CS 463 Personal Website Documentation

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Project Overview

Description

This project is Timofey Shichalin's final project for the class CS 463 (Introduction to Web Development) at Portland State University (winter 2023). The project is a multi-page website that introduces Timofey Shichalin professionally and displays his past experience (education, skills, projects, etc). The project is deployed and can be viewed here: https://timshicha.github.io/cs463-personal-website/.

Project Initialization

This project was initialized using npx create-react-app.

Getting Started

Running this project locally requires some setting up. You may follow the steps below to get this project running:

1) Install Git and Node on your machine.

Git download: https://git-scm.com/

Node download: https://nodejs.org/en/download/.

- 2) Clone the repository. In Powershell (or an equivalent terminal), enter git clone https://github.com/timshicha/cs463-personal-website to clone the repository in the current directory.
- 3) Enter into the cloned repository using cd cs463-personal-website and run npm install. This will install all of the required dependencies to run the app, creating a node modules directory.
- 4) Run the project locally using npm run start. This will start the project locally. You can view the project on (http://localhost:3000).

Making Changes and Contributing

Once you've started running the project using npm run start, any changes you make to the project will be automatically reflected in the webpage on localhost.

Deployment (on GitHub Pages)

If you want to deploy the website on your own GitHub page, create your own git remote repository. Prior to deployment, open the package.json file and configure the homepage variable (line 4) to the domain you'll be deploying the project on. If you'll be deploying on GitHub pages, your domain will be

https://<YOUR_GITHUB_USERNAME>.github.io/<YOUR_REPOSITORY_NAME>/. Then, run the GitHub deployment script using npm run deploy (or npm run deploy -m "message"). This will create an optimized build of the project and push it to the gh-pages branch of your repository. When setting up the project to run from GitHub pages, select the project to deploy the builds from the branch gh-pages (root). This will automatically redeploy when new builds are pushed to the gh-pages branch.

Code Format and Structure

File Structure

The project uses the following file structure (important files are included):

- public
 - o index.html (can access files only in the same directory using %public%)
- src
 - o assets (holds all imported content [like images] that is used in the project)
 - components (holds components that can be reused by many pages)
 - o pages (holds the pages; the React router in scr/routes.jsx uses these pages)
 - styles (holds the stylesheets used in the project)

Code Formatting

The code was auto-formatted using the Prettier extension in VSCode.

- Indentation: 2 spaces
- Quotation rules:
 - JS/jsx code: single quotes
 - o HTML code embedded within JS/jsx: double guotes
 - CSS: single quotes

JSX code (enclosed in curly braces) may appear inside the embedded HTML code. This code is also to be in single quotes.

Code Documentation (src)

index.jsx

This file renders the app content in the index.html file.

routes.jsx

This file is responsible for rendering the proper component (that is, pages) when the user's path changes. More pages can be added using the <Route> tag, with the attribute path specifying the user's path and the attribute element specifying the component (or page) to render.

components

Navbar

The Navbar component places a navigation bar at the top of the page. Really, the Navbar is two navigation bars: the first one is the horizontal navigation bar you see on wide screens, and the second is the vertical expandable navbar that appears on narrower (or mobile) screens. Depending on the width size (see media queries in src/styles/Navbar.css), one of the Navbars will be visible while the other one is hidden.

menuExpanded

This variable only affects the appearance of the page when the screen is narrow and the expandable navigation bar is present. The expanded navigation bar list will only be visible when menuExpanded is set to true. To update menuExpanded, use the setMenuExpanded function. This function is already called when the user clicks the hamburger icon (three horizontal lines icon).

SocialMedia

The SocialMedia component is a div with two icons: LinkedIn and GitHub. Clicking on them redirects the user to Timofey's LinkedIn or GitHub profile.

The images were downloaded from https://icons.getbootstrap.com/.

pages

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AboutMe

The AboutMe page consists of a grid that changes in structure when the width of the window changes. On wider screens, the grid is composed of two columns (text area and photo/social area). On narrower screens, the grid is one column (two rows). The photo/social area is directly above the text area.

Contact

The Contact page allows the user to create a message and simulate sending it (it's actually non-functional). When the user submits, the fields they entered are examined. If any of them is empty, an alert message is displayed. If they properly fill out the form, it gets printed in the console and the user gets redirected back to the home (About Me) page.

Previous Work

The PreviousWork page displays some of Timofey's skills and accomplishments. The page contains expandable sections. A maximum of one section can be expanded at any time. CSS transitions allow the sections to expand and collapse smoothly (see src/styles/PreviousWork.css).

expanded

This variable holds the name of the section that's currently expanded (or null). When a user clicks the expand button on any of the sections, this variable is updated using setExpanded. Each of the expanded sections has a className attribute that adds the class expanded-sz when the section is the one that should be expanded. This class changes the expanded section's height from 0px to 150px, allowing the content to be visible.

Projects

The Projects page displays a few projects. Each project is displayed using a grid. On wider screens, the image is displayed alongside the project descriptions. On narrower screens, the Project description is displayed below the project image. For more specific details, see the media queries in src/styles/Projects.css.

styles

The stylesheets are stored in the styles directory. Each page and component has its own style sheet for styles that are specific to that page or component. Styles that are used across the app (in more than one component) are placed in styles/GeneralStyels.css.

External Resources Used

- https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS
- https://icons.getbootstrap.com/