

Lena Freeman

Comp Tech Spring 2015

Weekly Reports

Week 2: Domain Name

During this week, I chose to look at purchasing a domain name. I am looking into developing a web page for the Stripped Strong art project. The website will be based around showcasing participants stories in an artistic and accessible platform. I am still trying to design a layout, and to research different templates for the website. As it stands right now, I haven't decided on an template to use.

Currently, the Stripped Strong Project already has a Wordpress blog. I am debating whether or not I will continue to use the free Wordpress site that we already have, or whether or not it would be worth the investment to buy the domain name. From a professional standpoint, it would be a smart move to purchase the domain name for marketing purposes. However, I am somewhat concerned with the fact that we do not have very much content to publish at this point to be able to develop a full website. I would rather wait to purchase a domain name until we have more content and final products.

Tasks to complete:

Decide on purchasing a domain name

Research Templates

Research Website layout

Week 3: Domain Name/Project Change

This week has proven to be incredibly difficult. I will no longer be collaborating on the Stripped Strong Project due to personal reasons. Although this decision was a difficult and emotional one to make, it is the best move for me at this time. However, I am now faced with the challenge of coming up with a new idea to move forward with for my project in Comp Tech. As of right now, I am leaning towards creating and developing a website that is based on my own artistic endeavors. I have never considered to market my own art, or to put it out there, so this will be a personal challenge for me.

I have looked into purchasing my lenafreeman.com for my own personal use through Bluehost. I have yet to purchase the domain, but I do believe that this is something that I will invest in. I've also been continuing to research templates that I might want to use for my website. This has proven to be a more difficult task than I had originally thought would be. There are endless possibilities, but I also want to make sure that the one that I purchase will be easily customized to best fit the look that I am wanting.

Tasks to complete:

Purchase lenafreeman.com

Decide on a template

Organize content

Week 4: What did I just do?

So. Bluehost is tricky. I went ahead and purchased lenafreeman.com, for the grand total of \$243. I had no idea that it would be that expensive.

When I had researched purchasing domain names, Bluehost had advertised that they their monthly service was \$3.49/mo. I failed to recognize that this was the rate for 36 months. Not only that, but I had also inadvertently purchased extra add-ons including additional security, Sitelock, and other various services that do not seem relevant to me.

I will be calling Bluehost this week to see if they would be willing to remove some of these features to lower my cost.

As for templates. I purchased an April Bundle from Creative Market that included several type fonts, image vectors, resume outlines, as well as two website layouts. I will most likely be using one of these layouts since I have already purchased them in the bundle. One of the templates included was one called London that seems to fit the criteria that I would like it to. It is supported on multiple web browsers, and seems somewhat highly rated. However, I have no idea how customizable it actually is.

Tasks to complete:

Call Bluehost...

Play with the London template

Organize content

Week 5: lenafreeman.com

Bluehost was incredibly helpful, and was able to remove some of the additional add-ons and reduce the time that I will be using lenafreeman.com. By doing this I was able to be credited back \$110. I decided to keep the additional security since it will help protect my personal email from being flooded with spam messages, and will keep more of my information confidential. I'm sure that I more than likely don't need to have it, however, I am a worrier, and I'm afraid that everyone on the internet is trying to steal my identity. I'll let my paranoia win this time around.

After playing with the template London for awhile, I realize that it isn't nearly as customizable as I would have hoped it would be. I when ahead and purchased another

template from Mojo Marketplace, called AXA Theme for Wordpress. It seems as though it is much more easily customized, and has a better aesthetic for the look that I am attempting to achieve.

Organizing content has been more challenging than I would have thought it to be. I am realizing that it is more difficult for me to categorize my art into separate categories. For my preferred medium, I paint and draw. However, I have never been too good at documenting my final products. In addition, I generally gift my art away, and do not keep very much for myself. Therefore, I have dozens of photos of half finished pieces, and only a handful of photos of my completed artworks. I have also decided to add a section of my travel photography in addition to my drawings and paintings.

Tasks to complete:

Play with the AXA template

Organize content

Think about creating a favicon

Create a sitemap

Week 6: Content and Sliders

I am much happier with the AXA template. I find it to be far more customizable than the London template.

I have begun to organize my content, which is starting to take shape. However, I am run across a problem with how to display my images. I figured that using a slider on each page would be the easiest way to show my images, and then index them below for a static viewing. I downloaded and installed a plug-in for a slider that based on the comments and ratings seemed to be highly rated and easily used. However, the issue that I encountered was that when I tried to create a slider for some of my images, I found that the landscape oriented photos were displayed correctly, but the portrait oriented photos were distorted and stretched. I have no idea on how to fix this, and have tried troubleshooting from forums that I've found online. I'm not quite sure how to fix this problem.

Tasks to complete:

Organize content

Think about creating a favicon

Create a sitemap

Fix Sliders

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Midterm Review

As of right now, I feel as though I am in a good spot with my website. By purchasing my own domain, I feel as though I have a lot more authority as to what will be going into my site, as well as it having a more professional aesthetic.

However, I do feel as though there are some things that I will need to continue to research to be able to create the ambiance that I am going for. I have encountered issues with creating sliders, as some of the photos are distorted when they are in the presentation mode. I have yet to be able to find a solution to this problem, even after researching through Google to see how to troubleshoot the problem. It is a possibility that I may attempt to use a different slider plug-in to see if this fixes the problem.

I have also been working on some graphics for my site in attempts to brand myself as an artist. This has been a fun, yet challenging endeavor. I'm not entirely sure as to why this is happening, but some of the vectored images that I've been using will not save in my final .ai file, or my .pdf file. I will also be troubleshooting this as well to see if I can find a solution. For the continuing weeks, I am planning on creating a favicon, as well as additional graphics for each page as an introductory image to each category.

Weekly Schedule:

Week 6: Figure out why the slider plug-in is distorting photos. Work on Sitemap

Week 7: Continue to organize content. Work on Sitemap

Week 8: Create introductory graphics for each page.

Week 9: Finalize favicon.

Week 10: Final product.