

Learning Diary

Student 2729329

Dave Boyle
11-9-2020

Table of Contents

Unit Zero	2
Unit One	3
Unit Two	4
Unit Three	6
Unit Four	7
Unit Five	9
Three Site Proposals	9
Proposal One.....	9
Proposal Two.....	9
Proposal Three	10
Three JavaScript Implementations	12
main.js.....	12
berthafalls.js (and other similar named script files)	12
themePicker.js (bonus Script)	13
tableSort.js	13
Unit Six	14
Proposals.....	14
Implementation	14
Unit Seven	16
Proposals.....	16
Proposal One – Social Media Feeds	16
Proposal Two – Facebook Comment Integration	16
Implementation	16
Social Media Feeds.....	16
Facebook Comment Integration	16
Next Times	16
Final Reflections.....	18

Unit Zero

My name is Dave Boyle and I am a late 30s, career Credit Union employee who has a son in hockey almost year-round. Having never finished high school, I started taking classes towards a Bachelor of Commerce degree several years ago through Athabasca due to its open nature. What I learned is that I did not require more education to further my career in the Credit Union system, so I stopped working on school. There was also a significant life event that created some additional challenges for me to be an effective student.

At this point in my life I am contemplating changing careers. One thing that has always fascinated me is computer programming. So, having transferred as many credits as I can from previous work, I now work on a Bachelor of Science with a heavy focus on computer science courses. With my son closing in on 18, in addition to contemplating changing careers, I am also considering moving out of Canada to gain some interesting life experiences. The need to chase a prominent position at a firm is of little importance to me, but the opportunity to gain some life experiences through a major move is an idea I am infatuated with. A degree focused around computer science helps with that.

Specific to web programming, in my previous years I made many websites using notepad and patience. It was an enjoyable hobby for me. What I am really excited about is learning and developing some legitimate web programming knowledge as opposed to just HTML. I am just finishing up an introductory java class, and I look forward to leveraging the skills I developed in that class and applying them to this one.

The content in Unit 0 is basic, but thorough. I will be required to reference the instructions on what to submit and how at the conclusion of each unit to not only acquire satisfactory marks in this class, but also to maximize the benefit of the knowledge building journey I will be on. I am looking forward to reviewing material from others and sharing my own material.

Entry completed October 5, 2020.

Unit One

Unit 1 presented some new challenges in planning out the website. As I had previously indicated, I had operated some websites before, but this was using mostly static pages and I also relied on a premade perl program that allowed for news postings and archiving of news postings. That said, this exercise was invaluable as my personality type is not one for planning.

As an orange personality type, I am prone to spontaneity, which can sometimes lead to a lack of planning. You can take your personality test here:

<https://my-personality-test.com/>

As I went through this activating of planning the site design, maybe what I had initially thought was not what was going to be in the final project. For example, my idea of a wellness diary being a good resource transformed by the end of the unit workings into a realization that it is a bit self-serving in nature. While I still feel there is value in having that section for some, I realize not much emphasis should be put on that section. In the site mockup it falls towards the end of the menu.

I feel that the planning process has not only prepared me to craft an acceptable website to meet the course requirements, but also more importantly has given me the tools necessary to make websites that meet not only my own needs, but user needs as well. This is perhaps the most important skill to take from this unit, especially if one is to ever apply course teachings to a site with one of the purposes being to generate revenue.

It will be important for me to remain self-aware to my personality's shortcomings to ensure I do not do everything with spontaneity and no planning given the benefit to a plan.

Some concerns I still have is the ability to provide enough content to be able to meet the course objectives during the timeframe of the course alone, but I do enjoy writing, and I do have lots of personal material to draw on, so the only resource I will spend on content creation is time. The ability to scale my project is evident with my submission for Unit 1 with regards to overall site design, which is good because I intend to maintain the site after this course is completed.

Entry completed October 14, 2020.

Unit Two

Unit 2 is where some of the planning is put to paper. Prior to that activity, a couple of poor examples are provided to look at to know what not to do with our own submissions and to critique. When I took a look at the first sample I immediately noticed that while Chrome was able to render the page, looking at the source showed an unwillingness to close heading or paragraph elements. I felt it would be most prudent to run the page through a validation test. I felt there was no better test to parse code with than the one at <https://validator.w3.org/>, and several errors showed up. Primarily many of them were due to elements not being closed, where errors would say something along the lines of <p> cannot be a child of element <h2> or something similar. However, there were other areas of errors as well as well.

Other errors included the fact there was no DOCTYPE indication which should be at the start of the page. Next, the title element was empty. There was a warning that the language of the page was not declared, though this was returned as a warning and not an error. Character encoding type was not declared, and this returned an error. The img element did not include alternative text through an alt attribute. Additionally, some nesting issues were present causing stray end tag errors. There was also the use of obsolete attributes such as the border attribute on a table, where CSS is more appropriate.

The second sample was also run through the validation test and returned no errors as a XHTML 1.0 transitional document. The errors in the second file were not as substantial, but there wasn't much content in the second sample to begin with. The concern here being is that the document may not confirm to more recent standards, such as HTML5. In fact, there are some online sources that do not recommend learning XHTML and encourage people to use HTML5 instead due to more usage. These sites are, for an example:

- <https://hackr.io/blog/difference-between-html-html5-xhtml>
- <https://www.educba.com/xhtml-vs-html5/>
- <https://softwareengineering.stackexchange.com/questions/149839/is-xhtml5-dead-or-is-it-just-an-synonym-of-html5>

There is also the fact that HTML5 is the current W3C recommendation.

One of the items I struggled with here was keeping lines of code under 80 characters. I did some reading online and found this interesting discussion. I was motivated to research based on having links for <a> elements be long in nature:

<https://softwareengineering.stackexchange.com/questions/394265/how-to-deal-with-long-urls-in-comments-that-exceed-the-80-characters-limit>

It seems that sometimes the functionality does not allow to keep the characters per line of code under a certain amount sometimes. Though this is considered good style in other programming languages, perhaps this thought is antiquated given newer technologies.

I used div tags only because it was a requirement of this unit, but I feel that even though they are used in conjunction as formatting tools with CSS, I will get better value out of defining styles of heading or

paragraph elements in the CSS file instead of using div elements. My thoughts are matched by comments made on the post on the landing located here:

<https://landing.athabascau.ca/discussion/view/6734092/using-div>

I initially used a form from an online source (and gave appropriate credit in my commentary in the source code of the HTM file) thinking JavaScript was required (from <https://www.100forms.com/ready-forms/contact-us-form/>), but after spending more time researching online, determined it was impossible to do without relying on other technology, which has not yet met in any learning objectives. I spent hours researching to confirm this. As a result, the form I have is HTML5 compliant, but does not do anything, yet. Once we learn JavaScript, I will be able to greatly improve it.

Ultimately, I heavily modified the sample pages so much that they became unrecognizable and used them with corrections to start the development of the webpage content.

Entry completed October 16, 2020.

Unit Three

Unit 3 is where we introduce CSS to the fold to generate nicer looking websites that one would be proud of showing off. This is also where I introduce some of the content to the site. Having operated a website in the early 2000s, one thing I really learned from this unit and saw reinforced while browsing the web is that HTML only describes webpages, but CSS describes how that webpage is displayed. Thinking back I am certainly guilty of using HTML tags and tables to directly format how my webpage is displayed instead of relying on CSS to do the design work.

There is a great infographic at the following that outlines this:

<https://www.codingdojo.com/blog/html-vs-css-infographic>

It was fascinating to gain a better appreciation as to the flexibility of CSS and how much it can do, even with regards to changing images and how they display. Using CSS to modify how my menu appeared was nice. The code was so simple, and in the past, I am certain I have done things such as reusing existing JavaScript to have boxes fill in with color on a menu of links to navigate to different sections of a webpage. By using CSS properly, I was able to avoid a lot of this complicated code implementation, while having flexibility to change how my menu looks and interacts from a formatting for my entire site from the CSS file referenced.

Being forced to ensure browser compatibility is also something I never considered. It made me look at an external resource at <https://www.lambdatest.com/> to determine if my page worked on other browsers, it does. For the older versions of browsers available on that site, my page mostly rendered correctly, with minor issues that didn't affect the overall functionality of the page, but just an alignment issue with portraits.

There is much to learn with CSS and the page at <https://www.w3schools.com/css/default.asp> does a really good job covering off many of the items. It is almost overwhelming at first, but with testing and patience I felt I was able to pickup enough to have my site looking nice. It makes me question with the resources being free at w3schools.com why people turn to sites such as Wix instead of spending some time learning CSS.

Similar to Java, what HTML and CSS remind me of is using subroutines and objects to break down tasks to simpler levels to keep the main program (HTML) clean while you use other items (CSS) to do some heavy lifting on the display side. This actually makes it easier to understand the HTML and the CSS separately than if everything was done with HTML tags, tables, etc.

I am looking forward to introducing more content as I learn more about scripting to touch on some final areas of the needs of the personas of Unit 1. My current site is available with images, that have not been sourced with anything other than my own phone and lame photoshop efforts for a title image, at the following site: <http://student.athabascau.ca/~davidbo56/>.

Entry completed October 25, 2020.

Unit Four

Unit Four went smoothly for me, with our tasking being to introduce some JavaScript to our site that would improve the experience of the personas created in Unit One. One of the reoccurring themes of the personas was the ease of being able to find information in an organized and timely manner. However, I am cognizant that my site is small in scale and it will take time to build content over the years. A problem requiring solving is to address both the needs of the personas in a way that doesn't minimize the content my site provides, while providing organized and effortless access to outside resources.

I felt the solution was obvious. I needed a search box on the review page to ensure people could search for a trail externally if I had no information on a trail. This clearly deals with both issues. Firstly, it deals with the issue of information being organized and easy to access for my personas. If the trail isn't listed, they do not need to go to Google itself, they can simply search right on the website and move on, getting the information they need. Lastly, the issue of my small scale is deal with appropriately by relying on Google and the information one can find using a Google inquiry. The world is, figuratively, at your fingertips through a web search with tons of information coming back.

This is not without issue, as sometimes the information returned can be overwhelming, or it can be difficult to know what result to follow. Still, some mitigation is issues is better than nothing. But, what about the code itself?

The code is slightly shorter than what is required and expected in the process guide, but this is by design. My preference is almost always to start from scratch or heavily modify existing code to clean it up, make it easier to follow, and have e a more efficient implementation. The code that I used from <http://hawkee.com/snippet/7068/> works on current versions of Chrome, Opera, and Edge. I did not test it on Safari. `<script language="Javascript">` is not used, but the proper form `<script type="text/javascript">` is used. However, that being said, at https://www.w3schools.com/js/js_where.asp it suggests this is not required. It suggests that as JavaScript is the default scripting language, only `<script>` is required. No type declaration required.

Some online validators of the code itself indicated a missing semi-colon on the `window.location.replace(replaced)` line. However, other validators were fine with the omitted semi-colon. Having recently taken an introductory Java course, I preferred to see it present. It seems my opinion itself is validated with the discussion at <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/444080/do-you-recommend-using-semicolons-after-every-statement-in-javascript> where an example of code breaking due to omission of semi-colon is presented and top rated comment is to put in a semi-colon. An interesting read is at <https://code.likeagirl.io/why-the-heck-do-i-need-to-use-semi-colons-in-javascript-4f8712c82329>. Now, after reading both links in detail and without being a JavaScript expert, it is easy to see that there are reasonable arguments from both sides of the camp.

I also took this moment to clean up the contact form from a CSS implementation standpoint, but I plan to legitimately work on it once I start using my own JavaScript. I don't really consider it part of my site at this time aside from the fact it was a requirement of a previous unit.

Learning Diary

Entry completed October 27, 2020.

Unit Five

Three Site Proposals

In all cases it is important to remember the coding might not accurately be an exact copy of pseudocode if the pseudocode leads to bugs, but it provides a rough idea of implementation.

Proposal One

For the first proposal I would like a situation where the menu is changed to include JavaScript. The JavaScript will display a different information box as you mouse over the different headings so that people know what is included in that section of the website. This is appropriate for all of the personas as the common theme was to have information organized well so they can efficiently browse the site.

If a person moves the mouse over the category it will do something like the below image:



This saves the user time.

Pseudocode

Set Objects in Array to pair menu items and description

1. On mouse over of a menu item
 - a. Clear any menuInfoBox displaying information about a menu item
 - b. Display menuInfoBox for paired menuitem of Object
2. On mouse off of a menu item
 - a. Delay one second
 - b. Clear any menuInfoBox with fade over 1.5 seconds

Proposal Two

The second proposal I have enhances the display of the review sections. Right now, all of the images are at the bottom and the appearance is kind of clunky and unprofessional. I have engaged friends to review my site and provide feedback. The feedback of display and how the page flows has been mostly positive, however one consistent piece of feedback remains that the design is clunky around the area of images on the review page. In order to secure return visitors from the personas and build potential trust issues,

this must be resolved. I plan to implement scripting that will scroll through images and captions and stick it on the left side of the review text. This will free up the awkwardness of where the pictures currently lie at the bottom and really pull everything together. It will be important to address the current format of the picture boxes to ensure that they will work with a dark or light theme.

Pseudocode:

Define 6-9 Objects of Images and Captions

1. Display Object
2. Count 3 Seconds
3. Move Forward
4. Forward is Change Object +
 - a. Check Object location in Array of Objects
 - i. If Object is at end, set Object to First Object in Array
 - ii. Else Object ++
5. Return to 1

I hope to implement a tiny arrow right and left people can click on to move forward or backward in objects. Moving forward in object is defined in #4 of pseudocode above.

Move backwards would be:

1. Backwards is Change Object –
 - a. Check Object location in Array of Objects
 - i. If Object is at start, set Object to Last Object in Array
 - ii. Else Object –
2. Return to #1 in above pseudocode.

In both cases the object allows for the user to click and bring up a larger version of the image.

Proposal Three

In this final proposal I would like to make the Reviews section sortable so people can sort by distance, review ratings, and elevation. This fits strongly with the personas outlined who are after information in an organized and readily available manner. Being able to sort through the reviews will allow quicker access to the information required.

Pseudocode:

Create objects for each review containing link, name, distance, elevation, and rating.

Define variables of 0,1,2 for distanceSort, elevationSort, and reviewSort ratings where 0= no sort, 1= descending, 2= ascending

1. If click on
 - a. Elevation heading
 - i. If elevationSort = 0
 1. Set distanceSort = 0
 2. Set ratingSort = 0
 3. Sort objects by descending
 4. Set elevationSort = 1
 - ii. Else If elevationSort = 1
 1. Sort objects by ascending
 2. Set elevationSort = 2
 - iii. Else (elevationSort = 2)
 1. Sort objects by descending
 2. Set elevationSort = 1
 - b. Distance heading
 - i. If distanceSort = 0
 1. Set elevationSort = 0
 2. Set ratingSort = 0
 3. Sort objects by descending
 4. Set distanceSort = 1
 - ii. Else If distanceSort = 1
 1. Sort objects by ascending
 2. Set distanceSort = 2
 - iii. Else (distanceSort = 2)
 1. Sort by descending
 2. Set objects distanceSort = 1
 - c. Rating heading
 - i. If ratingSort = 0
 1. Set elevationSort = 0
 2. Set distanceSort = 0
 3. Sort by descending
 4. Set objects ratingSort = 1
 - ii. Else If ratingSort = 1
 1. Sort by ascending
 2. Set objects ratingSort = 2
 - iii. Else (ratingSort = 2)
 1. Sort by descending
 2. Set objects ratingSort = 1

The sorting algorithm will be based off on the sorting algorithm at the following site:

<http://math.hws.edu/eck/cs124/javanotes7/c7/s4.html>

This is the most ambitious of the three implementations but will provide the best challenge and a good test of skills.

This concludes my three proposals.

Three JavaScript Implementations

main.js

What an incredible learning journey. The first proposal was relatively simple and I researched how to use JavaScript in conjunction with CSS to create a box that would fade out explaining the section of the site. I was going to make objects and have the text in the JavaScript. Instead, I typed the description directly in the HTML using a function that put the text into the menuitemInfo box. It was just as simple to do it this way and it let me play with having parameters in calling a function. I used <https://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp> only for this.

berthafalls.js (and other similar named script files)

The second proposal was a bit different. It's scrolling through pictures to make it appear nicer than the page did in the past, and change elements of the picture holder by changing pictures every 3 seconds. Furthermore, I wanted to include a function to go forward or backwards in photos. This went very close to what was done in my pseudocode and I used only <https://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp>. I did make a mistake in that my code originally said the following:

```
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = '<h3>CLICK FOR LARGER</h3>';  
  
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = '<a target="_blank" href=""';  
  
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = images[x].full + '>';  
  
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = '<img src=""';  
  
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = images[x].thumb + '" alt=""';  
  
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = images[x].description + '></a>';  
  
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = '<div class="desc">';  
  
document.getElementById('imageControl').innerHTML = images[x].description + '></div>';
```

https://www.w3schools.com/js/js_htmlDOM_document.asp

The same page that talked about how to change CSS style with getElementById was at that page and cleaned up the code nicely and made it easier to follow.

The third one, a table sorter, had me panicked and worried. When I looked at my pseudocode, it had me a bit worried, and when I googled ideas I saw

https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_js_sort_table.asp and I thought to myself I should not cheat

by reviewing another website. I did implement that code on that site, but it didn't really work for sorting numbers. A google search found a way to make it sort numbers, but only if they were the same digits in length.

themePicker.js (bonus Script)

Feeling guilty for implementing code from online, I devised and made code to provide a dark theme at night, and a light theme during the day. This was beneficial as I learned when using `document.write()` might be more appropriate than using `getElementById` and trying to replace elements.

https://www.w3schools.com/js/js_output.asp provided a clear warning that "Using `document.write()` after an HTML document is loaded, will delete all existing HTML". What about before? That was what I needed to wrap my head around, and I quickly changed code and got it to work. For the record, I also referenced https://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_gethours.asp on how to get the script to get the hour of the day for use in a test. I then changed the image to be a transparent png to work with either theme. Really happy how this turned out, even though I did not originally plan this.

tableSort.js

I decided to go back to the table and closely followed my pseudocode. What a relief that I found https://www.w3schools.com/js/js_array_sort.asp as it showed me I would not need to use two variables to juggle positions throughout all the objects of the trails like used in the Java textbook. Instead I could use the sort function. This wouldn't seem to work for Strings, and even though I didn't say I would sort by string, I found a way to add that in by learning the appropriate function at <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1129216/sort-array-of-objects-by-string-property-value> through a google search. Because I used phrases instead of a rating system for difficulty and to describe how busy a trail is, I also added in a couple of functions to convert a number rating (the program used for sorting) into a string for when the table of table was rendered.

I am super happy with this programming. Even though this may not be the prettiest way to sort data, I think it demonstrates a few different items such as using arrays, for loops, and multiple functions.

I also made sure to thoroughly comment so anyone could pick it up and I contributed to the Landing to help others test their code and validate their code to reduce errors and become a better coder.

Entry completed November 4, 2020.

Unit Six

Proposals

JQuery allows for the implementation of programming done by others into your own site. I had two goals in mind when I reviewed what JQuery is. Firstly, I thought I could use JQuery to better organize the Beginners section on my site. I could enhance it with images, an embedded video, and have tabs to click to show only the information requested by the user. This will increase the professionalism of the presentation and increase the speed and time that personas can get what information they want.

Secondly, I plan to implement an external table sorter to replace the large and somewhat higher maintenance table sorting JavaScript code I have written myself. By using someone else's creation, I can likely increase the maintainability of my site to make it less time consuming to add content. It's not that my code is bad, but it's more believing that a better option exists out there in an existing library that I can implement into my site. I have one in mind that I found while exploring via Google, but I do not want to commit to it if the implementation is too difficult.

Here is the page with JavaScript implementation of the table sorting program I wrote, which will be lost when replaced with the revamped sorter I plan to implement this Unit:

<http://student.athabascau.ca/~davidbo56/reviewsUnit5.htm>

Both proposed implementations greatly enhance the functionality of my site and the user experience. For accessibility and compatibility concerns, a simple NOSCRIPT element will provide the same information at a lower level experience. I am not overly concerned about the small amount of space duplicating the information will take up as the size of the text on my page is minimal.

Implementation

I used JQuery to make the beginners section look a little nicer and added images to it. I relied on <https://jquery.com/> and <https://www.w3schools.com/jquery/default.asp> and implemented the toggle method into the beginners section to more or less get more comfortable with JQuery. I really enjoyed this, and it was relatively straight forward. It made my site appear more like a legitimate website, too, and not something from the old GeoCities days. If you don't understand the reference, please check out the story at this link: <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/525315/15-megabytes-fame-geocities-story>. Indeed, the expanding of subsections in the beginners section looks really awesome, and doesn't take a tremendously long amount of time to load. I also used this opportunity to add a few more images from my collection images from my summer of exploration.

What I am happy about is that without scripting active, the page is still very readable. This implementation, although minor, gave me a deeper understanding of how JQuery works, so when I implemented proposal two, it went smoothly. Indeed, this was the case. I implemented tablesorter, from <https://mottie.github.io/tablesorter/> on my reviews page and released my articles section. This was super simple to implement, but I did decide against using their packaged CSS sheet to style the table. The reason I did this was because I wanted to make sure my page didn't start looking busy with too many colors. This is fueled by user feedback I got from coworkers where their compliments had a

reoccurring theme: simplicity and ease of use and navigation. This is exactly what I was aiming for to satisfy the personas of Unit 1. Releasing the articles section is not quite at the same scope as described in my site outline (no inhouse articles), but the source of information available is very readable, sortable, and organized well. The articles section meets the needs outlined in my original plans.

I decided to upload the JQuery library to ensure maximum compatibility with my site, but I realize there is a risk of using and continuing to use depreciated code as time goes on with keeping a copy of the library on my site as opposed to linking to the JQuery library from an external source.

If I had to do it again, I would look at their additional mods and plugins for their library and allow for a search box. Admittedly, at 6 current reviews, this is not needed, but as I add more to my page if I continue to maintain it after this course, a search box may become very useful to filter only easy hikes or find a particular hike by name. It is this unit that gave me a larger appreciation for the type of applications a person can develop for “just” a webpage. My pages will look and interact like something from GeoCities no longer and I feel like my site has really come together.

Entry completed November 6, 2020.

Unit Seven

Proposals

Proposal One – Social Media Feeds

I plan to implement a few external site features to mash up into my site. I am unsure how this will go, but so far implementations have been easier than I have anticipated which had made me happy and surprised me at the same time. One of the items missing on my page is my wellness diary, so I am going to implement that section, though it will be low on content. I plan to implement feeds on my social media on this wellness diary so people can get to know me a bit better. This will also satisfy all of the content I had committed to in my original site plan, as I have been releasing a little with further updates and submissions. I am not 100% sure how this is going to work, yet, but I am looking forward to the challenge.

Proposal Two – Facebook Comment Integration

I am looking forward to implementing Facebook's comment system into my website. This will allow users to be more engaged and comment on trails after they complete them, especially if they used a review on our site to do a trail or not. This has the potential for additional promotion through other users.

Implementation

Social Media Feeds

The implementation of my Twitter feed went smoothly. The implementation of my Instagram feed requires server side work and nothing client side (JavaScript). This is covered in the developer's section of Facebook's website. In addition, embedding a personal Facebook timeline is not possible, whereas a business or group one is. So, I did not embed either feeds as a result. Instead I decided to embed the HikingAlberta subreddit from Reddit, which is a nice addition for visitors to my page, and might cause them to explore if they are curious. If they did not know what Reddit is, they will find out quickly by clicking a link and exploring the embedded part on my page. This adds convenience and is organized, a reoccurring theme of personas from Unit 1. However, as opposed to a wellness diary, an about me section was used with current goals and completed goals instead. It is lower scale, but more appropriate for the of content creation required to provide relevant content.

Facebook Comment Integration

This went relatively smoothly, and by setting up a Facebook app in the developer's section, I can moderate all the comments from a single spot by tying back to the same App ID. Comments can allow people to feel more connected to my page, and will reduce the chance of spam if it is linked to their Facebook ID. Increased engagement can lead to increased visits and build my site's web presence.

Next Times

In reflection what went well is that I found relevant client side APIs that did not require PHP or server side scripting. If I had to do it again, I would definitely learn how to do some server side work to make my site more professional, such as making the contact form directly mail me as opposed to opening the default mail client instead, or perhaps allowing me to display my Instagram feed set of photos. The

Learning Diary

positive in all of this is I plan to maintain this site in some form even after this course is done, slowly adding reviews and moving it to a web hosting server that supports a secure connection as well as learn some server side scripting.

I could have implemented a true contact form and reCAPTCHA, for example, with these additional tools used.

The only thing I did not implement in any manner from the original site design was a mobile version of the site, but after reviewing other's submissions on the Landing, I felt with all of the original content provided that enough was accomplished and the pages work "well enough" on mobile browsers to be acceptable for this course. When I manage this site after this course, I will certainly look at implementing a mobile version of the site.

Entry completed November 9, 2020.

Final Reflections

As I went through this course I realized how much I missed operating a website. I plan to continue adding content to this site, and refining my review process. I also plan to see if I can implement some server side items such as a proper contact form that doesn't rely on opening an email client.

Long term, I'd like to use the reviews section as an opportunity to see if there's a better system to create data holding the reviews in a database and pull that data forward with PHP. I think that may be possible based on what I've read at w3 Schools, but my knowledge level there is low.

I've had a ton of fun with this course, and even though the resources were all free and available online, what I found invaluable with the structure of reflecting on my work and the order of the different activities. That provided enough loose structure to learn the right techniques at the right time to build a fully functioning website coming in with very limited knowledge, mostly HTML from several years ago when GeoCities and AngelFire were very popular. Programming JavaScript from scratch was extremely rewarding and really made me build confidence overall in my abilities.

I am looking forward to learning more on my own, for personal satisfaction, with this course and my portfolio complete.

Entry completed November 9, 2020.