

My project was initially intended as a personal portfolio website, but it is still very much work in progress. At the moment it is quite simple looking, it only has 3 pages, and it also has clickable links to my Linkedin and Github profiles.

(@fortawesome/free-brands-svg-icons, /free-solid-svg-icons and /react-fontawesome).

I have started from installing packages - some free fonts and also svg icons - to use in the navigation bar on the left hand side. I have also installed the Sass package (npm i sass) which is good for writing less css code, but to use it I had to make sure that I name all my styling files with scss file extension. And, finally, I installed the Emailjs package which is a JavaScript library that helps send emails using only client-side technologies so there is no coding needed at the backend (npm i @emailjs/browser).

/*SCSS uses fewer lines of code than CSS, which makes the code load faster. Unlike CSS, which lacks nesting and variables, SCSS allows us to extend the code's functionality. (For example, the ampersand in SASS pulls in the parent selector by nesting one style inside its parent's style. And nesting helps you to group related styles and write CSS in a nested hierarchy. You cannot do this in CSS.)*/

Layout component

After all the installation was done, I started with creating the Layout component which is designed to include the common elements and serve as a kind of a parent component to the other components. Because some pages would be sharing the same content all over the application, it kind of makes sense to just create a layout component and write the code for those elements in that one place instead of importing and exporting components.

`/*For example, I added some styling to the about component as it is going to be repeated in the Contact page as well.*/`

`/*Inside the Layout we have an Outlet element where all pages for the application will render. The Outlet route is how the Home component renders its child routes.`

`App.js file contains all the routes that correspond with the pages of my website. In App.js Home stands as an index element and doesn't even have a path which means that it is an index route. Index routes render in their parent route's outlet at the parent route's path.*/`

Sidebar component

Then - Sidebar component. As you can see, it contains the icons from the fortawesome library. I was quite keen to make the website a little more interesting so I watched a couple of videos about how to make elements animated and then tried to implement that here. So it helped me to style, for example, the navigation bar icons in a way that they stay yellow when the relevant page is open in the browser.

`/*I used NavLink - when you need to use style or class attributes on active <Link>, then you can use <NavLink>. Note active class.*/`

`/*By using React Router's "exact" prop on the first route, you can ensure that the route will match only if the current URL is an exact match. Now, when a user visits / , the Home component will render. But when a user visits /about , only the second route will match and only the About component will render. So, 'exact' is a property which ensures activeClassName only triggers on url paths that match your location exactly.*/`

Home page

On the load of the home page we can see this animated heading. As I mentioned earlier, I was quite keen to add some animation to my website so I created this separate component called 'Animated letters', where I've used the so-called BounceIn effect on the animation property.

About page

I haven't put much work in the content of this page at this point, just copied a paragraph from my LinkedIn account as I was more interested in the functionality of the whole thing and that all the elements are linked together and work as intended.

Contact page

I also wanted for the contact form to be properly functional so if a user wants to send me a message, they can do that. It turned out to be easier than I thought. All I had to do was to create an account with EmailJs, and then to connect it to one of the supported email services, in my case it was gmail.

`/*Used fadeInUp effect on the animation property. */`