



INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

User Experience and the Web.



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Project Details

Contributors

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[About this Course](#)

This coursework is the Interactive Website project, corresponding to the User Experience and the Web module (IS51041A). This module was lectured and operated by Akshi Kumar.

Website URL

<https://y4s1n4.github.io/AcademicNexus/index.html>

Introduction

Our interactive website is called AcademicNexus. We aim to provide a platform to discuss, learn or get assistance with computer science, IT and general school. This implies that our primary target audience will be students. We want our website to be both informative, yet not too overpopulated with information, so learners do not feel discouraged when using our website as a source of learning.

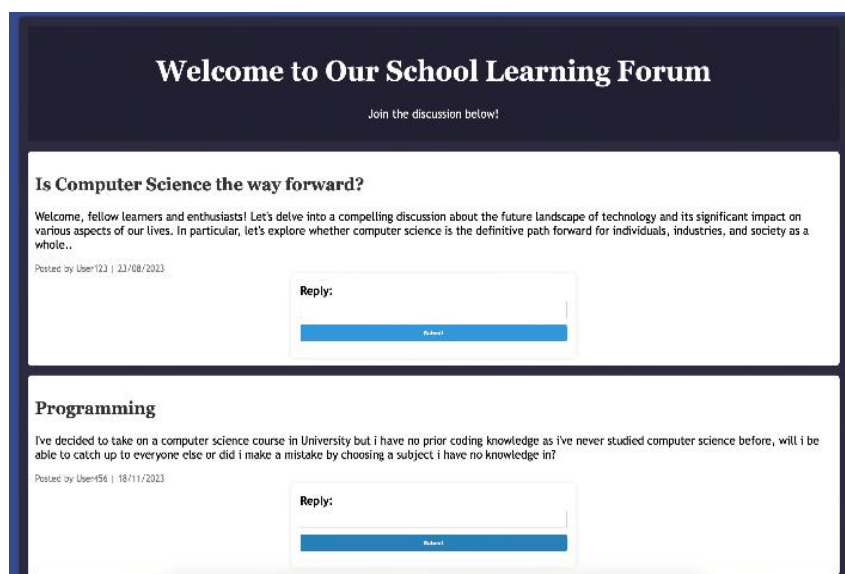
We also decided to follow a simple colour scheme of a black to mid-blue gradient, supported by a darker shade of blue. This colouring was also replicated within our logo.

Key Features

Our website has many key features that would be beneficial to our target audience. Here are some of them.

[Forum](#)

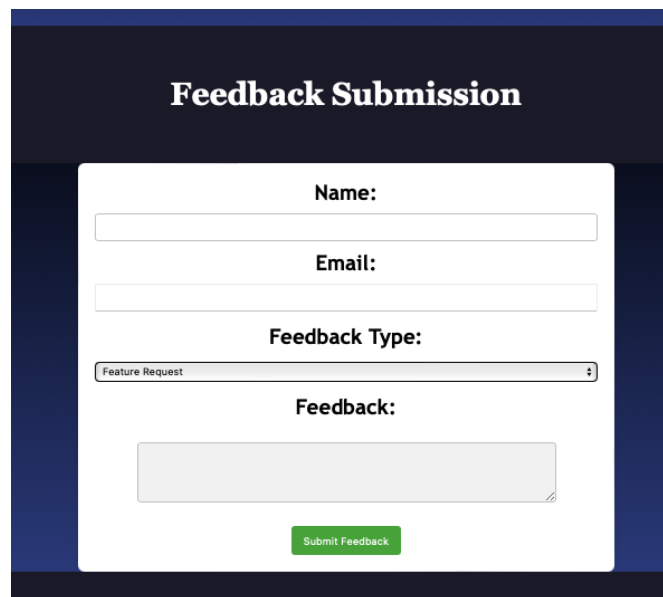
One of the main attractions for our website would most likely be our forum as it serves as a valuable place for communication and collaboration. It creates a significant role in fostering an interactive community. Discussion threads allow for users to create and participate in active conversations on various topics related to general academic queries, computer science or IT related questions. Our forum is open to be used by everyone, including teachers and newer learners, which ultimately balances the level of experience and inexperience. Our forum was designed to be very easy to navigate with forms that can be used to submit responses to existing forums or even post your own.



[Feedback Hub](#)

One particular feature we are proud of is our feedback hub, this page allows users to provide us with numerous types of feedback, from bug reports to future suggestions, this allows our website to always

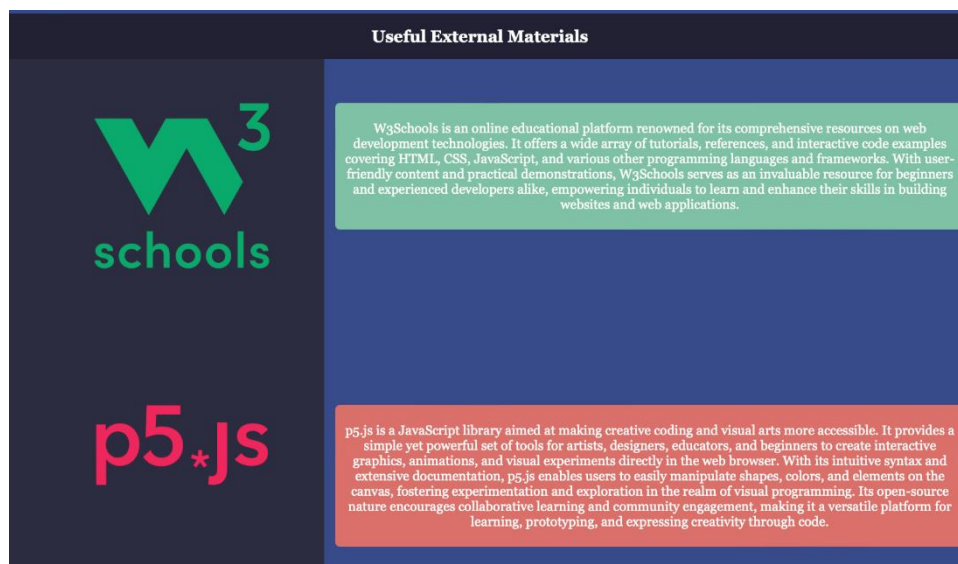
stay up to date and be constantly improving. We take pride in pleasing our user's so a section dedicated to our users' opinions was a must. The page is quite simple so users find it easy to navigate, it matches the rest of the websites User Interface, the UI isn't overwhelming and there is a form that makes it extremely simple for users to submit tickets.



The image shows a 'Feedback Submission' form. It has a dark blue header with the title 'Feedback Submission' in white. The form itself is white and contains the following fields: 'Name:' with a text input, 'Email:' with a text input, 'Feedback Type:' with a dropdown menu (currently showing 'Feature Request'), and 'Feedback:' with a large text area. A green 'Submit Feedback' button is at the bottom.

Study Materials

This section of our website is dedicated to helping our students with helpful resources that will help improve their studies and ultimately improve their performance within the learning environment. The Webpage consists of some relevant and useful websites that are used for studying, it includes an image of said website and a brief description of each website and what they can be used for. This makes things much easier for our users as we do all the research for them and we've also made the images interactive so the users can easily access these websites by just clicking on the image.



The image shows a 'Useful External Materials' section. It has a dark blue header with the title 'Useful External Materials' in white. Below the header, there are two cards. The first card is green and features the W3schools logo (a green 'W' with a '3' and the word 'schools' below it). The second card is red and features the p5.js logo (the text 'p5.js' in red). Each card contains a brief description of the resource.

Technologies Used

HTML played a crucial role in defining the structure and content of our student website. The language allowed us to organise information hierarchically and create a clear, semantic structure. Below are some specific HTML elements and tags that were essential for creating different sections of the site:

❖ ``

- Our website consists of many key images that make it what it is, for example every single Webpage has an image of our logo on the top left that is also interactive and will always link back to the homepage.
- ❖ <div>
 - The div tag was extremely useful and helpful especially when it came to the CSS styles of different sections, it allowed us to work on each section separately and without encountering any difficulties.
- ❖ <a>
 - To create hyperlinks, we used Anchor tags (<a>), this was frequently used within our website and one of the more useful tags that helped specify the destination URLs and linking different parts of our website.

These are just some of the more common HTML tags we used, there are many more within our code. We also used CSS for the styling and layout of our Website.

Visual Studio Code was our designated text editor, reason being it offers many advantages, so we felt it was perfect for our website. Here are some of the reasons that made us choose VS Code:

- ❖ Extensive Language Support
 - VS Code provides support for a wide range of languages including HTML which helped us a lot throughout the programming of our website.
- ❖ Cross-Platform Compatibility
 - VS Code is compatible with multiple Operating Systems, this was required for our group as some of us are running Windows and some are running MacOS.
- ❖ Intuitive User Interface
 - The UI of VS Code is very user friendly; the layout is clean and simple and provides a comfortable environment for coding.
- ❖ Performance
 - We experienced VS Code to perform very fast and with great responsiveness. it efficiently handled our codes for our website, no matter how many lines of codes there were or how many separate files.

Lessons Learned

Coding

One thing we all learned during this project in terms of coding is that a clear and consistent code structure is crucial for collaboration. We learned the importance of well-commented code to enhance readability and make it easier for team members to understand and maintain the codebase. Another lesson learned was that thorough testing and debugging are essential components of the development process. We realised the importance of systematic testing for different browsers and devices, as well as the need for efficient debbing techniques to identify and resolve issues promptly.

Project Management

Prioritising tasks and managing time effectively are critical for project success. We learned the importance of setting realistic deadlines, breaking down tasks into manageable chunks, and regularly reassessing priorities to meet project milestones. Furthermore, effective communication is essential for successful collaboration. we realised the significance of regular team meetings, clear documentation, and open channels for communication. This facilitated a shared understanding of project goals and ensured everyone was on the same page.

Web development

Optimising website performance is crucial for user satisfaction. we learned about techniques such as image optimisation, abstraction, and efficient loading strategies to enhance the speed and overall performance of our website. Moreover, browser compatibility is a significant consideration in web

development. we gained insights into the importance of testing our website on different browsers to ensure optimal performance and a consistent appearance for all users.

Future Enhancements

The website is currently very simple and at a very early stage as it wasn't developed over a very long period of time, there are many new features we could possibly add in the future, and lucky for us we have a feedback hub where users can help with future enhancements, but here are a few that we are already planning to integrate:

- ❖ Enhanced User Interactivity
 - Implement real-time chat or discussion forum to encourage user interaction and collaboration. Could facilitate communication among students, fostering a sense of community.
- ❖ Personalised User Profiles
 - Implement profiles where students can customise their profiles, showcase their achievements and so they can be identified easier within the forum.
- ❖ Content Expansion
 - Allow students to contribute content such as articles, projects, or study resources. implementing a user-generated content system can enhance the website's depth and provide a platform for students to showcase their work.

Peer Evaluation

Yasin's Evaluation

- ◆ Malachi [5/5]
 - Malachi probably did the majority of the coding on our website, and with that came the responsibility of making his code easy to understand for the rest of us and explaining it to us which he done well.
- ◆ Zahir [5/5]
 - Zahir always communicated well with the rest of us and helped with the design of our website, he brought some key ideas forward.
- ◆ Chris [5/5]
 - Chris did a lot of the CSS so he is responsible for most of the websites styling and layout, he was a key asset of the group.

Malachi's Evaluation

- ◆ Yasin [5/5]
 - Yasin contributed a lot towards this website; being the brain behind a few of the pages of our website, alongside helping implement our ideas on the pages. He also helped with the designing of the logo and gave us all a simple teaching on how to use Photoshop, as we all lacked experience with it.
- ◆ Chris [5/5]
 - Chris helped us patch up a lot of the CSS, as there seemed to be a lot of holes in our original design.
- ◆ Zahir [5/5]
 - Zahir came up with a lot of ideas for the website, from the very beginning of the project, and remained consistent until the end.

Chris' Evaluation

- ◆ Yasin [5/5]
 - Yasin did a good amount of coding, he was responsible for the forms used for the feedback submission and forum responses, he also did the majority of this document and was a key member of the group.
- ❖ Malachi [5/5]

- Malachi is to thank for almost every key part of the website, he did most of the coding and also taught the rest of us what we needed to know to also contribute to the coding ourselves.
- ❖ Zahir [5/5]
 - Zahir helped with a lot of the colours of our website and some other design ideas, he was a necessary asset when it came to the design of our website, he presented us with ideas and the rest of us executed them to the rest of our abilities.

Zahir's Evaluation

- ◆ Yasin [5/5]
 - He communicated well and designed the logo of the website, he also contributed to a lot of the ideas. And did a lot of the work.
- ◆ Malachi [5/5]
 - Malachi did a lot of coding for our website, and essentially set a template in a lot of pages for us all to contribute towards.
- ◆ Chris [5/5]
 - Chris helped with finding content for the website, especially images. He also contributed the most towards the CSS and overall look of the website.