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IT Minor Client Project Reflection

For the capstone client project, I was assigned to work with the Arkansas Central Soccer Association with my team, Steven Gipson (Project Manager), Jaela Hilliard (Content Manager), and Sunny Singh (Lead Developer). The Arkansas Central Soccer Association wanted a re-vamp of their old website. The old website was very outdated and difficult to navigate. Players of the association often had trouble finding what it was that they needed on the website. After receiving feedback from our client, Gayle, we decided to create a brand new website and completely restructure the original contents.

My role on this project was the Graphic Designer and Assistant Developer. I had the opportunity to design the new website and develop it. Right off the bat, the team (Diamond Designs) got straight to work. I created a basic layout and design idea for the new site using a website prototyping tool called Figma. We presented it to Gayle and got the approval to start developing the site.

Our original idea was to create a custom Wordpress theme from scratch. However, we quickly realized that this was going to be a major challenge given the time constraint that we had. We re-evaluated our options and decided to go with a pre-built theme and highly customize it to fit the client’s needs.

Once we chose our theme, we really got the ball rolling and started migrating all of the content from their old site to the new one. Another challenge that we faced was that there was so much content to sift through and reorganize. Jaela did a fantastic job of condensing the content to exactly what we needed.

I have learned a lot from this experience. It was great exposure to working with a client and learning about how to communicate with them as well. I also developed more teamwork skills after working with my awesome team. We were able to communicate with each other, develop a rough timeline, and create a great project that our client was happy with. If I could do it over again, I would probably be conscious of not trying to bite off more than I could chew. As I stated, we realized that we wouldn’t have the time to fully develop a custom Wordpress theme from scratch in the timeframe that we were given. I wish that we didn’t waste as much time trying to figure out how to create it and spent that extra time on customizing the prebuilt theme. However, it was nice to get exposure to the beginning stages of building a Wordpress theme.