CS 499 Narrative for Artifact One

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This artifact is a website that was designed for CS270 Web development. The assignment was to create a website for your uncle’s small business and in my case I chose to create a website for my electrician uncle. I took this course a few sessions ago and I believe that my web development knowledge has greatly increased since then. Web development using html, css, and javascript is something that I have worked on personally to improve those skills. I have interest in web development, so I chose this artifact to show off some of those skills and how I have improved. I believe that my ability to work on web design has improved as well. My design improvements show throughout the site. The design aspect can be more challenging than development at this point as I feel comfortable with working with the programming languages but can always grow in my design skill.

My website has been greatly improved from the original assignment. I have added some function and many visual updates, but I would also like to start by pointing out the improvement in my code organization. When I went back into the code, I found the CSS style page to be very messy with almost no comments. At the time this did not stand out, but trying to go back in and rework it I found this challenging. This was a great example of why adding comments in the code is so helpful. I reorganized the classes in my CSS page to match up with the page they can be found on in the site. Organizing the code made it much easier to work with and make my updates.

One of the first areas I updated was in the header I changed the page list. I made the background white while also changing the font to sans-serif and making larger text. I added some padding to space out the pages and also eliminated all the text decoration. These changes made the page list look more professional.

I made some other changes in the header as well. First I removed the red shadow box around the contact information and instead used a red solid border. The shadow box was added originally to show off the skill, but it did not look right. The border is more uniform with the rest of the site. I also took out the “Call for all electrical needs” and replaced this with the email address since that is just as important as a phone number. The background was set to an image that is of clouds. This background fit nicely to give some design but is not enough to take away from the information.

I added a blue border around each page. The blue I chose was used in some other areas of the site and this added a clear boundary as well as some more color to the site. I updated the body to default to sans-serif font after learning that this is more common in web design at this time. I set the footer to have a red border with a white background to help this stand out more from the page.

I was able to change the form on the reviews page as well as the table on the services page. In both of these cases I wanted to space out the text, enlarged the text, and centered the text. The original was very plain and this is more visually appealing and easier to read. The reviews page submit button was also updated to be enlarged with a blue background to help it stand out. The button was also given some Javascript to send an alert using onClick method and alert. The alert is letting the user know that the form was submitted and received. If there was a database, then the information could be submitted to the database.

The contact page was given a large makeover. I set the background to be the image of a house. There is not much information on this page, so I really wanted to add some sort of character. The image of the house looks nice and helps the page not look so plain.

Finally, I updated the finished projects page to have more images. I have run into two issues on this page that I am having trouble resolving. The first is the footer is not lining up at the bottom of the page. I ran into this with the original project and have yet to be able to correct. My guess is that it has something to do with using inline-block for the images, but I do not know why that would affect it? Also, you can see a blank spot in the images. I tried a few different images and set them to float left, but they will not move to that area. This did not happen originally, but only happened once I moved down another row. I do not know if that has some significance or just a coincidence?

Overall, I did not have any major challenges outside of some small problems on the finished projects page. I believe that I greatly improved the quality of my website as well as cleaning up some of the code organization which is an important skill that I am trying to focus on more.