

FS 102
Software Everywhere
Spring 2017

Assignment 3

Assigned: Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Due: Wednesday, February 24, 2017 at the start of class

Introduction

Now that you have created the version of your mobile-ready web site and it is “live”, you are ready to begin publishing written content. In this assignment, you will write the second article that will be featured on your web site. Consisting of between 800 and 1000 words, your article should contain approximately four or five paragraphs of writing. Additionally, your article will have both a header image that is released through Flickr under a Creative Commons License and a license statement for the image. Along with having a captivating title, a TL;DR, and links to other articles and web sites, your second feature article will be promoted through a social media campaign. In order to successfully complete this assignment, please carefully adhere to the following guidelines.

- **If possible, use the laboratory computers.** If it is absolutely necessary for you to work on a different machine, be sure to regularly transfer your programs to the Alden machines and check their correctness. Please remember that, as stated in the syllabus, students should try to complete assignments using the specialized workstations in the laboratory. If you cannot use a laboratory computer, then please carefully explain the setup of your laptop to a teaching assistant or the course instructor when you are asking questions.
- **Follow each step carefully.** Slowly read each sentence in every assignment sheet, making sure that you precisely follow each instruction. Take notes about each step that you attempt, recording your questions and ideas and the challenges that you faced. If you are stuck, then please tell a teaching assistant or instructor what step you recently completed.
- **Regularly ask and answer questions.** Please log into Slack at the start of a class or practical session and then join the appropriate channel. If you have a question about one of the steps in an assignment, then you can post it to the designated channel. Or, you can ask a student sitting next to you or talk with a teaching assistant or the course instructor.
- **Store your files in Git.** Starting with this laboratory assignment, you will be responsible for storing all of your files in a Git repository. Please verify that you have saved your source code in your Git repository by typing “`git status`” and ensuring everything is up to date.
- **Keep all of your files!** Don’t delete your programs, output files, and reports after you hand them in—you will need them again later when you study for the quizzes and examinations and work on the other laboratory, practical, and final project assignments.
- **Back up your files regularly.** Use a flash drive, Google Drive, or your favorite backup method to keep a copy of your files in reserve. In the event of a system failure, you are responsible for ensuring that you have access to a recent backup copy of all your files.

Writing a New Feature Article

This assignment invites you to write an article that explains, using concrete and compelling examples, the unintended — and potentially negative — consequences associated with the prevalent use of Google products. While the last assignment invited you to focus on the benefits of using the Internet, this article asks you to consider the downsides. You are encouraged to leverage the ideas that you developed in the past two sessions in which we discussed the articles and podcast that you are studying for this module. After picking a partner with whom you will have an “editor-writer” relationship, please publish a high-quality and error-free article by following these steps.

1. As in the last assignment, you should again pick a partner. You will serve as the “editor” for your partner’s writing and your partner will be the “editor” for your writing. To start, please make sure that you and your partner know each other’s GitHub site and web site. An editor will provide feedback through the issue tracker by clicking the “Commits” tab in GitHub’s main interface, finding the commit number that contains the issue that you have identified in the writing, copying this number to the clipboard, and then using it when you report the issue. A writer will then consider the feedback, respond to it, and, when appropriate, resolve the issue that the editor raised. While it is acceptable to read and mark printed versions of the article, all discussion should be publicly visible in the GitHub issue tracker.
2. Using your terminal window, please go to the directory that contains the files for your web site. Now, find and change into the `_posts` directory where you will find the sample posts that come with the template that we are using for your web site. Using your previous file as an example, create a new file that you can use to store your writing for this assignment. That is, you should use the file browser (or, the “`mv`” command if you have experience with it) to rename a copy of the past file to one that would be appropriate for your new article. Please consider naming your file according to the title that you recently developed.
3. At this point, you should use the Atom text editor to change the contents of the file that you renamed in the previous step. The first thing that you should do is revise the “header” of this file that is at the very top of the editor’s window. For instance, you should create a new title and subtitle for your article. Next, delete the rest of the content from the prior article.
4. Your article must feature a header image that you download from Flickr. Please make sure that your image is licensed under a Creative Commons license and is suitable for use in an academic setting. To start your search for a header image, please go to the following web site: <https://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>. Once you have found the image that you want to include on your site, you can use the “Flickr attribution helper” that is available at <https://cogdog.github.io/flickr-cc-helper/> to get the correct reference for your image. Next, download your image and save it in the `img/` directory of your web site. Ultimately, the image should appear at the top of your article. You should also make sure that the full license statement and the credit for the image is at the bottom of the article. Please see the instructor or a teaching assistant if you have questions about the completion of this step.
5. After you finish modifying the header of this file you should use the “`git add`” and “`git commit`” and “`git push`” commands to transfer your content to the GitHub servers. You should also use the “`bundle exec jekyll serve`” command to preview a local version of your web page. Now, you are ready to start drafting a version of your article! As you are

writing, please make sure that you write and revise in an incremental fashion, committing and pushing your sentences on a regular basis — generally, small modifications are better than large ones because they make it easier for you and your editor to track and comment on your developing article. With that said, please recall that once you run the “`git push`” command your content will be “live” on your web site. Students who want to explore a potentially better way to write that supports repeated pushing of content are encouraged to review the “GitHub Flow” handout and talk with the course instructor about using Git branches.

6. Instead of waiting to get feedback from your editor when you have finished the entire article, you are encouraged to write a draft of your content, publish it on your web site, and then request feedback from your editor. At this point, you can use the GitHub issue tracker to have a conversation about the best way to improve your article. You and your editor should use the issue tracker to have a thorough discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of your writing. Please note that your critique is not limited to the words in the article itself! You should also provide feedback about the structure of the article, the header image and TL;DR, the citation to the header image, and other aspects of the article’s content and layout.
7. As you are writing, you may wonder how many words are currently in your article. If your file is called “`article.md`”, then you can type “`wc -w article.md`” in your terminal window to count the number of words in your article. While this count may be slightly inaccurate, the use of this “word count” program is a good way to estimate the length of your article.
8. Even though we will work on this assignment during at least two class sessions, you should budget enough time to outline, draft, discuss, and frequently revise this writing assignment. Remember, your focus should be on publishing an article that is concise, accessible, and error-free. Also, the main text of this writing assignment should be accompanied by a “TL;DR” or a “Too Long; Didn’t Read” that summarizes the key points about the writing. Please see the instructor if you confront difficulties when using GitHub or if you have additional questions.
9. Since this is the second assignment in which you will publish a complete article, don’t become frustrated if you make a mistake. Instead, use your mistakes as an opportunity for learning both about the software technology that we use for writing and the background and expertise of the other students in the class, the teaching assistants, and the course instructor.

Summary of the Required Deliverables

This writing assignment invites you to complete the following deliverables. After completing the assignment, please make sure that you submit a printed version of these items to the instructor.

1. A 800 to 1000 word article that convincingly explains the downsides of using Google products.
2. A header image from Flickr that is released under a Creative Commons licensing agreement.
3. Evidence in the GitHub issue tracker for the frequent discussion and revision of your article.
4. Documentation of a social media campaign that convinces your friends to read your article.
5. Reviews, through multiple GitHub issues and a full-featured discussion, of your peers’ writing.

In adherence to the Honor Code, students should complete the main writing of this assignment on an individual basis. While you can and should incorporate feedback from your editor, any deliverables that are nearly identical to the work of others will be taken as evidence of violating Allegheny College’s Honor Code. Please see the course instructor with questions about this policy.