



# Best practices for creating a Dev Portfolio

Created by **JS Mastery**  
Visit *jsmastery.pro* for more



# What's in the guide?

Hey there! Welcome to The Ultimate Developer Portfolio Guide!

Whether you're just kicking off your journey in web dev or you're a seasoned coder aiming to smarten up your portfolio, you've landed in the right spot.

In this all-inclusive guide, we're arming you with the essential strategies and top-notch practices to construct a killer developer portfolio that catches the eye of potential employers and flaunts your unique talents.

From diving into the motivations behind your projects to customizing your portfolio for your dream developer role, we've got you covered on all fronts to help you shine in the competitive tech scene.

# ...before you go

While you might already have the basics down, picture taking it up a notch by tailoring your portfolio to seamlessly align with the job you want.

Imagine leveling up your portfolio by blending in Next.js, giving your projects a dynamic boost.

If you're eager to dive deep into something this specific and build substantial projects, our **special course on Next.js** has got you covered.

The Ultimate  
Next 14 Course

It teaches everything from the ground up, providing a hands-on experience that goes beyond just basics.

Check it out and take your skills to the next level

# Best Practices

Creating a strong developer portfolio is essential for showcasing your skills, experience, and unique abilities to potential employers.

Follow these best practices to build an effective developer portfolio that highlights your capabilities and increases your chances of landing desirable opportunities.

## 1 Share Your Motivations

- Share the story behind your projects and convey your thought process and motivations.
- Discuss what inspired you, the hurdles you overcame, and how you used programming languages to bring your vision to life.

# Best Practices

- Keep the language casual and conversational to appeal to a wide range of potential employers, including those from non-technical backgrounds.

## 2 Determine Your Focus

- Clarify how you want to represent yourself as a developer, whether as a front-end, back-end, or full-stack developer.
- Identify the type of work you want to be hired for, such as websites, web apps, or API development.
- Highlight what makes you stand out, whether it's your design skills, experience with specific technologies, past projects with reputable companies or clients, or other notable achievements.

# Best Practices

- Select and showcase your best and most unique projects that accurately represent your abilities and web development style.

## ③ Essential Sections for Your Online Portfolio

Your portfolio should include the following sections:

- **Homepage:** Create an attention-grabbing homepage that leaves a positive first impression on visitors.
- **Skills:** List your web development skills, including programming languages, frameworks, libraries, and technologies you are proficient in.

# Best Practices

- **Past Projects:** Provide detailed write-ups for each project, including descriptions, project requirements, your approach, languages/technologies used, challenges faced, completion dates, and screenshots or links to the finished products.
- **About Page:** Briefly introduce yourself, including relevant details about your background, education, and professional journey. Incorporate personal information like hobbies or interests to add a touch of personality.
- **Contact Information:** Ensure that your contact information, including phone number, email address, and professional social media accounts, is easily accessible for potential employers.

# Best Practices

- **Resume and Social Media Profiles:** Include links to your resume and relevant social media profiles to provide additional context and information.
- **Nice-to-have:** Evidence of Social Proof: If available, showcase testimonials from satisfied clients, references from employers, links to publications or websites featuring your work, media mentions, podcast interviews, awards, or recognition you have received.

4

## Avoid Common Mistakes

Steer clear of these common mistakes made by web developers in their portfolio sites:

# Best Practices

- **Quantity over quality:** Prioritize showcasing a few high-quality projects over a large number of mediocre ones.
- **Lack of write-ups for projects:** Provide detailed information about your projects to give potential employers insight into your process and problem-solving abilities.
- **Distracting designs:** Strive for clean and professional designs that highlight your work rather than overwhelming visitors.
- **Use of stock imagery:** Avoid using generic stock images and instead use relevant and high-quality visuals related to your projects.

# Best Practices

- **No custom domain:** Invest in a custom domain to enhance your professionalism and credibility.
- **Not driving traffic to the site:** Optimize your portfolio for search engines and actively promote it through social media, networking, and other channels to increase visibility.

## 5 Tailor Your Portfolio for Your Developer Role

Depending on whether you are a front-end or back-end developer, customize your portfolio accordingly:

- **Front-End Developer Portfolio:** Showcase visually appealing and attractive web pages that demonstrate your ability to create functional and aesthetically pleasing designs.

# Best Practices

- Include the work that went into each page or site to showcase your process.
- **Back-End Developer Portfolio:** Highlight the logic behind your creations and provide explanations that are understandable to a non-technical audience. Annotate your code to help others understand how everything works.
- **Full-Stack Developer Portfolio:** Incorporate elements from both front-end and back-end portfolios, showcasing a combination of attractive designs and logical implementations.

# Best Practices

## 6 What to Include on Your Website

Consider including the following elements on your web developer portfolio website:

- **Bio/About Me:** Provide a brief and relevant overview of yourself, including educational background, skills, experience, and a personal touch that reflects your personality.
- **Projects and Code:** Showcase your projects, both personal and professional. If you lack projects, consider building something like a plugin, website, or game to demonstrate your skills.
- **Technical and Soft Skills:** Display your best skills, focusing on those that are directly relevant to the positions you are targeting. Check job listings to align your skills with the required qualifications.

# Best Practices

- **Easy-to-Find Contact Information:** Place your contact information prominently on your website to make it effortless for potential employers to reach out to you. Include your email address and any other relevant contact details.
- **GitHub Integration:** Integrate your GitHub profile to showcase your repositories and code contributions.
- **Nice-to-have:** Add sections for education, social media handles, a downloadable resume, and any awards or special recognition you have received.

# Best Practices

## 7 Tips for Building Your Portfolio Website

- Make your website visually appealing with an intuitive and user-friendly design.
- Clearly communicate what you do and your areas of expertise.
- Ensure a great user experience by optimizing site navigation and load times.
- Get creative with your portfolio presentation to make it stand out from others.
- Optimize your portfolio website for search engines to improve discoverability and attract relevant visitors.

# Best Practices

8

## Additional Considerations

- Gain relevant experience and work on projects related to the industries or companies you are interested in.
- Maintain a professional tone throughout your portfolio and avoid including links to personal social media accounts with inappropriate or irrelevant content.
- Document your code, include a **README.md** file explaining the purpose and details of your projects, and ensure they are functional and active.
- Optimize your portfolio for search engine optimization (SEO) to increase its visibility in search results.

# Best Practices

- Use high-quality visuals to enhance the visual appeal of your projects, but avoid using stock images or low-quality graphics.
- Pay attention to providing a great user experience by focusing on easy navigation and clear presentation of your portfolio content.

## 9 Highlight Impact

- Emphasize the impact of your projects by quantifying results whenever possible.
- Showcase measurable outcomes, such as a surge in website traffic, enhanced user engagement metrics, notable cost reductions for clients, and any other tangible achievements that demonstrate the effectiveness of your work.

# Best Practices

## 10 More Tips

- **Accessibility Matters:** Ensure that your portfolio is accessible to all users by following web accessibility standards and guidelines.
- **Keep It Simple:** While it's tempting to add flashy features, prioritize simplicity and usability to ensure that visitors can easily navigate and understand your portfolio.
- **Include Diverse Projects:** Showcase a variety of projects that demonstrate your versatility as a developer, including personal projects, freelance work, and contributions to open-source projects.
- **Stay Updated:** Regularly update your portfolio with new projects, skills, and experiences to keep it relevant and reflective of your current capabilities.

# The End

Congratulations on reaching the end of our guide! But hey, learning doesn't have to stop here.

If you're craving a more personalized learning experience with the guidance of expert mentors, we have something for you — [Our Masterclass](#).

## JSM Masterclass Experience

In this special program, we do not just teach concepts – offering hands-on training, workshops, one on one with senior mentors, but also help you build production-ready applications in an industry-like environment, working alongside a team and doing code reviews with mentors. It's almost a real-world experience simulation, showcasing how teams and developers collaborate.

If this sounds like something you need, then don't stop yourself from leveling up your skills from junior to senior.

Keep the learning momentum going. Cheers! 🚀