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05-430 Programming Usable Interfaces

PART 1

My website is a portfolio that can be shown to potential mechanical engineering employers. This website is a personal portfolio that is meant to show off my personal accomplishments. It is the intersection of my MechE projects with HCI experience, this portfolio website as a whole represents one of my projects. From my website I hope to convey that I have a unique creative vision that makes me different from my other peers. I wanted to show my eye for design, however still keep it minimal and follow my personal style. I wanted to portray femininity while keeping it classic and eye-catching. The use of grey instead of black is meant to soften the feel while still having contrast. The accents of purple scattered within the website are meant to keep it feminine while not overwhelming the user with color. In this website I used CSS animations to give the website a smooth and somewhat dynamic feel. The main page is supposed to be a showstopper and display my creative style. Because I didn't include my fine arts portfolio, I really needed the website as a whole to speak to my design abilities and taste.

One of the main goals of this website is to show the employers that I am **more** than just a mechanical engineer. I believe that I have a unique perspective because of my combination of majors and this website is meant to represent that. Although HTML/CSS/JS may not be completely relevant to any work I would do as a mechanical engineer, the design principles and eye for user interactions is extremely relevant, especially since I emphasized my interest in consumer electronics. The website should be a representation of me as a person (about page), an engineer (projects/resume), and a designer (overall appearance).

PART 2

- Viewing my main screen animation (name)
    - Clicking on the logo in the corner of any screen, viewing the animation start to finish
- Viewing my full list of projects and finding their names
    - Navigate to the Portfolio page using the navbar up top from any page, watching the animation of the projects appearing, hovering over any of the images to find the project name
- Viewing a specific project, return to portfolio page to view another project

- Navigate to the portfolio page from the navigation bar, click on any of the images to view the project, after reading the description and scrolling to the bottom of the page, the return to portfolio button is at the bottom of the text.
  - Download my resume
    - Navigate to the resume page using the navbar at the top of any page, click on the photo of my resume
- Contact me or check my social media
  - Scroll all the way down to the bottom of any page, the social media icons are at the bottom of the page and you can email from there as well
- Learn about me and my passions
  - Navigate to the about page from the navbar, read and see my photo, can also navigate to my portfolio page from the bottom of the description
  - OR click the three arrows on the home page under the animation

PART 3

I used CSS animations for this project. I chose to use it because I felt like I could really use a lot of creativity while integrating these animation. It was also something I had never tried or heard of before, so I really was just interested and wanted to try it out. I used CSS animations primarily on the main screen with the large animation of my name, I also scattered it within my portfolio where text fades in and buttons change on hover. I also implemented it on my portfolio page where the title of the project appears as the photo fades away. I think it gives the website a more polished and smooth feel, it helps transition pages without transitions seeming to harsh. Also the first main animation is meant to be a show stopper and display some of my design sense and aesthetic.

PART 4

I made major changes to my HW7 mockups, these include a complete redesign of the main page and switching from one long scrolling page to multiple pages. I wasn't happy with the way the original design looked, as well as the fact that there weren't many places I could implement CSS animation. Additionally, I was checking Piazza and saw the question asking for help with CSS animations and heard about using After Effects and realized that I had that program so I redesigned my front page to also include a large After Effects animation.

PART 5

During this process, the whole concept of using CSS animations was a challenge, I used W3School as a constant resource to look at examples and syntax. Learning AfterEffects for the first time was pretty difficult, but what was more difficult was trying to figure out how to implement it into my code, the tutorials on Lottie and Cocoapods (?) were unclear and hard to follow. Also, I had some trouble with keyframes actually translating to my html files.