

Class: Web Interaction & Animation – Online

Assignment: The Project

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The project I have chosen for this assignment is actually a revision of one of my first websites that I created long before I knew about Full Sail University or knew anything significant about web design. It's at www.uniqueone2000.net and is a complete mess. When the video mentioned that we could do one for a family member that needed a website done, obviously I looked to my own and thought I could use this opportunity to potentially change the appearance of my website. Or at least create a point from which to start the upgrade process from.

My website was and is intended to serve as a “one-stop-shop” for all things retail. It was designed to be a marketplace for various vendors from 1-800Contacts to Wal-Mart and all things in-between. I have developed partnerships with two of the industry's well known Affiliate Marketing firms; Commission Junction and Linkshare and have access to over three hundred different products and services. Logged in clients would be able to find their favorite stores, without having to type them in to the url bar each time they want to shop. It also would serve to minimize the number of favorites they would have to keep as well.

I first started with a wireframe and then to a full color comp for the design (included), and then began creating the site. The HTML and CSS did not pose much of a problem but trying to implement all of the requirements for this assignment was another matter entirely. The following is a synopsis of what I was able to successfully accomplish as well as the challenges that I faced.

The site consists of five pages: the homepage, departments, directory, about and contact pages respectively and contain the following elements (requirements):

1. HTML5 Canvas – Logo – created with EaselJS
2. CSS Sprites – Social Media and Footer Logo
3. Interactive map – “About Us” page under “Vendors by Category”
4. Data Visualization – “About U” page under “Vendors by Type”
5. Modernizr.Load script – contained in the uniqueOneNet-Modern.js file

Challenges –

- JQuery – I attempted to follow the **Create an Interactive Homepage Marquee with jQuery with Chris Converse** from Lynda.com to create a marquee for the vendors somewhat like a leaderboard but I was not successful there. I’m not really sure if it was because the files were from an external source but as I was approaching the deadline with other elements still to complete, I had to skip this feature for the moment. I also wanted to incorporate the Headroom.js feature from my presentation assignment but I came across the same problem.
- Image gallery – similarly the image gallery was a challenge that posed problems for me.
- DrawScript – I was able to use drawscript and get the script for the images I wanted to use for the “Contact Us” page but could not get them to display on the canvas. I tried both ways as shown in the screencast (especially the second method since it made the most sense to me), but after struggling to get either method to work, I had to move on. The file is in the “js” folder as “uniqueOneNet-contactVector.js” and is linked to the contact page as well.

Summary –

Overall, I spent quite a bit of time going over the screencasts trying to gain a better understanding of what was expected of me in this project and I feel a bit more confused than I was in the beginning. I'm not sure if I just should have done a fake project and design and kept it simple or am I just not getting what the objectives were. The instructions seemed easy enough to follow and I was able to follow along in the starting files with typos being my only problem. I'm actually feeling really defeated right now because I thought I would be finally be able to breathe some life into something that I've been wanting to fix for quite some time now. It's really frustrating to have come this far in this program and still have they types of issues that I am having.

I'm not sure if I'm asking the right questions or being aggressive enough to get the help I need. Between spending days and evenings following screencasts and lining up times to get assistance, it just seems that I'm coming up short somewhere. I'm not trying to complain because I think I'm learning a lot but I really need some tutelage if I am to earn the right to call myself a developer. Okay, enough of my whining but I hope that even though I have a lot to learn, you are able to see that some effort was put into this project. I apologize for not being able to present a better product and hope that you can offer some more references for me to dig into going forward. I painfully look forward to your critique as I know this could have been much better. Thanks for your time.