

21 FEB ★

I finished the image for the TOUCH project. At this point, the image is

714 x 700

pixels. Next step is uploading it & coding the image map. I think I might work on the proprietary stuff before I do the imagemap, though, so that I can get the links set up. Sometimes you've got to work backwards.

Stuff to do:

Get Programming basic codes up
- starting the databases

Embed Java program in pages.

- look up webforms again

how do I get a submit button to send directly to an email w/o opening an email client?

Imagemapping

Already started getting the code written in Processing. It's a simple code; the problem is going to be managing the database.

22 FEB 2011

I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT MANUAL UPDATING OF THE DATABASE MIGHT BE A BIT MUCH, IF THE SITE EVEN GOT 5 VISITORS IN A DAY, IT WOULD BE A LOT OF WORK TO UPDATE THE DATABASE & RE-UPLOAD THE PROGRAM FILES EVERYTIME. I TALKED TO JOTT ABOUT THIS A LITTLE. REALLY, THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR AUTOMATING THE PROCESS. ONE MIGHT BE MYSQL, BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. THE OTHER WOULD BE TO SEND THE INPUT TO A .TXT FILE ON THE SERVER, GIVE EACH ENTRY A UNIQUE IDENTIFIER (#), & THEN HAVE THE APPLICATION UPDATE FROM THE TEXT FILE. THIS SEEMS LESS COMPLICATED, BUT PROBABLY ONLY BECAUSE I'VE NEVER EVEN LOOKED AT MYSQL. EITHER WAY, I'M GOING TO TALK TO ROB ABOUT THIS TOMORROW, & WHICHEVER WAY HE THINKS WILL WORK BEST, I'LL PROBABLY DO THAT. HOPEFULLY, HE CAN WALK ME THROUGH THE CODE SYNTAX FOR WHICHEVER, SO I CAN GET A GOOD HANG OF WHAT'S HAPPENING.

I'M PRETTY HAPPY AT THIS POINT WITH MY DECISION TO WORK WITH ONLY OPENSOURCE SOFTWARE. HOPEFULLY, THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN WORK INTO MY ARTIST'S STATEMENT.

ALSO, I NEED TO START GENERATING THE TEXTUAL PROMPTS FOR THE SITE SOON.

NOTE:

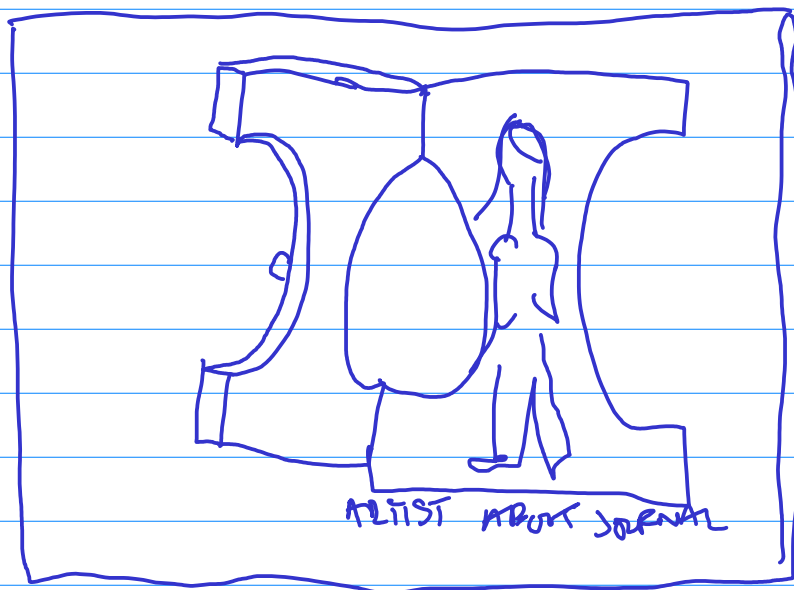
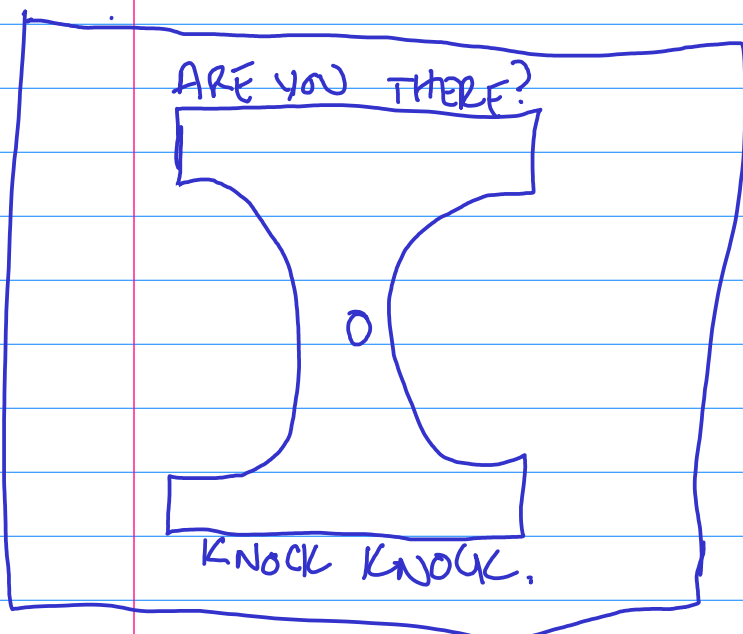
Think about how the concepts of the Kinesthetic & BAZ KERSTRAW'S talk of the ecotone & edge effects might be an interesting way to theorize what I'm trying to do with this piece.

23 FEB 2011

Talked to Rob this morning to explain the project. It sounds like I'm going to be working with a php script to dump the data into a MySQL database (basically a table, wherein each prompt will have a column). From there, it's just a matter of pulling something random from the individual columns using a print command. That means I probably won't need processing at all. I really should look into using a stylesheet to layout the prompt pages. It'll be way less code in the end, even if I have to look it all up. Otherwise, I'm going to be working with tables again, which is fine, but it wouldn't hurt to learn a new skill, not to mention that it shouldn't be hard - I already have an understanding of how it works. I just need to get the syntax down.

28 FEB 2011

I FIGURED OUT THE MYSQL THING - COWDADDY HAS IT AS A PART OF HOSTING & YOU CAN JUST USE MYPHPADMIN TO SET UP TABLES & THINGS. IT'S SORTA NICE TO HAVE THE GUI VERSION BECAUSE THEN I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW QUITE AS MUCH OF THE SYNTAX. I ALSO FOUND THE CODE TO MAKE USER INPUT GET TO THE DATABASE, & ROB FOUND THE STUFF TO PRINT A RANDOM ENTRY TO A TABLE ON THE WEB-PAGE. I ALSO TALKED TO HIM ABOUT CSS A LITTLE. MAKING ONE STYLE SHEET (EXTERNAL) FOR ALL THE INPUT PAGES WOULD MAKE THAT A LOT EASIER IF I CAN FIGURE IT OUT. IT'S NOT A TON LESS WORK, BUT IT IS A LITTLE LESS. I'M RECONSIDERING THE IMAGE, THOUGH. I THINK I WANT IT TO JUST START WITH THE DOOR, & CLICKING THE DOOR WOULD LOAD A SECOND IMAGE. THIS SECOND IMAGE IS THE ONE THAT WOULD HAVE ALL THE LINKS ON IT.



I ALSO DECIDED ON THE INDIVIDUAL LINKS, WHICH WILL BE COLUMNS IN THE DATABASE:

EYE, NOSE, MOUTH, EAR, HAIR, BREAST, BELLY-BUTTON, GENITALS, FEET, HANDS, & (BODY) MARKS.

I'M HOPING TO GET TIME TO ACTUALLY UPLOAD A FEW THINGS & START THE WORK FOR THE CODE NEXT WEEK. THERE'S SOMETHING ALMOST ZEN ABOUT JUST BEING IN THE CODE LONG ENOUGH.

2 MARCH 2011

Working on the new images. Thus far, the closed door image is 388×672 . I might standardize that to $* \times 700$...

~~Background color hex code: $8daa65$~~

Okay, so the `closeddoor.jpg` ended with a final height of 800 & the `mebox1.jpg` ended up with a height of 850 . I want the audience to get a good sense that the door is I-shaped, but the size of the body in the second image has to be large enough to distinguish links.

Changed my mind on bg color: $bdb8b8$

3 MARCH 2011

Got the first page up!

[NICHOLENICHOLSON.COM/TOUCHPROJECT/PAGE1](http://nicholenicholson.com/touchproject/page1)

The link for "No" works as well - that was a quick one to get done. Especially with the external style sheet! It was a snap!

The style sheet took me a minute to code, but really only, because I had to comb through the W3 site tutorial to make sure I had the specifics right. But once it's done, it is much faster. Now I just need to play with using it for layout to make all those pop-ups faster to code.

The other thing I did was switch from using Kompozer to Bluefish as my editor. Kompozer kept crashing on me, or randomly deciding it didn't wanna pick up what I was putting down. Bluefish seems much more reliable.

MARCH 16

QUICK NOTE: THE EXTERNAL STYLE SHEET FOR BASIC STUFF IS CALLED [EXTERNALSTYLE1.CSS](#)
SO THE URL IS nicholenicholson.com/touchproject/externalstyle1.css

The external style sheet for other stuff is [EXTERNALSTYLE2.CSS](#)
nicholenicholson.com/touchproject/bodylinks/externalstyle2.css

Tonight, I got a general "fill in the blank" style sheet written for the pop-ups. All I have to do is insert the column name & unique text on it to create a new body link.

I also got the database stuff working. I can now post to the right column in the database from the webform, & I got the random print to work as well. Between all the coding & testing & fixing & testing, I burned almost two hours because of a stupid little mistake I didn't notice. Ah well.

So the next step is getting all those pop-ups uploaded. Then I can get the imagemap done, write my artist statement, & viola!

Oh, I also set up that second style sheet tonight that defines the divs in the pop-ups. This style sheet shit is fucking tight. I'm saving so much time in the long run.

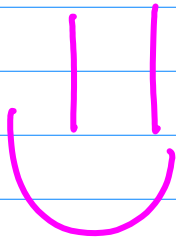
18 MARCH

I would like to knock this shit out tonight for real. So, pages to code:

hair ✓
eye ✓
nose ✓
ear ✓
mouth ✓
breast ✓
bellybutton ✓
genital ✓
feet ✓
hand ✓
marks ✓


Imagemap ✓

141s live!!!!



I got the imagemap done; it was pretty simple to do with AIMP. I also found a cool webtool to control pop-up size without :ava:

<http://www.echoecho.com/toolpopupgenerator.htm>

I still have to get my artist statement up, which I would like to do before I start passing around the link too much. I did give it to one of my best friends (JPOTT ) to check out,

though, because it'll be nice to have at least a couple answers in the database when I give the link out on Facebook. I'll probably have Sam go through it, too.

I'm torn about giving my family the link. On the one hand, I don't really care & don't think people should be so hidden about their bodies. On the other, I know some of them might feel weird about it.

& I mean, I do feel a little self-conscious about it. Some of it is pretty vulnerable. & especially at first, most of the people who will see it are people who know me.

A weird thing: when I was writing the prompt for the feet link, I almost started crying because I thought of a person I love's story about his feet. & I thought, "yeah, our stories ARE important. & I do want to know people's stories.

19 MARCH 3.30 AM

OKAY, SO I RAN INTO A HUGE ISSUE WITH THE DATA BASE. IT WAS MAKING A NEW ROW FOR EVERY POST SO THE RANDOM CATU WAS PULLING UP A BUNCH OF FUCKING BLANKS. NOT COOL.

ANYWAY, I STARTED TALKING TO SPOTT, WHO HELPED ME RE-ARRANGE SOME THINGS, BUT IT STILL ISN'T ACTUALLY WORKING. I THINK I JUST NEED TO MAKE A UNIQUE UPDATE PAGE FOR ALL THE LINKS, BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE IF/ELSE IF SYNTAX THAT JUST ISN'T WORKING. AT ALL. I'M STARTING TO HATE PHP. FOR REAL.

4.10 AM & I FINALLY GOT IT WORKING. HOLY GOD THAT TOOK FOREVER. THERE WERE APPARENTLY A LOT OF SYNTAX ERRORS, BUT I GUESS THE GOOD PART IS THAT I LEARNED WAY MORE ABOUT PHP. !!

ANYWAY, IT'S UP & RUNNING NOW, SO I JUST NEED TO GET AN ARTIST STATEMENT UP.

19 MARCH - AFTER SLEEP

I'm feeling a lot better about spending so long on the database last night after sleeping. It's nice to finally have the piece up.

I wrote a tentative rough draft of the artist statement & uploaded it, so that's done. I also did a couple small edits throughout the site. Now it's time to start spreading the link.