

CSCI E-12 Fundamentals of Website Development

Final Project Report

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1. Goals and Purpose

I chose to make a personal website for myself as the final projects. There are mainly two reasons. First of all, it is because I don't have a personal website yet and online presence is of key importance nowadays. The second reason is mainly copyright concerns. At the beginning of thinking of my final projects, I had other ideas. But I think it would be inevitable for me to use other people's pictures and writings for those projects and I am not quite sure of the boundaries of copyright yet. So a personal website seems to make sense, since I can use all my own photos as well as writings.

As the audience of the site, I think there are mainly two groups. First group is my friends and colleagues. They can come to the site to check out my works, either my research or my hobbies. The second group I'm thinking of is potential employers (if I choose to look for web development jobs in the future). Therefore, I have a section showing the courses I am taking and a section for web projects.

2. Implementation

For consistency, I used PHP to implement the site. Every page shares part of the head, the header, the navigation and the footer. In the head, there are CSS, JS and favicon that are used in all pages in the shared head.php file, while each page has their own title and special CSS and JS for itself.

I don't think I have a good sense of color choices, therefore I chose to use black and white as the main theme of the site. My hope is to achieve a simple and chic feeling. For the header, I just used plain white text against black background and I used text-shadow in the CSS in order to give it a little sophistication. The background of the site body is set to be black and the main content area with a white background. The navigation menu is set to be black too with hover effect change background to grey. The menu is mainly implemented with a jquery

plugin. For showing which page the viewer is at, I used the CSS technique by matching the page id with the nav id, such as #part1 #navpart1 a { }. In the footer, I used the plugin from sharethis.com to give all the pages share buttons (such as Facebook, Linkedin and et al) on the bottom.

Links to the page

Home Page:

<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~ychen/feifeirun/finalproject/index.php>

This is the home page of the site. The navigation is done with a jquery plugin. I used a jquery slider plugin for the main part of the page. The slider mainly serves as a way to let people know my recent news. Each slide could lead to the news page (which I have not implemented yet). And from the main page, people can use the navigation to go to different sections of the site.

About Me:

<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~ychen/feifeirun/finalproject/aboutme.php>

In this page, I used a jquery tab plugin to give a brief introduction of myself. I divided the page into different tabs including introduction, education, work experience, publication and contact me. In each tab, I put some floating pictures and used border-radius property on some of them to make them into round shape so the page won't be plain and boring. In the contact me tab, I used the codes from Google Voice, so people can call me while I can avoid listing my phone numbers online.

Photography:

<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~ychen/feifeirun/finalproject/photography.php>

This page is just for showing different albums (with the name and one representative picture) of the photos that I took. People can click on individual albums to check out more photos. I have only implemented the first album.

World Seen by My iPhone:

<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~ychen/feifeirun/finalproject/worldseenbymiiphone.php>

This page is an album showing individual photos. I used a jquery slideshow plugin to implement it.

Error Page:

http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~ychen/feifeirun/finalproject/error_404.php

This page is the error 404 page. When user put in a wrong url within the final project domain, they will be lead to this page per the configuration of htaccess file. So they can use the navigation to go to other parts of the site.

3. Future Directions

I want to implement all the pages at first and add contents step by step. At the moment, even the pages I have implemented do not have too much content in them. I also want to implement the blog function on this site using Ruby on Rails, which I just started to learn. I also want to add authentication to the site, so I can share some contents with just my friends.

4. Reflect on lessons you learned

I like the overall feelings of the site. The site has been tested on a Mac using Safari and Chrome, and a PC using IE and Firefox. And all pages and CSS are validated.

HTTP client:

Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_9_1) AppleWebKit/537.73.11 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/7.0.1 Safari/537.73.11

Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_9_1) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/32.0.1700.107 Safari/537.36

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:28.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/28.0

I'm very glad all the functions worked as I expected. At the beginning of the project, I had a bit of problem with too many choices, because there are tons of jquery plugins with wonderful effects. I think the question should not be how wonderful they are but how suitable they are for the whole style site.

I'm not quite satisfied with the layout of the page. I wish I started with a CSS framework so the layout of the pages could be more professional. And because of an alignment problem, I set the body of the pages to be exact number. Therefore, the page won't be responsible to the browser size or the devices. Although it seems the site is working OK on iPhone and iPad, I would like special CSS rules be implemented for the mobile devices.

If I can do the project again, I think I would spend more time planning before writing any html files instead of rushing into coding. I think this time I thought back and forth during the implementation and messed up a little bit. Also, I'd like to get more knowledge of copy rights so I can know for sure what I can use and what I cannot.