Project 1
A Website of Misinformation
CSE 100/INFO 100 Fluency with Information Technology

Preparation:

You are required to have completed **Lab 3** and **Lab 4** before starting this assignment. You are also required to have read the following before starting this assignment.

- Fluency with Information Technology (by Lawrence Snyder)
    - Chapter 4: Marking up with HTML
    - Chapter 5: Searching for the Truth

Project Overview:

For this project your challenge is to create a website of "misinformation" that appears as authentic as possible to the user. While the content of your website will be questionable, everything else about your website should convey the opposite. Basically you will be creating a website that has false claims, yet contains information that appears as authentic as possible to a user.

Your misinformation website can be about:

- A discovery of a new species (on Earth or somewhere else).
- A new (computer or human/animal) virus.
- Addition of a well-known landmark (e.g. the Space Needle) to a different cityscape (e.g. San Francisco)
- Yet another scandal for some public figure. (No private persons may be used for this.)
- Yet another conspiracy theory.
- Something else that you find interesting.

You may choose any content area for your website as long as it is in good taste and permits comfortable viewing by everyone in the course. If you're unsure about the "tastefulness" of a particular content, it is probably a good idea to talk with your TA or professor first, or choose something else. Please **avoid** the following topics:

- September 11th
- The current presidential election
- All types of discrimination (ethnic, gender, religious, etc).
- Attacks on private persons.

Other Rules:

You will not violate any rules/policies as stated in the University Computing Policies
- http://www.washington.edu/computing/rules/

OR any rules of conduct listed for the course
- http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/cse100/CurrentQtr/conduct100.html

Overall Project Objectives:
- To design and implement a website using HTML.
- To manipulate a photograph in Adobe Photoshop (or some other photo manipulation program).
- To experience first hand the ease with which "misinformation" can be made available online.
- To reflect on the challenges of misinformation online.
- Ultimately, to become an appropriately cautious user of online information.

Overall Project Steps:
- Plan out your misinformation website
  - Think of what misinformation you will have and how to convey it.
  - Decide on a topic for your misinformation site. (Keep in mind that you will have to include a manipulated image.)
  - Locate a picture: either online, your own scan, taken with digital camera, or from some other source.
- Create the misinformation website
  - Modify your image.
  - Create text to support your modified image.
  - Combine your photo and text together to convey information that appears authentic as possible.
- Test your site with 2 individuals to determine how successful you are at conveying your misinformation.
- Publish the results of your tests along with a summary of your findings.

The Project Breakdown: (100 points total, 30 + 70)
The project consists of two parts with separate turn-in dates. These include

Project 1a: (30 points)
(ONLINE DUE DATE: Tuesday, October 19 before 10:00 pm)

Within your "**fit100**" directory in your Dante web space (public_html or student_html), create a directory titled "**project1a**"

- The following files will be submitted online (through Catalyst) and must be placed in your "**project1a**" directory

  1. A file called "**project1a.html**" that includes the following (does not have to be in this particular order): (4 points)
     a) Descriptive title and main heading. (As in what goes inside the <title></title> tags, and header tags: <h1>, <h2>, etc.) (2 points)
     b) 1 Paragraph describing the topic of your misinformation website. (4 points)
     c) 1-5 pictures (.jpeg, .jpg, .bmp, .gif, various formats etc.). These include your
        i. Unmodified image(s) you plan to modify and use for your misinformation website. (4 points)
        ii. "Bogus" Website logo (image) created in Adobe Photoshop or any other image creation software that alerts a user that the site is filled with misinformation. Examples are "Bogus Website!" or "Website of Misinformation." (4 points)
     d) 1 Paragraph citing the source of image and permission/legal rights to use photo. If you took the picture yourself rather than off a website, you may simply say so.
        i. Include a link to the original location of the image and the website you found the image one. (2 points)
        ii. A statement about your legal rights to use the image. Example: an excerpt from the originating site's copyright policy or an email from the copyright holder that gives you permission to use the image. Again, if you took the picture yourself, you may simply say so. (2 points)
     e) 1 Paragraph describing how you plan to manipulate image, and what you plan to use it for. (4 points)
     f) Your site must be valid according to the HTML 4.01 Transitional Rules. The W3C MarkUp Validation Service website can be found here: http://validator.w3.org
        (4 points)
- Via a web browser, the files listed above should be accessible and viewed through the following url:
  http://students.washington.edu/UWNetID/fit100/project1a

Project 1b: (70 points)
(ONLINE DUE DATE: Tuesday, October 26, before 10:00 pm)

Within your "**fit100**" directory in your Dante web space (public_html or student_html), create another directory titled "**project1b**"

- The following files will be submitted online (through Catalyst) and must be placed in your "**project1b**" directory

1. A file called "**project1b.html**" that includes the following (does not have to be in this particular order): (4 points)
   a) Descriptive title and main heading. (As in what goes inside the <title></title> tags, and header tags: <h1>, <h2>, etc.) (2 points)
   b) 1-5 pictures (.jpeg, .jpg, .bmp, .gif, various formats etc.). These include your
      i. Modified image(s) you plan to use to help convey your misinformation website. (4 points)
   c) 2 Paragraphs supporting your story of misinformation. The text should reinforce the authenticity of your image(s). (4 points)
   d) At least 3 working links to other websites that 'support' the misinformation on your page. For instance, if you are doing a webpage on the discovery of alien life forms on Mars, you may want to include a site such as "http://www.nasa.gov." Be creative here, and try to find links that really make your webpage look authentic and credible. (4 points)
   e) Working hyperlink back to your disclaimer page. (2 points)
   f) Your site must be valid according to the HTML 4.01 Transitional Rules. The W3C MarkUp Validation Service website can be found here: http://validator.w3.org
      (4 points)

   Make your misinformation website look as authentic as possible. How well you manipulate your image(s) and the quality of your content will affect how believable your site is. See "Characteristics of Legitimate Sites" (Ch. 5, page 139) for tips on how to make your site look authentic.

   For your misinformation page, remove your "bogus" logo, the original unmanipulated image(s), and information about the unmanipulated image(s). They will be in the disclaimer page described next.

2. A file called "**disclaimer.html**" that includes the following (does not have to be in this particular order): (4 points)
   a) Descriptive title and main heading. (As in what goes inside the <title></title> tags, and header tags: <h1>, <h2>, etc.) (2 points)
   b) Additional information "CLEARLY stating that the misinformation page contains" false information. (2 points)
   c) A working hyperlink back to your misinformation page. (2 points)
   d) 1-5 pictures (.jpeg, .jpg, .bmp, .gif, various formats etc.). These include your
      i. Unmodified, original image(s) (4 points)
      ii. Modified image(s) (4 points)
      iii. "Bogus" Website logo (image) created in Adobe Photoshop or any other image creation software that alerts a user that the site is filled with misinformation. Examples are "Bogus Website!" or "Website of Misinformation" (4 points)
   e) 1 Paragraph citing the source of image and permission/legal rights to use photo. (look at guidelines for **project 1a**)

i. Include a link to the original location of the image and the website you found the image one. (2 points)
ii. A statement about your legal rights to use the image. Example: an excerpt from the originating site's copyright policy or an email from the copyright holder that gives you permission to use the image. (2 points)

f) 1 paragraph explaining how you manipulated the images in Photoshop or other photo manipulation program. (4 points)

g) Test your site on 2 individuals (preferably who do not know you are working on this project.) and ask them to rate you on the "Characteristics of Legitimate Sites" (In Chapter 5, page 139).
    i. Display the results in a table (4 points)
    ii. 2 paragraphs summarizing your results (4 points)

h) 2 paragraphs discussing misinformation on the web, the ethical issues involved with misinformation on the web, and the problems with misinformation. Who is capable of doing this? Who is responsible for the information? What should information seekers be aware of? Etc. (4 points)

i) Your site must be valid according to the HTML 4.01 Transitional Rules. The W3C MarkUp Validation Service website can be found here: http://validator.w3.org
(4 points)

- Via a web browser, the files listed above should be accessible and viewed through the following url:
http://students.washington.edu/UWNetID/fit100/project1b

IMPORTANT
- **DO NOT** create any files with names that begin with "index," such as index.html, index.htm, etc. in either of the directories. Please use the **exact spelling and capitalization** given for the directories listed above so people (such as the course staff!) can find your sites easily. Other than that, file names such as the pictures or additional html files can be whatever you choose.
- Make sure the directory and files in it all have general Unix Read permissions (you will know if they don't when you try to look at your web page online and receive a "permission denied" message).

Turn-in procedure
You will be submitting your project 1 files through a Catalyst turn-in (linked from the course web site). Upon submission, you will get an online receipt verifying the files you have turned in. **Please SAVE this receipt for your record purposes, just in case something does go wrong, you have proof you submitted the assignment.**

- **Project 1a Online Due Date: Tuesday, October 19, before 10:00 pm.**
- **Project 1b Online Due Date: Tuesday, October 26, before 10:00 pm.**

We will be grading the exact files you will be submitting online **so if you do not submit any files, we will have nothing to grade**!

See the "Coursework, Workload, Late/Missed Exam Policy" listed on the course website concerning late assignments.

- http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/cse100/04au/syllabus100.html

"Always turn in what you have completed, partial or otherwise: some credit is better than no credit!"

Grading Criteria

- How well your site meets the requirements named above, in a technical/HTML sense. The quality of your modified image.
- How well your site meets the requirements for format and content. This refers to the persuasiveness and coherence of your misinformation through use of text and formatting.
- The care taken in conducting and writing up the visitor experiment, and the thoughtfulness of your discussion on the disclaimer page.