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Assignment 4 Documentation

PANIC – AUDIO, POPCORN.JS, PAPER.JS

So, I don’t think I ever procrastinated for panicked over an assignment as much as this one. I had no idea what “tool” to use, the example tools in the reddit didn’t completely appeal to me (they all looked super difficult), and I wanted to do something that geared away from using/learning new code.

Recently, I’ve been listening to a lot of House/EDM/2000s nostalgic music on SoundCloud and I thought how cool it would be if I made my own song! I experimented with:

- Audiotools
- PartyCloud
- etc!

This ended up being a frustrating attempt so I scratched that idea. I even downloaded Audacity and tried to play around with that but the interface was confusing and it was just all bad.

So, remembering back to class, I really liked the idea of the Right Wing Radio Duck video and how they overlaid different audio and video clips paired with informational captions and links. I thought this could be an easy opportunity to play with editing and actual “film” making, which I hadn’t done before. I opened up the Popcorn Webmaker and went over at least 10 different video ideas (I carelessly forgot to screenshot them before I scrapped them. Some ideas were:

- Putting side by side the Mean Gurlz trailer by Todrick Hall (Youtube) with actual clips from Mean Girls and inputting bits of information about Mean Girls’ success.
- Overlaying the Pitch Perfect Riff-Off video (Youtube) with the original songs instead of the acapella versions.
- Taking a scene or the trailer from Shrek and playing around with the idea that the movie was a satirical parody of classic Disney films by playing side by side the Shrek parody scenes with the actual Disney scenes from which they were parodying (ex. Snow White bird singing scene)
- Doing something creative somehow with this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yibQvhLPB8Q&spfreload=10 and this song: https://soundcloud.com/lucianofficial/black-coast-trndsttr-lucian-remix?in=jane-han-9/sets/fab
Through this process of attempting all these ideas, I ultimately realized that although I’m a film major, I really hate editing and I’m awful at it. So I scratched this idea, although I did go back to these ideas several times throughout my overall process because every idea I had following were just uninspiring.

I really liked the Paper.JS example on the subreddit. It looked so cool and something that I could maybe pull off. Alas, I couldn’t. Everything I tried with the code resulted in a blank.

I later looked at the “Loading Effects with CSS Animation” example and got a spark of inspiration as I was walking back from my Art 101 class.

**IDEA**

I had this idea that would utilize the loading effects in which all the different images that would load would actually be pieces of a larger image. Like bits and pieces of a puzzle being continually added to the bottom of the picture to form the whole as the user scrolled through the page. I didn’t have an idea of exactly what image I would use, but I figured that could come later as long as I figured out if this would even be possible.

Using the example site, I downloaded the source code and calculated all the images’ pixels in height and the margin/padding pixels to see how big the complete image would have to be. It came down to like 9813600 x 1290 pixels, which is just ridiculous and impossible. So I was beginning to scratch this idea when the song “I’m a Believer” by Weezer from the Shrek soundtrack came on (I was listening to music throughout this whole process of course). I thought what if I took each line of the song, made them into transparent images and that way, the user could scroll through the song lyrics while I had the song actually play in the background. And once the user reached the bottom, I would just have a huge picture of Shrek’s face. And because all the images were in an unordered list in the HTML, it would all seem like an abstract play on the song when really it was just coincidental.
ACTUAL IDEA // EXECUTION

So I ended up actually scratching the Shrek idea. At this time, I was watching some movie trailers on Youtube for inspiration/procrastination. I came across the trailer for my favorite movie, “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind” (Michel Gondry, 2004) and immediately thought of the poem “Eloisa to Abelard” (Alexander Pope) from which the movie title is based from. I looked up the poem and it’s ridiculously long and just not doable (and I didn’t want to do it). I decided to literally just take each line from the movie, starting from the beginning, and make images out of that. This would be a huge task to finish in less than 24 hours, but I decided that I would just do about 64 images (which was how long the example was).

I began by seeing if I could actually upload and use the JS files from the example.

It kind of worked, but not really once I loaded up some placeholder images. Normally, what was supposed to happen was that as you scrolled down, each successive image would fade up into place. That didn’t happen (probably because I started messing with the CSS and deleted random things). So then, I took the actual HTML file from the source code and tweaked bits and pieces of that (with trial and error and hope) until I managed to come up with this:
For the actual images of text, all I did was make three different image files of 400 x 640 px, 400 x 250 px, and 400 x 300 px that I could interchange the text. Then I just typed out each line from the script of the film (which I googled: [http://eternalsunshineofmayasmind.tumblr.com/post/7238064982/transcript-of-eternal-sunshine-of-a-spotless-mind](http://eternalsunshineofmayasmind.tumblr.com/post/7238064982/transcript-of-eternal-sunshine-of-a-spotless-mind)). I played a lot with the kerning/spacing/line heights/font sizes with each and every one of them, trying to place emphasis on certain words and lines. I actually wanted to use a different font and color for each speaking character, reflecting their personalities. But I decided against that because, why not. And also because that would end up being more work and I wanted to keep a sort of uniformity with the images, maybe it would have some sort of abstract meaning?

Something kept messing up with the animation effects, so I reset the CSS files and just did a plain background instead of trying to use my same boring background. I was planning on completely redoing the CSS for all my FILM170A assignment pages anyway. So I started with a plain background and added a low-opacity background with beveled corners for the images:

![Assignment 4 - New Tools](image)

After I made all 64 or so text images, I wanted to end the script on a meaningful line, but based on the scenario of the scene, I would’ve had to done at least another 50 images, so I just ended on a random line. I then added a different background, something that would emulate a similar mood as the film.

**CONCLUSION**

Overall, I think most of the struggles I had with this assignment didn’t really have to do with whatever I actually ended up doing, but just trying to find what to do. I knew right away that I didn’t want to play with any drawing/3D things as I had already had a lot of experience with both fields. And I also didn’t want to do anything with too much unfamiliar code (or Javascript to be honest) mostly because of the course load I have this quarter with taking two classes on HTML/CSS/JS. In the end, it is what it is and this was a surprisingly frustrating assignment. I thought I would really like it simply because of the freedom of it, but I think I learned that my best work usually comes from restrictions (which is probably something Professor Prelinger would agree with).