

Original Project Goal and Changes Made

My original project was and still is a full-stack e-commerce website. Using my wife's homemade jewelry side business as a basis of the website, the website will, at least for the purposes of the project, be minimal as there will be a home page, about page, product pages for customers to view and learn more about each of the different products available and order form and a dashboard page for the site owner to view sales details. The site will be able to take the order details and send them to the backend / database for storage and will be able to return the data to the site for the site owner's use. I'm using this project as an introduction for myself into web development. I have never been exposed to any of the underlying technologies used in this sector of computer science so being able to create a website, even in its most basic form, will give me comfort in knowing that I'm making progress in learning the technologies. Since this is my first time working with the web stack, I didn't want to overwhelm myself in the time allocated for the course (React will have to wait until the next project), so I wanted to stick with learning and applying the fundamental technologies. I'm building the frontend of the website using vanilla JavaScript, HTML and CSS (using a mixture of bootstrap and some raw CSS for adjustments) and, for the backend, I'm using node.js and the express.js package to run the server, which will then store the sales data within a SQLite database.

In summary, the technologies that I am learning and applying to my project are:

JavaScript,

HTML / CSS (Bootstrap),

Node.js / Express.js,

SQL and SQLite

Describe your accomplishments so far and how those relate to your goals.

I have made some awesome progress on my goal of learning web development so far. Much of my project work for this first part of the class has really been focused on learning the technologies and less about building the site. I've primarily been using courses on Codecademy as a foundation in my learning, where I first started learning HTML and CSS the first few weeks and then moved onto JavaScript. While doing this, I also spent some time learning the Bootstrap framework to make it a little easier to design the front-end of my site. As I have now learned, raw CSS can be a tedious, fickle and time consuming language. Within the past week, I've shifted focus to learning the back-end technologies node.js and express. Actually, as of writing this, just yesterday I was able to get my website to send some data from my very early draft order form page to my express server and send back a response. I was beyond excited to get this to work! I feel I've been making so much progress in learning these technologies for just about a month ago, this whole sector was a complete mystery to me – from how events can trigger JavaScript code to execute and manipulate the DOM to how a server listens for requests.

While I'm not going to list off everything I've learned so far, but here are some of the major topics I've hit (the Codecademy certificates are encouraging) :



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- Elements and Structure (Overall Basic Syntax of HTML)
- Tables (Going to use in my Dashboard)
- Forms (Going to use in my Order Form)



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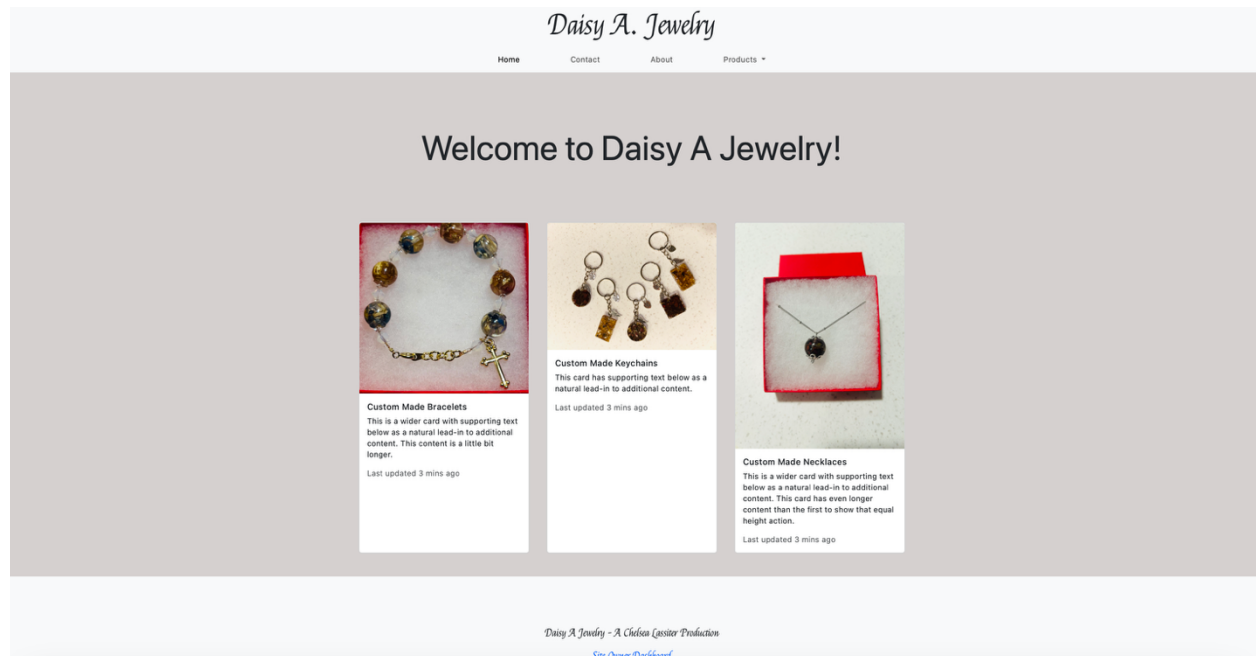
- Basic Syntax and how to use selectors (there's so much here)
- Display and Positioning – Flex Box is Big – especially in Bootstrap



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- Functions, conditionals, scope, arrays, loops, objects – Really all the basics
- And More JavaScript parts of the language like High-Order functions and the related callback functions (huge), classes, JS modules in both Browser and Node.js
- Asynch JavaScript – I learned about the event loop and how async functions are added to the event queue then to the call stack once it's free.
- The Fetch API and await/sync functions

Now I will admit I'm not an expert in any of these areas, but I feel like I've gotten a good first exposure to all of these topics and gives me a good foundation to build my website. For my website at this point, I've started building out the basic pages so that I could begin to start put everything together. Here's a preliminary home page with some basic bootstrap cards:



Reflect on the project and how you envision reaching the goals you currently have for your project.

I'm feeling really good about where I'm at with my first web development project. I'm almost at a point where I know the basics of everything I need to get the site working. The last topic I need to touch on is SQL, which I'm planning to learn this next week. Once I'm through that, I can spend the rest of the class focusing more on building the site. I have been implementing bits and pieces of things as I've been going such as building the basic webpages and getting the order form data to submit to a server and respond, but at this point I was just really 'playing' with it trying to implement what I've learned and isn't super organized. So going forward that's going to be the bigger focus. Again, my site will be super basic, but if there is enough time to spare, I'm going to keep adding to it and making it better, which I'll do regardless after the course is finished. The ultimate goal of the project, though, is to acquire a good understanding of how these web development technologies work.