Final Project: Part I

due by 5:30 P.M. ET on Wednesday, 29 November 2006

It’s one thing to use the World Wide Web. It’s now time to put yourself on the World Wide Web!

E-1’s final project requires that you develop your very own website, the content and URL of which are (nearly) entirely up to you. Your website can be personal, professional, informational, whimsical, or something else—it’s yours to design! Perhaps you’d like to exhibit photos of your latest trip? Perhaps you’d like to give your small business a presence on the Internet? Perhaps you’d like to start selling widgets? The world does need, after all, more widgets.

But we digress. The point is that this final project is your opportunity to take your newfound understanding of computers and the Internet out for a spin and apply it in the real (okay, virtual) world.

Part I of this final project, due by 5:30 P.M. ET on Wednesday, 29 November 2006, simply requires that you start thinking about your website and answer a few questions. Part II of this project, due by 9:35 P.M. ET on Monday, 22 January 2007, will require actual development of your website. Extensions will not be granted for this final project, and late submissions will be penalized per the syllabus.

The only requirements that we hereby impose on your website are the following.

i. Your website must be written in XHTML, not HTML.

ii. Your website must include at least five pages in addition to index.html. You may not count among those pages any of the pages that you designed for an exercise in some section or workshop or for a problem set—all of your pages must be designed exclusively for this final project.

iii. Each of your website’s pages must be interconnected somehow. For instance, your main page could include links to your other pages or each page could contain a link to another page.

iv. Your XHTML must be pretty-printed (i.e., hierarchically indented), valid, and well-formed.

v. Each of your pages must include (by way of a link element within the page’s head element) a cascading stylesheet from the root directory of your website styles.css; this file should contain definitions for at least three classes, each of which should be used at least once somewhere in your site.

vi. Your CSS must be valid.

While you may use a WYSIWYG editor (e.g., Dreamweaver) to develop your website, we strongly suggest that—for the sake of reinforcing your understanding of XHTML—that you not use a WYSIWYG editor. If you do opt to use one, do take care that you meet the requirements above. Not all WYSIWYG editors output valid XHTML!
On the other hand, you are encouraged to use non-WYSIWYG editors like EditPlus, HTML-Kit, and TextPad that provide such features as syntax highlighting and selection of tags via drop-down menus. And you are, of course, welcome to use even simpler non-WYSIWYG editors like Notepad and TextEdit.

You will not be graded on the artistic merits of your website. (Though things of beauty are encouraged.) Instead, you will be graded on the basis of your fulfillment of the foregoing requirements, particularly on the well-formedness and validity of your XHTML and CSS.

Ultimately, you may find that your website displays differently on different browsers, despite your efforts to provide a uniform experience. If you prefer, come submission time, that we view (and evaluate) your site with a particular browser, simply advise us accordingly.

Alright, let’s get you started on Part I, shall we? Submit your answers in the form of an email to cscie1@fas.harvard.edu with a subject line of “Final Project: Part I.” Do not place your answers in an attachment; rather, write them in the body of the email itself.

**Things That Make You Go Hmmm... (25 points.)**

1. Spend some time thinking about what kind of website you’d like to make. Then, in one or more paragraphs, tell us what you have in mind.

   Rest assured that you can change your mind at any point. But give your website enough thought now that you’re more likely to proceed as planned than to diverge from your original plan.

**GoWhere? (75 points.)**

Call us crazy, but we’re going to go ahead and host your website for you—at no cost to you! How’s that for a deal? Well, we should qualify that offer: we’re going to host your website for you until 9:35 P.M. ET on Thursday, 24 May 2007, which should give you plenty of time—if you’d like your website to outlive E-1—to sign up for a web host of your own. We’ll advise you on how to transition yourself to another web host at term’s end.

For now, E-1 shall be your web host! Or, rather, E-1’s account at dreamhost.com shall be your web host! Specifically, we’ll provide you with an FTP account with which to upload content to your website, 1 GB of storage, and an email address in your own domain. All you need to do is buy the domain name (so that ownership thereof resides with you).1

---

1 If, for financial or other reasons, you would rather not incur this expense of a domain name, you can actually host your website in your FAS account. The address of your site, though, would be http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~username/, where username is your FAS username, which, frankly, isn’t nearly as fun as having your own domain name. Nonetheless, if you opt to use your FAS account, simply inform us of your decision in lieu of answering questions 2 through 4.
2. Surf on over to godaddy.com and start a domain search! In other words, think about what domain name you’d like for your website, using GoDaddy’s site to check availability. Finding an available domain name might just prove the most challenging part of this final project!

GoDaddy offers a whole bunch of TLDs—go with whichever TLD you prefer.

Once you’ve found a domain name that you like and that’s available, buy it! GoDaddy’s website is a bit confusing, particularly since they try to “upsell” you at each step. But resist all temptations to pay for add-ons. All you want is a one-year registration for your domain name. (If you really want, you can pay extra for “privacy,” so that your postal address isn’t listed in publicly accessible databases. But, frankly, it’s cheaper, once you’ve paid for your domain name, to change your address via GoDaddy’s interface to, say, your work address.) Find your way to the checkout! If you’ve never bought a domain name from GoDaddy before, you’ll need to create an account with them. Be sure to remember your choices of customer # or login name as well as your choice of passwords! You will need both for technical reasons.

Assuming you buy, say, a .com, you shouldn’t need to pay more than $10 or so after taxes and fees. If you buy a ccTLD, the cost may be higher.

Okay, what domain name did you buy? (Assume hereinafter that domain.tld refers to your choice of domain name.)

3. Recall that whether or not a website’s address begins with www is entirely a webmaster’s prerogative. However, whether you advertise your site as domain.tld or as www.domain.tld, it’s best if both addresses at least work, even if one redirects to the other. With that said, how would you like us to set up your website?
   a) I want domain.tld to redirect to www.domain.tld.
   b) I want www.domain.tld to redirect to domain.tld.
   c) I want users to remain at whichever address they chose to visit.

4. We will set you up with an email address of the form username@domain.tld, where username is entirely up to you. Accordingly, what email address (i.e., username) would you like us to create for you?

Alright, that’s all for now! Come December, we’ll let you know how to use GoDaddy’s interface to “point” your domain name at the hosting account we’ll be setting up for you. And we’ll let you know exactly how to upload content to your website. And we’ll let you know how to use your newly created email address. Until you hear back from us on all of that, continue to work on your

---

2 We considered providing you with step-by-step instructions on how to buy a domain name at GoDaddy, but, truth be told, learning to navigate a website like GoDaddy’s on your own is a valuable lesson unto itself. After all, E-1 won’t be by your side forever! But please do not hesitate to ask questions of the staff if you encounter trouble with this step!
3 If you buy multiple domain names so that you can redirect several (e.g., domain.net and domain.org) to just one (e.g., domain.com), simply tell us the name of the latter. (We’ll leave it to you to redirect the others to that one via GoDaddy’s interface.)
website’s design, if only in your mind. You might find it helpful to start keeping a list of websites whose design you like so that you have a bit of inspiration when it comes time to implement your own.

Until then, coming soon: you on the World Wide Web!