

My Experience Building a Portfolio Website

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My name is Rizky Mustafa Afrino. I was born on April 21, 2010, and I am currently a tenth-grade student majoring in Software Engineering (*Rekayasa Perangkat Lunak*) at my vocational high school. As part of developing my skills in web development, I decided to build my very own personal portfolio website. It was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences I have had as a student in the technology field.

It all began in early 2025, when my teacher assigned us a project to create a personal portfolio website that showcased our skills, projects, and identity as a young developer. At first, I felt a little nervous because I had never built a full website on my own before. However, I was determined to give it my best shot.

The first thing I did was plan the structure of the website. I sketched out the pages I wanted to include — a home page, an about me section, a skills page, a projects gallery, and a contact form. I also decided on the color scheme and overall look that I wanted the website to have.

Next, I chose the technologies I would use. After doing some research and consulting with my teacher, I decided to build the website using **React** and **TypeScript**. I chose React because of its component-based architecture, which made it easier to manage and reuse different parts of the website. TypeScript, on the other hand, helped me write cleaner and more structured code by enforcing strict data types, which reduced errors during development.

I started by setting up the development environment using **Vite**, a fast build tool that worked seamlessly with React and TypeScript. I then created the project structure, dividing the code into reusable components such as **Navbar**, **Hero**, **AboutMe**, **ProjectCard**, and **Footer**.

One of the most exciting parts was designing the user interface. I used **Tailwind CSS** alongside my React components to style the website. I spent several days adjusting layouts, choosing fonts, and perfecting the animations to make the website look professional and modern.

The most difficult part of the process was implementing the contact form. I had to learn how to handle form inputs in React using controlled components and TypeScript interfaces. After many attempts and debugging sessions, I finally managed to get it working correctly.

Once all the pages were complete, I deployed the website using **Vercel**. The deployment process was surprisingly straightforward — I connected my GitHub repository to Vercel, and within minutes, my portfolio was live and accessible to anyone on the internet.

Looking back, building my portfolio website was an unforgettable journey. Although there were moments of frustration and confusion, especially when dealing with TypeScript errors and React state management, I learned so much from the experience. It taught me not only technical skills like React and TypeScript, but also problem-solving, patience, and perseverance. As a fifteen-year-old student in the RPL program, I am proud to have built something that truly represents who I am as a young developer. I hope this portfolio will open more doors for me as I continue to grow in the world of technology.

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