Essay New Media 1

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Course Web Technology

What did I expect from this course?

When the course started I didn't really know what to expect, I assumed that it would be like programming or something. I hoped to learn more about php and java and how to integrate it into a webpage.

What was the course about?

The course started with an introduction about a lot of different aspects of the web, the bubbles and more of that kind. The worst webpage contest was a very fun practical thing to do. We had to come up with an extremely bad webpage. So I searched around the web a lot, and closely watched what was actually annoying me. I came up with a webpage, copy and pasted from a lot of bad bad websites.

Jan did an extraordinary job creating a nice website on which we were able to collaborate in real-time on a survey like website. At first I helped him around with some stuff (the sql database, and a little debugging in the first version). Unfortunately the project needed quite in-depth programming, in which I really couldn't provide.

What did I do:

I put online my website "Roadtocreate.com" for my portfolio, and I uploaded the web service DokuWiki for my projects. This was quite some work for me since I didn't have that much knowledge about websites. The hosting service provided a standard for php4, and I needed php5. After about a week of mailing the host, and trying all kinds of things I managed to get the website working. Unfortunately the website didn't keep up with my expectations. It was slow, and editing a page was as annoying as hell so it didn't last for very long.

Currently I'm proudly running WordPress which is a very nice and easy tool to keep my blog and projects online. It doesn't take much effort for putting the service online, and blogging has never been this easy. I even successfully tried using an android WordPress app to post on my blog. I would recommend WordPress to any wannabeblogger.

About two months ago two of my friends had their birthday, and I decided I had to come up with some unique present. Because WordPress did so well for me, I thought why not give them a website to blog their nonsense on.

I also bought them both a (car-)license plate holder with the website's name on it, to boost the site's popularity. I did have some experience with Google Analytics, and used this tool to keep track of the websites ratings. Within a week we were getting about the 30-50 views a day throughout the country.

This again showed a significant change when I added Hyves and other social media to the website. Via the website you can register for the hyve, and 50 people became friends within a month.

Because of some personal issues we didn't blog for 1,5 – 2 weeks and to be completely honest, we still have to start writing nonsense again. However, with the holidays coming up we will be posting about once a day.

Conclusion/what did I learn:

I didn't learn much about the inside of a website, in the sense of php, html or any other technical aspect. What I did learn is that the internet is like a see. If you manage to start a dimple you can create a wave, which will collapse if it is not getting bigger. I had a lot of fun trying out social media/social media buttons and I will certainly put up a physical social button at the SmartXP event.

I think I have pretty much covered the course and my experiences with the web as it is.