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Homework 8

Part 1

I.   The purpose of this website is to give the reader an idea of who I am as a person, as well as the type of work I do.

II. By including both overviews and more detailed descriptions of my projects in the "Software" tab, the reader can glean what types of projects I am interested in. In addition, readers can take a look at my photography. This allows the reader to know that I am well-rounded and have interests outside of my work.

III. My website engages users with a simplistic, responsive design. On each page, I only include the information necessary to convey my purpose, and nothing more. I have small transitions across the website that help the user better engage with elements on my site. The use of animated components and links as well as responding to the user's scroll makes my website more fun to use.

IV. My primary target audience is potential employers. Hopefully, they will land on my website after reading my general qualifications on my resume, and learn more about both my professional side and my hobbies. My secondary target audience is anybody who wants to learn more about me.

Part 2

- When hovering over the items in my navbar, there is a transition to show the user which item they are about to select. This is more pleasing to the eye and gives the user an idea of what page they are about to go to.

- Given a window size small enough to require a scrollbar, while scrolling, the two lines under the navbar fade away. They come back when scrolling back to the top, to act as a separator between the navbar and the rest of the page.

- Clicking any item on the navbar brings the user to the respective page. These are normal links.

- On the "Photography" page, users can click on any photo to zoom into a photo lightbox. From there, they can zoom by clicking on the photo, or go to the next/previous photos by pressing the arrow keys on the sides of the photo.

- On the "About" page, users can click on the mail, github, and linkedin icons to view external ways to contact me. These pages are opened in new tabs.

- On the "Software" page, users can click images or titles on individual software projects. They will be led to pages which describe the project in more detail.

Part 3

I.   Photoswipe API (https://photoswipe.com/)

II. I chose to use it because I was looking for a responsive photo gallery that was horizontal. In addition, I liked the gestures and animations built into its lightbox mode.

III.   I used this tool to create my photography gallery.
IV.   This allows the gallery to be responsive to swiping, which is especially useful and intuitive on mobile phones. In addition, when entering the lightbox, there is an expanding animation that replaces the smaller image with a high-resolution version. This lazy loading cuts down webpage loading time.

Part 4

I resized some elements so that they would look better on all screen sizes, and added some transitions. However, the design and style remain largely the same.

Part 5

The biggest challenge of making my website was making the navbar fixed at the top while scrolling. In addition to making the position fixed, I wanted it to fade to a 90% opacity as an overlay, and I did not want the page to jump positions while I was moving the navbar. This took a lot of effort and experimentation to get right, especially considering responsive design, since I chose not to use Bootstrap.