ePORTFOLIO PROJECT

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CHOOSE A PLATFORM

This handout is designed to help you select a platform to match your needs and goals. Ratings are organized into five categories commonly discussed in ePortfolio platform choice. Each category has a short description, followed by the ratings chart for each platform. Ratings were given on a five-star scale (five being the best).

EASE OF USE

Ratings were determined by simplicity of design, level of intuitive use, and how accessible the platform is for new users.

Rating	Platform	Comments
★★★★☆	Weebly	Has a simple drag-and-drop interface, but some find this structure less flexible and harder to control than other platforms.
★★★★☆	Wix	Also a simple drag-and-drop interface, but some find it slightly glitchy and think tool organization is less intuitive.
★★★☆☆	WordPress	Fairly easy to use, and the page editor feels like a word processor, but the sheer amount of content on the dashboard can be overwhelming or less intuitive to some.
★★☆☆☆	Google Sites	Although the page editor retains a simple interface similar to other platforms, certain tools are difficult to locate.

CUSTOMIZATION

Ratings were determined by the number of templates, fonts, colors, and overall features that allow users to develop their website in an effective way. Ratings for this category also include ease of embedding multimedia and mobile device functionality.

Rating	Platform	Comments
★★★★☆	Wix	Offers dozens of fonts, hundreds of templates, and a large color spectrum.
★★★☆☆	Weebly	Also offers hundreds of fonts and templates, but its drag-and-drop interface lacks flexibility.
★★★☆☆	WordPress	Has many templates and fonts, but lacks significant personalization because of generic formatting. For more flexibility and design control, users must purchase the premium version.
★☆☆☆☆	Google Sites	Users write text on top of a chosen template (or background image). The page editor is significantly less customizable than others.

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STORAGE

Ratings were determined by how much room users have to upload content to the cloud-based storage within the platform without having to purchase more space.

Rating	Platform	Comments
★★★★★	Weebly	Unlimited storage for free. However, even if documents have been uploaded to the site before, they must be re-uploaded each time they are used on the site.
★★★★☆	WordPress	3 GB of storage without purchase and a gallery feature to view documents that have been uploaded before.
★★★☆☆	Wix	500 MB of storage without purchase (which may be good for basic to intermediately complex websites). Wix also offers a gallery to view all personal documents that have been uploaded.
★☆☆☆☆	Google Sites	100 MB of storage without purchase.

USER SUPPORT

Ratings were determined by the amount of technical help available within the platform (i.e. FAQs, forums, live chats, and tutorials) and by the help content's clarity and ease of use.

Rating	Platform	Comments
★★★★★	Weebly	Determined based on its large forum and on-hand support team. They also include a steps-to-publish checklist during website creation. Users can call, chat live, or submit a ticket for individual support.
★★★★★	Wix	Has large FAQs and public forum sections. Plus, Wix offers interactive video tutorials. Users can call or submit a ticket for individual support.
★★★★☆	WordPress	Has an extensive support forum which is updated constantly by users and administrators. Support for WordPress is also available for faculty on Lynda.com.
★★★☆☆	Google Sites	Google has a large FAQ and support forum, but does not have any live or personalized support structures.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SETTINGS

Ratings were determined by the types of privacy settings, search engine optimization, and sharing capabilities.

Rating	Platform	Comments
★★★★★	Google Sites	Has extensive privacy and password settings and the ability to share and edit versions of the site with other users (much like Google Docs).
★★★★☆	Wix	Wix has the ability to set up different levels of privacy, including free password protection and the ability to create multiple copies of a site.
★★★☆☆	Weebly	Also has the ability to set up different levels of privacy and the ability to create multiple copies of the site. However, users must purchase the pro version for password protection.
★★★☆☆	WordPress	Can set up different levels of privacy and password protection without additional purchases. However, WordPress does include advertisements from other businesses on their site unless the premium version is purchased.