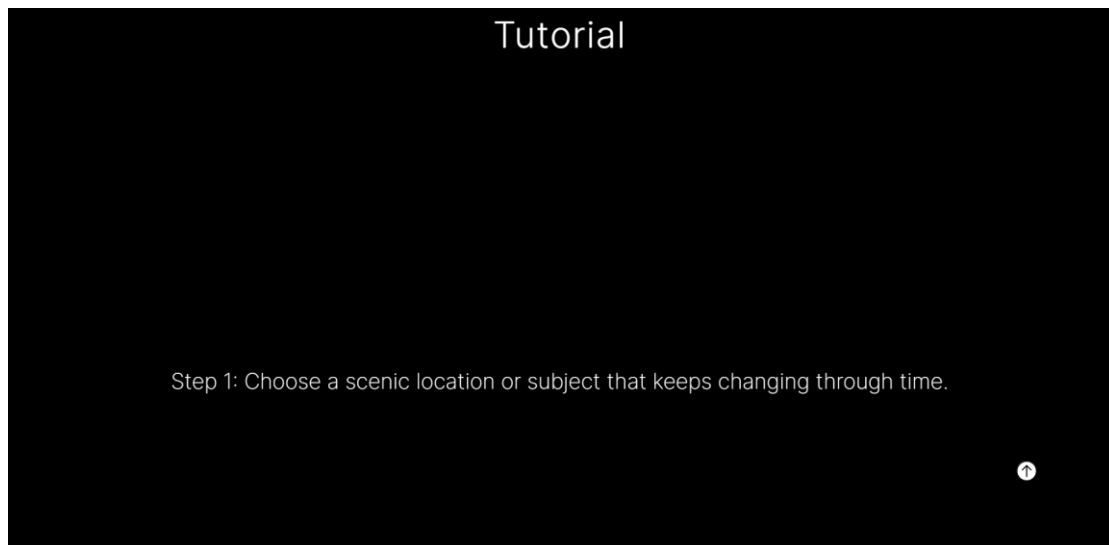
- [1] Beyond Fireship (2022, September 14). *Subtle, yet Beautiful Scroll Animations* [Video]. YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T33NN_pPeNI
- [2] *How to Create a Custom Scrollbar*. W3Schools: https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css_custom_scrollbar.asp
- [3] *How can I get the scrollbar position with JavaScript?* (2010, March 20). Stack Overflow: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2481350/how-can-i-get-the-scrollbar-position-with-javascript>
- [4] Photo by Sergey Pesterev on Unsplash. *Time Lapse Photography of Waterfalls Photo*. Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com/photos/wZLsZ9DRLSI>
- [5] Photo by Aditya Chinchure on Unsplash. *Selective Focus Photography of Black Camera Photo*. Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com/photos/gpJzBlvKt2w>
- [6] Photo by KOBU Agency on Unsplash. *Silhouette Photo of Person Holding Camera on Tripod Stand Outside Photo*. Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com/photos/4H67yWYO2-M>
- [7] Photo by Peter Stumpf on Unsplash. *Flat Screen Monitor Photo*. Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com/photos/yk9VXp4W5-Q>

8. GALLERY

Homepage



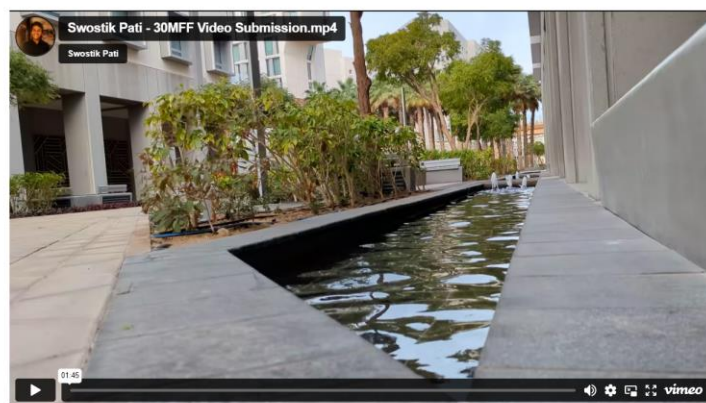
Tutorial Page





Explore Page

Explore Timelapses



CommLab 30MFF Timelapse