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## Assignment 7: Final Write-Up

### Part 1

My website ([www.thomasvondavier.com](http://www.thomasvondavier.com)) is my personal webpage designed to inform potential clients and employers about my experience and past projects. For Assignment 7 I expanded on the blog and resume pages I already had on the website by adding a Portfolio landing page. This landing page conveys to the visitor the four types of projects I am working on in my academic and personal life. From this landing page the visitor can explore each project area to find the names and cover images of each of the individual projects. This will lead the visitors to the detail pages for each individual project with even more images and information to scroll through. I hope that the colorful images, creative names, and wide range of topics makes my portfolio entertaining and informative. I want visitors to go away feeling impressed and inspired.

### Part 2

1. From the homepage the visitor can click on any of the pages links in the navbar to navigate the page.
  - a. For the sake of reproduction click on the “PORTFOLIO” link and you will be brought to the next page of interest.

2. On the portfolio page there are multiple mouseover interactions.
  - a. As you mouseover each image it will go dark to signify that you are looking at it, and a label will appear.
3. On the same page you might notice that the cursor for your mouse changes indicating you can click on any of the four images.
  - a. This interaction will bring you to the specific page presenting the individual projects of each type.
4. The next page also has a similar mouseover interaction as the original portfolio page.  
(“Photography” section skips this step)
  - a. As you mouseover the titles for each of the individual projects, the images should change and give you a visual aid in describing the project.
5. Above I mentioned that the “Photography” section does not have the in between page, it goes directly to the detail page.
  - a. This happens when you click on the image labelled “Photography” in the Portfolio page.
6. On this detail page for “Photography” the user can scroll and watch the animations as the sections fade up into view. (This same scrolling animation/interaction exists on all detail pages, so I won’t repeat describing it in this page.)
  - a. To replicate this interaction just scroll down the site, as you scroll back up it resets, and you can scroll down again restarting the fade-up animations.
7. The final interaction on the travel photography detail page is using the Instagram API to link the images at the top of the page to my Instagram account.

- a. All you need to do to replicate this is simply find an image that is intriguing and click on it, and you will be transferred to my post on the Instagram website.
- 8. Other interactions are present on other detail pages that allow users/visitors to view more details about each project.
  - a. All you need to do is scroll to the bottom of the page and click on either the image or the words to receive more details about the project from other sources (Facebook, InVision, GitHub, etc.).

### **Part 3**

- 1. jQuery
  - a. This made hardcoding some of the JavaScript far easier.
    - i. For some reason I really enjoy seeing if I can create the same visuals/effects that we see in JS libraries via hardcoding them myself.
  - b. It helped me with fast and rapid implementation of the mouseover interactions I created for the landing pages.
  - c. It does not add much visually to the website, but it assists in the implementation of the various interactions I wanted to include.
- 2. Bootstrap.js
  - a. The reason I chose this library is because it was taught to us in lab, and I wanted a chance to apply what we learned in class to the assignment. I also found that every time I searched up JS libraries, Bootstrap would always be listed as the most used, and best supported library.
  - b. This removed the need to hardcode all the detail pages because the Bootstrap library and documentation is incredibly thorough. By linking the library and

adding a few lines of code I was able to set up a beautiful details page within a few moments rather than the many hours it spent hardcoding them.

- c. In some ways the Bootstrap library adds a degree of professionalism to my website. Rather than just a student hardcoding his way through creating a portfolio, I was able to use a widely accepted tool to make it look neat and organized. It also allowed me to use a grid system for div organization.

### 3. AOS

- a. I knew that I was going to have detail pages describing each of the projects I have been working on, and I needed some way to make the act of scrolling through my content more interesting. AOS (Animate on Scroll) allowed me to do that with more flexibility than Scroll Reveal.
- b. I attached the code for this animation library to every div that gets revealed as users scroll them into view.
- c. This subtle usage of animation makes the action of scrolling through the content of the website enjoyable. It is no longer boring for the user to sit there and experience a wall of text and images, now they slowly appear only as the user is ready for them. It gives the user control of the speed at which they can view the website.

### 4. Instagram API

- a. I wanted a way to display my Photography in a fast and effortless way. Rather than reinvent the wheel, I decided to use the Instagram API.
- b. I got all the codes and the permissions from Instagram to use the API on my personal website. So now that when people want to see the images in depth, they

can click on the image of interest and be transported to the original Instagram post.

- c. This add a super interesting interaction to my site that I do not think could be easily replicated in another way. It allows me to present images and information without the need to store them directly in my own files and github repos. It also updates on its own and will always present my users/visitors with the most up to date version of the Instagram feed.

#### **Part 4**

Going from HW6 to HW7 was straightforward. I presented two high-level prototypes in HW6 that eventually became the basic designs for the Portfolio landing pages in HW7. I continued to build off the design ideas to include more content in the form of detail pages that I had not yet designed. I also changed the layout of the text and images slightly to better display on an interactive webpage.

#### **Part 5**

The most difficult part was implementing the new libraries and API. My immediate reaction was to start hardcoding before I realized there was detailed documentation to help me improve the quality of my work significantly. Another major challenge was making the site responsive and leaving good comments. I felt as though it was so easy for me to explain my thought process it must be the same for everyone else...I was wrong and quickly put comments to help.