

Decision and Overview

My technical writing portfolio was created using Journo Portfolio (<https://www.journoportfolio.com>). This web application appears to be committed to providing the specific features and the support to easily build a professional portfolio at a low cost, free, or with a free trial of the paid version.

Personal Preference and Priorities

Going deeper, JournoPortfolio appeals to me because it offers templates and tools to create an impressive portfolio without requiring the user to have an existing skill set in website creation or portfolio management. I am seeking an application which allows the focus to be on creating the portfolio without being sidetracked by website development or learning a new application.

Why not go bigger?

Other products also offer professional templates and are highly recommended for portfolio creation. However, some such as WordPress, Wix, and Squarespace, are more comprehensive and designed for much more than portfolio creation. For this task, I would rather not have an overabundance of features to learn and sort through.

Ease of Discovery

Other applications with a similarly narrow focus, such as Crevado and Hostinger, may be as suitable, but I appreciated the ease and clarity of Journo Portfolio's product information.

Due to my experience and possibly at no additional cost, I was interested in Microsoft, Google Sites, and OneDrive. Of course, these are robust products, but after much more research than was needed for Journo, I determined that my existing Microsoft license would not include the needed product (SharePoint) and that Google Site and OneDrive would not provide the level of guidance I may need. Weebly was similar, in that an additional component (Square up) would be necessary. I was disappointed with the amount of research effort required to determine these products were not what I was hoping for.

Features and Pricing

It was no effort to determine the cost and billing details for Journo Portfolio along with the following specifics about the “Pro” version:

- **Custom Domain Name**
- 1000 Portfolio Items
- 10 Pages
- 3 Languages**
- 2 Collaborators
- 60 mins Video/Audio upload*
- Article Backups
- Password Protected
- Automatic Article Import
- Weekly Subscriber Email
- Advanced Integrations

The free version, offering 10 Portfolio Items and a Home Page, seems sufficient to give it a try with a minor investment of time. Clearly stated on the pricing page was also their Academic and Multi-site discounts and how to obtain them.

Journo Portfolio Drawbacks

A possible drawback to choosing a more niche product is that I will be investing in an application I might not choose to use for other projects. My technical writing projects in the future may require a product that offers broader possibilities, requiring a new learning curve to begin.

It may be wise for me to spend time learning how to use the application my workplace uses, which is Squarespace. Even though it isn’t part of my job, if I become familiar with Squarespace, my value to our organization will increase.

Design, structure and contents

Journo Portfolio appears to be highly customizable, allowing freedom to determine layouts and most aspects of size and appearance. However, I’m glad that pre-built options are available, because complete freedom can be overwhelming and take this beginner longer to achieve the desired outcome. A Journo Portfolio site can have multiple pages and subpages, multicolumn layouts and grids, as well as layouts suitable for blogs. Content can be imported, uploaded, and embedded, as well as exported.

Experience with Examples

Journo Portfolio's site offers a multitude of examples, conveniently categorized so that once again, I was not overwhelmed with the number of examples to explore. It was easy for me to find portfolios for writers and editors. For each example, the home page prominently features several links to the author's work, each with a related photo, caption, title, and beginning lines. Only a few are displayed, with additional works easily accessed by the sidebar menu and arranged in sections.

The menu options are easy to read but unobtrusive, allowing the titles and author's name to stand out. Colors are muted, allowing the photos to be featured and draw the reader's attention. The menu and email icons are accessible but unobtrusive.

The examples I reviewed were simple and appealing as well as functional. They have given me direction and inspiration towards creating my first writing portfolio.