Assignment 8 Write-up

Github： **https://github.com/xiaobin900114/yinengplayer**
Website: **https://xiaobin900114.github.io/yinengplayer/**

Part1: About the website

I have been running a Chinese-speaking design podcast for more than four years. Our team release 1-2 episodes weekly, and now we have 200+ episodes. The website I have implemented will host all episodes from YinengFM.

Even thought most of our audience is using mobile apps to listen to our podcast, it's still necessary for us to have an official website to host all our productions. The website will not only serves as a repository of the podcast episodes, it also helps business partners and guest speakers to learn more about us.This site I am doing here is just a part of the the whole website.

The audience I am targeting on is our listeners, business partners and guest speakers of YinengFM.

Part2: Website interaction

Browse and add episodes to playlist.

- Browse all episodes on the landing page.
- Click an episode to enter the detail page.
- Get a full description of the episode on the right side of the detail page.
- Add the episode to playlist by click the button under the episode poster on the left.

Play an episode from playlist.

- The audio player stays at the bottom of the site.
- After adding episodes to the playlist, users can access the playlist on the right of the player.
- Users can play or delete any episode in the playlist.

Part 3: External tools

i. Name of tool
ReactJS and RSS.

ii. Why you chose to use it?
With ReactJS, I can organize different parts of the website into separate components. It makes the maintenance and scale-up easier. I also fetch the episode data through RSS.

iii. How you used it?
ReactJS: I developed components for: Header, Footer, EpisodeList, Episode, EpisodeDetail and Player.
RSS: I exported the xml data from RSS as a json file because I had found that fetching rss data would take too long everytime open the website. In future, I would develop another tool to update the json file by fetching the RSS data once/twice a week.

iv. What it adds to your website?

I am planning to build a more complete version of website for YinengFM of which the episode list will be a critical part. With ReactJS, I can easily reuse some of the components I implemented in this project. With RSS, I can always keep the episodes up-to-date without uploading them on multiple platforms.

Part 4: From design to implementation

The episodes were produced by three different offices— LA, Tokyo and Shanghai. In the original design, I was planning to enable episode sorting feature. However, I found we had not labeled office name on episodes then I gave up this idea at this moment.

Part 5: Challenges

I came across difficulties when I tried to fetch data through RSS. Searching for an appropriate player library also took a lot of effort, because most of them were either didn't fit the style of the site or hard to customize.