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Programming Usable Interfaces Section B

Assignment 8: Implementing a Web Portfolio/Tool Project

**Part 1**

For this project, I created a web portfolio as a platform to showcase my experiences and skillsets. I hope to share the site with people who might be interested in the work that I do academically and in my free, such as friends, peers, and recruiters. The content of the website includes my portfolio of work, my resume, and more about me. Each of my project pages aims to showcase my thinking and processes in addition to final products for a range of topics, from web development to graphic design. The three projects that I have highlighted include my Fluff Stuff Web Development Project from Programming Usable Interfaces, my Typography Poster from Communication Design Fundamentals, and a speaker event promotional material for TEDxCMU.

I want any visitor to my web portfolio to feel like I am personally introducing myself and my work to them, and I utilized relevant interactions to convey that feeling. The immediate engaging element is the simulated typed greeting on my landing page. Additional interesting interactions that make the user experience more seamless include an animated navigation bar, project thumbnail overlays, and a fade transition for my web pages.

**Part 2: Interactions**

1. **Interactive Landing Page**: Load landing page for a simulated typed-out greeting.
2. **Animated Navigation Bar**: Hover over any item in the navigation bar to see an animated underline that indicates the item the user is inspecting.
3. **Fade-in Effect on Load**: Scroll down any web page to see a fade-in transition of content and elements.
4. **Thumbnail Overlay**: Hover over any project thumbnail on the “Works” page to trigger an overlay that provides more information about the project the user is inspecting.
5. **Project Details**: Click any project thumbnail on the “Works” page for more in-depth documentation and relevant images of the project process.
6. **Image Carousel**: Click left or right arrow on the image carousel on the “Type Poster” project page to see and compare the different iterations of the project.
7. **External Documents Access**: Click “Resume” in the navigation bar in order to access a PDF version of my resume.

**Part 3: External Tools**

1. **Bootstrap – Grid Layout & Carousel Plug-In**
   1. I used bootstrap to implement specific functions and features that I didn’t necessarily have the skillsets to use from scratch. I also used it because it is compatible on the various devices that might be accessing my project.
   2. I use bootstrap for two main aspects of my website. I used the pre-established “row” and “col” classes in my HTML for the composition of my content and site responsiveness. I then used the carousel plug-in to display the images of multiple project iterations.
   3. Both of these features enhanced the usability of my website. With the grid system, users can access my project from different resolutions. With the carousel, users can easily view and compare the different iterations of the project without having to jump back and forth across a long and cluttered web page.
2. **JS library – Scroll Reveal** 
   1. I chose to use this library because of its simplicity and ease of implementation.
   2. I used this feature on loading each of my web pages. It allows the page to load elements that are close to the user’s location on the web page.
   3. This feature takes away the static feeling of the pages. As they scroll through a page, users can see that the page is responding to their actions.
3. **Animation - Type Writer Effect**
   1. I chose to use this specific typewriter effect animation because of how closely it mimics the actual typing.
   2. I used this animation to simulate a typed greeting on my landing page. The original code was only formatted for one sentence, so I had to adapt the code for the multi-line effect that I wanted.
   3. This animation adds a personal touch to my website, as if someone is writing to a personal greeting to the user.
4. **Animation - Animated Underline Effect** 
   1. I chose to use this animation because of its simplicity and relative ease of implementation.
   2. I implemented this feature in my navigation bar to underline the specific item that the user is hovering over.
   3. This feature takes away the static feeling of the navigation bar. Users can see the underline following their movement across the different navigation elements.
5. **Animation – Thumbnail Overlay**
   1. I chose to use this animation example from w3school.com because of its ease of use and extensive documentation.
   2. I use this feature on my “Works” page to display more information about each project when the user hovers over the corresponding thumbnail.
   3. This feature helps avoid cluttering the website by hiding unnecessary information when not in use.

**Part 4: Iterations**

Since my proposal, I made some minor adjustments to the layout in order to enhance and balance the composition of the page. I moved my heading logo from the center to the left side of the page to avoid cluttering the navigation bar. The main difference from my proposal would be moving the introduction interaction that I originally planned on the “About Me” page to my landing page. I did this because I felt that the interaction could better capture the users’ attention on a prominent page such as the landing page instead of the less-accessible “About Me” page.

**Part 5: Challenges**

I ran into some challenges in adapting external sources, such as implementing the typewriter effect. The reference I found on Code Pen only allowed for single-line typing, so I had to play around with the HTML and JavaScript to accommodate the multi-line typing I had in mine. I also found it quite difficult to make my site responsive, as I had never done it before. I looked up and learned the bootstrap grid system and media query functionality in order to implement it.