EE / CprE / SE 491 Weekly Report 1

Jan 23rd - Feb 6th

Team 14

Project: Website Platform Migration

Client: John Stuifbergen, Buildertrend

Advisor: Dr. Judith Islam

Team Members:
Danh Hoang: Project Coordinator
Piper Ideker: Implementation and component design.
Bryant David: Design and implementation
Chiran Subedi: Theme design

Weekly Summary:

       In the first week from Jan 23 - 26, we worked on establishing meeting times and reaching out to our advisor and client. During this time, we did a lot of independent research to get more familiar with WordPress, the main application we will be working with, and we spent some time learning about website migration. More information about our individual work will be explained in the "Individual Contributions". For Jan 26 - Feb 3 we continued independently researching and learning. We also had our first meeting with our client, John on Feb 2nd. During the meeting, we asked questions that we had and took notes as John explained the task in further detail. We talked about the tools and resources that will be made available to us to do our job, and agreed on a meeting time that works for everyone to be every other Friday at 1:20pm. On Feb 6th, we will have our first meeting with our advisor.

Past Week Accomplishments (Team):
- Set up meeting times with the team, advisor, and client
  - Took a lot of team communication to find good times
  - Team Meetings Tuesdays 4:10 pm
  - Advisor meeting Tuesday 11:00 am
  - Client meeting Friday 1:20 pm

- Met with our client
  - Virtual Meeting
  - Opportunity to ask questions that we had
  - Learn more about what is expected of us
  - Gave us a brief overview of the company and what they do
  - Talked about the tools and resources that will be available to us to do our job

- Met with our advisor
  - Virtual meeting

- ○ Discussed what we needed to provide so that she could get a better understanding of the project

Pending issues: None so far.

Individual work:

Danh Hoang, Jan 23rd:
- Spent some time reaching out to the advisor and client
  - ○ Began setting up meeting times
  - ○ Worked with everyone's schedules to find the best times
  - ○ This was a main priority because the sooner we can meet with our client the better we can understand the task.

Danh Hoang, Jan 24th:
- researched our client Buildertrend
- Most of the research came from their main website: https://buildertrend.com/
  - ○ I researched this to get a better understanding of the audience that the website will be used for
  - ○ The main people that BuilderTrend makes websites for are contractors, homebuilders, and Real Estate.

Piper Ideker, Jan 25th:
I've had some experience with WordPress in high school, but I wanted to start off with the basics to re-jog my memory. I started by reading the official documentation of WordPress, and they had a subsection called "Where to start":
https://wordpress.org/documentation/category/where-to-start/.
- The first article I read in this subsection was "First Steps with WordPress": https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/first-steps-with-wordpress-classic/. There's two versions of this article and they have the same information but in different styles based on what a client has (Classic or Block Editor). I read the classic editor version, and they mainly went over the administration desktop, and a quick summary of each sidebar option.
- I skimmed "Get started with WordPress": https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/get-started-with-wordpress/ because even though our main job is to design a theme, we need to get into the headspace of our client's clients. They are transitioning from a previous partner to WordPress, and they will or already have gone through the process of working with WordPress from scratch. The article breaks down starting with WordPress in 4 steps:
  - ○ Step one: Read/research (Reading that they recommend):
    - ■ Introduction to Blogging: https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/introduction-to-blogging/
    - ■ WordPress Features: https://wordpress.org/about/features/
    - ■ Before you Install WordPress: https://wordpress.org/about/requirements/

- ○ Step two: Make a plan:
    - ■ Environment requirements
    - ■ Website Username and Password
    - ■ Text Editor Software
    - ■ FTP Client Software
    - ■ Web Browser of Choice
    - ■ General gameplan of website's design
- ○ Step three: Install WordPress
- ○ Step four: Set up/Implementation of WordPress

At this stage our team is at step one, but we don't know where our client's clients are.

Some questions I came up with while reading:
- ● Where are the clients in terms of steps?
    - ○ Are they still researching or did they already download WordPress?
- ● How familiar are they with WordPress?
- ● Does each client have their own view of how they want their website to look, or are we applying one website design to everyone?

Some potential reading that might be useful:
- ● Terminologies:
    - ○ WordPress Glossary:
      https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/wordpress-glossary/
    - ○ WordPress semantics:
      https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/wordpress-semantics/
- ● Themes:
    - ○ Work with Themes:
      https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/work-with-themes/
    - ○ Theme Directory: https://wordpress.org/themes/
    - ○ WordPress Theme Handbook: https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/

Danh Hoang, Jan 28th:
- ● Looked on the WordPress website to figure out steps to website migration
    - ○ https://wordpress.com/go/website-building/how-to-transfer-a-site-to-wordpress-com-in-6-steps/
    - ○ We will need to import XML files from the current
    - ○ Move Domain
    - ○ Import themes and plugins
- ● Spent some time looking at some themes on WordPress
    - ○ https://wordpress.org/themes/
    - ○ Looked at what themes looked nice and easy to view
- ● Also looked at some websites made by BuilderTrend
    - ○ https://buildertrend.com/blog/construction-website-design/
    - ○ https://pmhomes.com/

- ○
  - ○ I wanted to see if these websites shared any common themes or design styles
  - ○ From the websites I looked at i noticed they use a lot of pictures and large fonts while spacing out their wording
  - ○ Most of the websites put a large focus on pictures
  - ○ Some of the themes are similar to some WordPress themes that I looked at

Piper Ideker, Jan 29th:

While researching the basics, I found more reading that I thought would be useful, so I decided to continue researching from there:
- ● Work with Themes: https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/work-with-themes/. The "Work with Themes" article gave an overview of what themes are (a collection of template files that creates an interface with a unifying design), introduced the Template Hierarchy (A system that tells WordPress what files to load), covered default themes, how to create your own theme, three different ways of adding a theme (Administration screens, cPanel or manually with FTP), and how to activate the theme.
- ● WordPress Theme Handbook: https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/ This article is a tutorial on how to create either block or classic themes (Block themes mainly uses HTML and can be built through the site editor. Classic is more hands on with less limitation, and uses PHP, JavaScript and CSS). This article mostly refers the reader to more resources depending on what stage they are on. They first recommend studying block vs classic, checking out advanced theme topics: https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/advanced-topics/, then releasing your theme: https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/releasing-your-theme/.

Questions I had while reading:
- ● Are there any specifics the client wants design wise? (colors, block or classic themes, widgets, plugins, ect..)
- ● Are there any licensing/ legal things that our team needs to know about?

Some potential reading:
- ● Core concepts: https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/core-concepts/
- ● Advanced Topics: https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/advanced-topics/
- ● Releasing Your Theme: https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/releasing-your-theme/

Week of Jan. 30th - February 5th:

Piper Ideker, Jan 30th:

I feel like I have a good grasp on the basics, so I wanted to move on. Maintenance is one aspect our client John addressed on the approved progress document, so I wanted to start there.

- I started to read https://mailchimp.com/resources/website-maintenance/ as an introduction to website maintenance. I originally thought that maintenance was just fixing the website if it breaks, but maintenance also includes things like updating content, backing up the website, and monitoring performance. According to the article, the average price to maintain a website is $50- $200 depending on the complexity of the website. They also recommend saving at least 1 or 2% of the budget for maintenance, and frequency also depends on complexity. Another thing mentioned in the article was safety. This was another topic touched on in the approved progress document, and it says that security scanning and updates can happen automatically with some management systems. I don't know if WordPress has that ability, so when I research security that will be one thing to look out for.
- I then looked at the official documentation of WordPress again, and they had a subsection on maintenance: https://wordpress.org/documentation/category/maintenance/. I read the site maintenance article: https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/wordpress-site-maintenance/, and WordPress recommends maintenance at least every 3 to 6 months. For maintenance they recommend clearing out old plugins, updating WordPress as needed, check for broken/dead links, deleting spam comments, backing up the website, updating the site as needed, and validate any changes.

Questions I had while writing:
- How much does it cost for John's clients to maintain their websites?
- Is the price covered for WordPress or is this separate?
- Does WordPress have automatic security updates or will clients have to manage that?

Further reading found:
- https://wordpress.org/documentation/article/wordpress-housekeeping/

Danh Hoang, Feb 2nd:
- During the meeting, I took notes and shared them with the group
  - Noted what resources Buildertrend used in the past
  - Noted what will be provided to us plugins, websites, examples, etc.
  - Learned about Duda, a previous web-making platform that was used before they switched back to WordPress
- Did some research comparing Duda and WordPress
  - One of the websites I looked at: https://www.greengeeks.com/blog/duda-vs-wordpress/
  - I learned that WordPress provides more resources than Duda in terms of flexibility and customization, mainly because of all the plugins that it has access to.
  - WordPress has better search engine optimization compared to Duda.
  - WordPress has more scalability.

Bryant David, Feb 2nd:
- During the meeting, I asked several questions, and so did my group
  - Learned that buildertrend used duda in the past and wordpress will be the future
  - I asked several questions as to clear up any confusion regards themes, pluggins, target audience of the websites, our client's expectations of our group
  - Several of the discussion topics were being noted, and a deal was reached that our client will be sending us links to the sites that we will be working on in the nearest future

Bryant David, Feb 3rd:
- Used wordpress and know about it but not duda
  - I have been researching on duda since our meeting to find an understanding of how it works and it's comparison to wordpress.
  - I found several differences and similarities and not leaving out the pros and cons of both
  - I learned wordpress is more open source, while duda is proprietary and more of a website builder. Although, they both have paid plugins, themes, and apps
  - In the next couple of days, I will starting some tutorials on duda and how migration functionality works on both wordpress and duda
  - One of the things that stood out to me in my research is the flexibility of wordpress over duda
  -

Chiran Subedi, First Week: Jan 23 - 26:
  - During the initial week, our access to substantial information was limited due to the lack of meetings with our advisor or client.
  - I took as much information from the project summary and descriptions as possible to come up with a plan.
  - I understand that we will need to create a wordpress theme that can help mitigate a migration of about 70 marketing websites for buildertrend.
  - I started looking into wordpress documentation to understand themes and how websites are designed and developed using wordpress.

Chiran Subedi, Second Week: Jan 26 - Feb 3:
  - I started looking a bit into Buildertrend to see what they do. We are only affecting a small part of a quite a large company, so I just wanted to get a basic understanding of their products and services.
  - My research into WordPress continued until Feb 2nd, which is when we had the meeting with our client.
  - John (our client) provided us with information about their previous website-building platform and provided us with the source files for some of the websites we will be migrating.

- I haven't progressed further due to the career fair prep taking most of my time, but I should hope to look deeper into those source files and gain an understanding of the underlying components and elements of the websites.

Name	Contributions	Hours this Week	Hours Cumulative
Piper Ideker	Background research	8	8
Danh Hoang	Background research, Set up meetings	7	7
Chiran Subedi	Research, using wordpress	7	7
Bryant David	Research	7	7

Plans for upcoming weeks (Everyone should do this):
- Take some time as a team to brainstorm ideas
  - Ideas on how to migrate websites
  - Anything useful that we learned from independent research
  - Understanding the plug ins, themes and templates needed for each website
- Review the websites that we will be migrating
  - Website links will be provided by our client
  - Look for any similar features between the websites
  - Get a better idea of what the website will look like
  - Making sure no broken links or feature after migration
  - Website source files will also be provided
- Meet with our Client
  - Ask any new questions that we may have after looking at the websites
  - Give some solutions that we have come up with (if we have them)
- Begin adding to our team website
  - Team member names and photos
  - Overview of our project

Summary of Advisor Meeting (2/6):

- Set up our website:
  - Add photos of each team member
  - Add the project summary
- Make sure the client and advisor meetings alternate each week

- Add reports for each week
- Add an overview of the project we are working on