# Making of Zunepedia

Peter Bull

Inspiration

Zunepedia was first inspired by posts on the *Zune* subreddit *r/zune* on *Reddit* where the community was showing off their amazing collection of *Zune* devices, accessories and so much more. It was also inspired by *Zune* related activity on *Twitter*, such as a tweet from Elon Musk who tweeted the reply "Bring back the Zune!! It's time" to an announcement about Windows 11, which gained a lot of attention! There were also other tweets about people talking about *Zune* and showing off their devices.

Zunepedia was only made possible by the fact I'd ran a website about *Zune* between 2006 and 2009. I had collected various press releases, articles, assets and more for this from various *Microsoft* sources, much of it I was only able to show off in a limited way back then, but they remained stored on my computer over the years. I'd seen many coffee table books, even owning one about the making of *Star Wars* so I had decided to use the collection I had to create a digital coffee table book, and not only that, but that it would be free to download for everyone to read through and enjoy.

Zunepedia first began as an idea in June 2021 with the earliest part choosing a name, I knew is it was going to be a digital coffee table book about *Zune*, and would be in landscape. It would feature photographs, assets and images about the *Zune* that I knew I still had stored on my computer. In the end the name, *Zunepedia* was quite easy to think of and was lucky enough that the domain and *Twitter* account was available, and so began the process of creating *Zunepedia*.

Welcome to the story behind the unofficial photographic journey of the history of the *Zune* devices, hardware, services and the community that keeps it alive to this day!
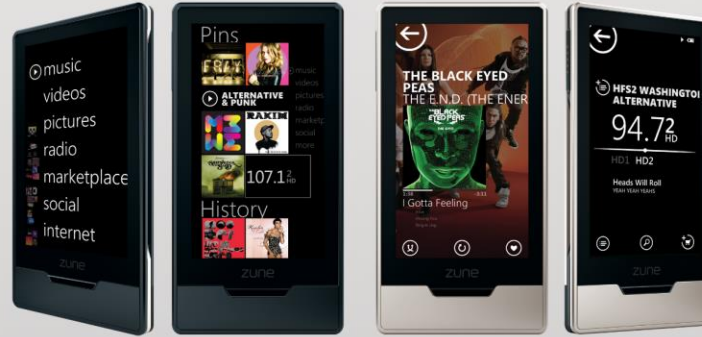
Curation involved collecting archived assets from Microsoft sources, which included photos of the various Zune devices along with information about each one. Also images of the Halo 3 Zune 80GB and Gears of War 2 Zune 120GB Limited Editions which would form the centrepiece of the book.
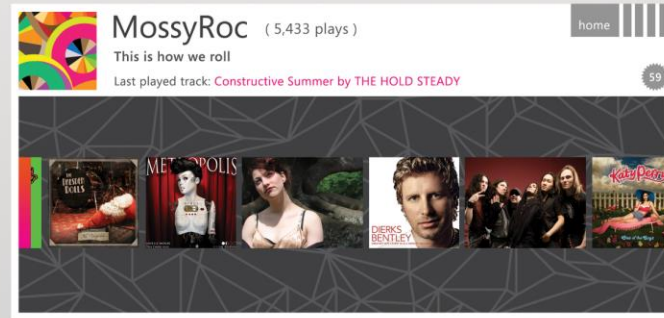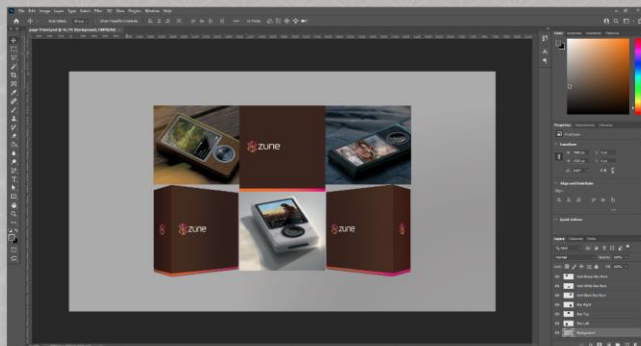
Curation

Curation also involved collecting images and art from Zune Originals, photos of accessories along with screenshots of the software and services. Along with assets for Xbox and Windows Phone which included showcasing my ZuneCardr app for Zune Cards from Zune Social.
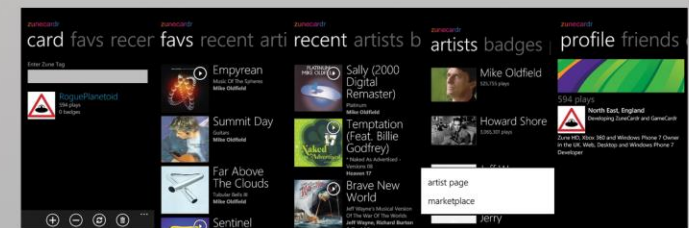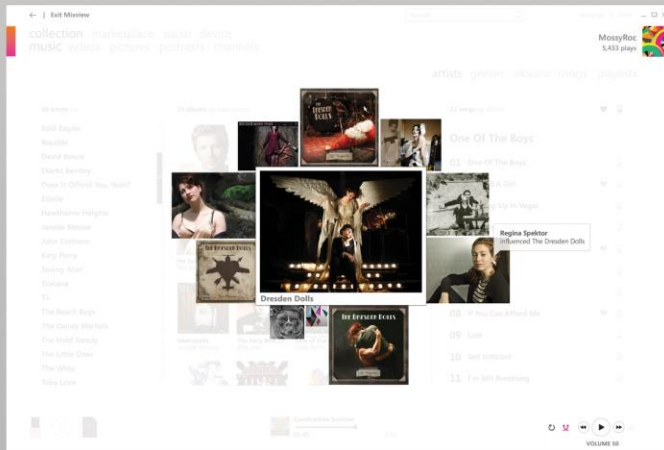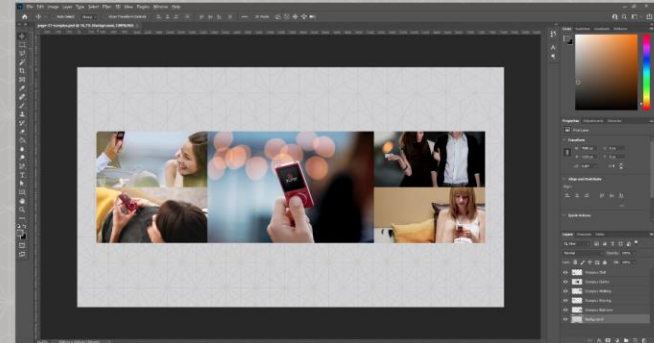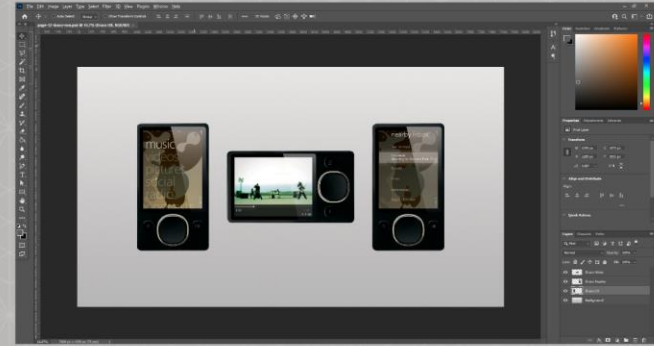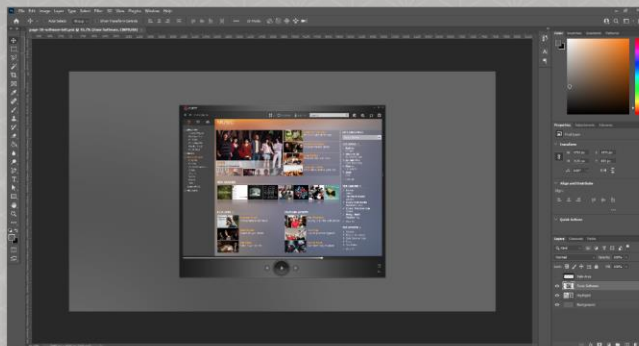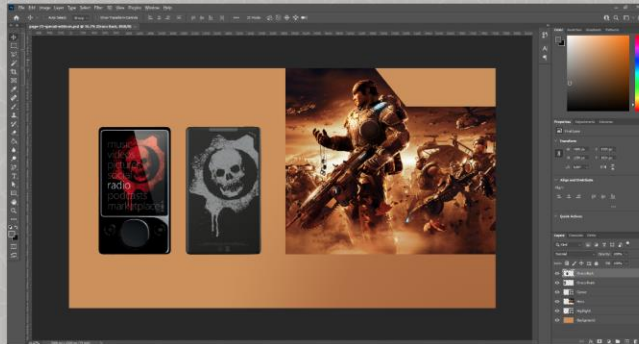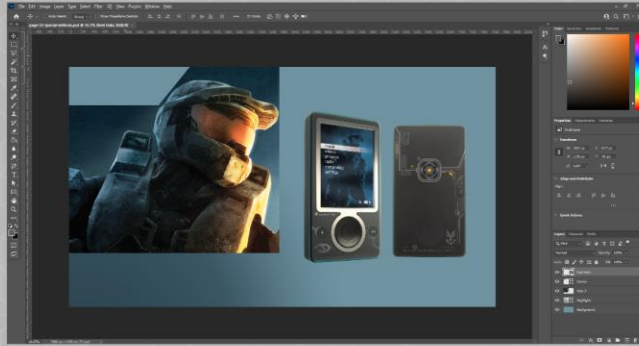
Curation

Adobe Photoshop was used for the next part of the process to design and create PSD pages of the book. Firstly the cover page for the book which involved creating outlined versions of each Zune device and would also be used for the various sections of the book for each device.
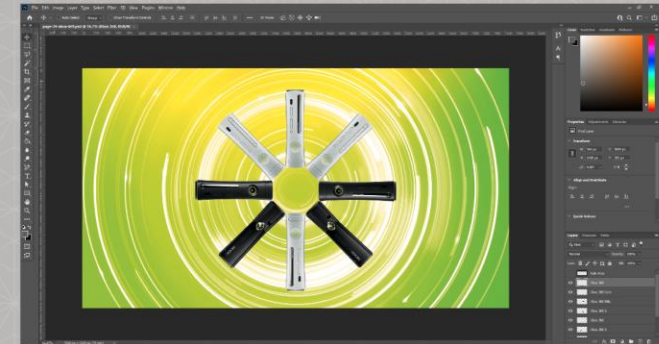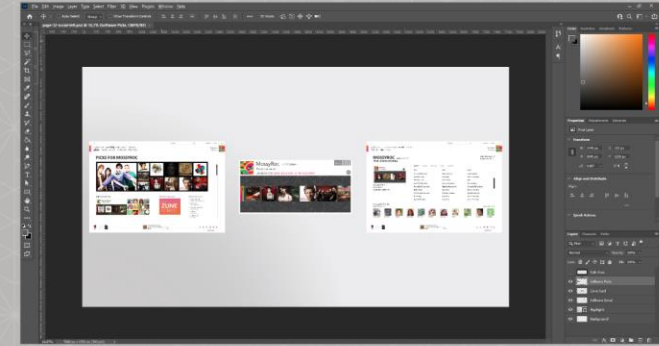
Photoshop

Adobe Photoshop was then used to put together the assets collected during curation in 8K to be able to show them off in the best way as possible and would also use existing backgrounds or new ones for pages like Special Editions and Windows Phone and then exported as PNGs.
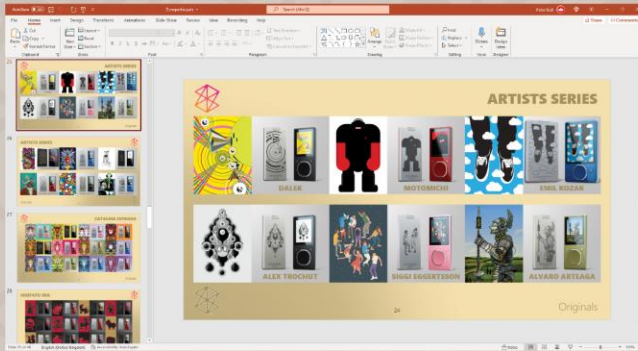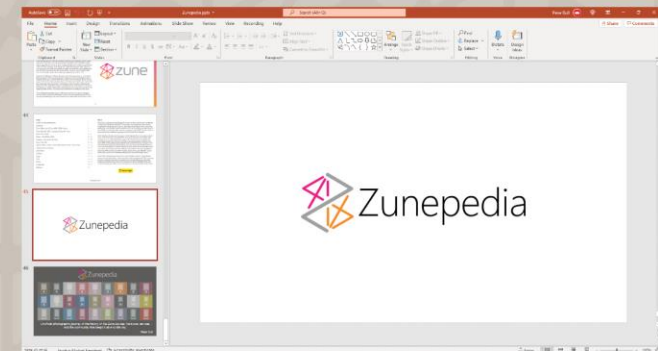
Photoshop

Microsoft PowerPoint, which was best available software to use for the next part of the process, was then used to import the PNG images for each of the pages for the book and then added various logos, device outlines and elements to make up the various sections of the book.
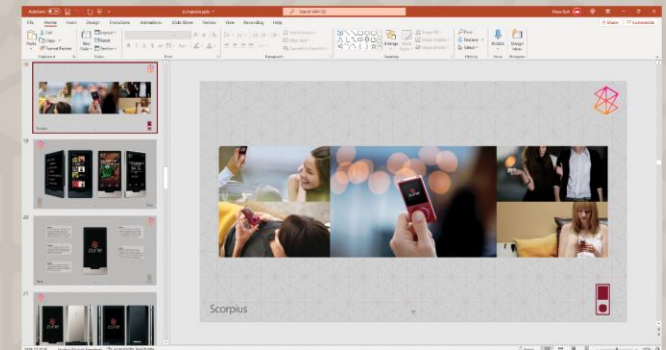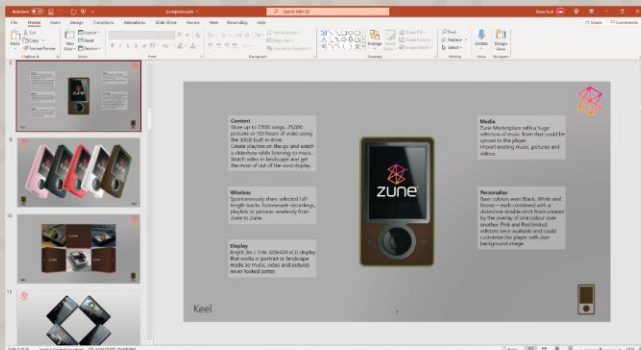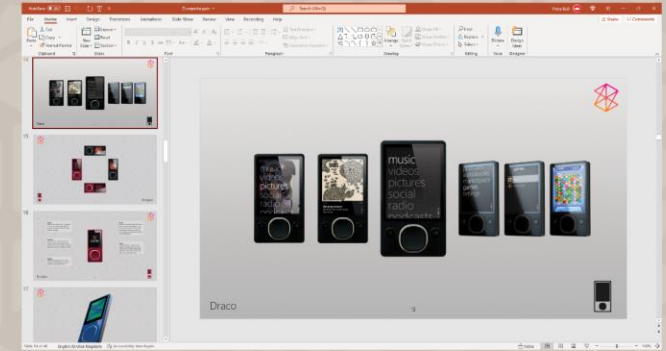
PowerPoint

Microsoft PowerPoint was then used to add the text to the book, the majority of which would be at the start and end of the book and allow the pictures to speak for themselves. Also any text would be selectable and any links would work correctly and be exported to the final PDF document.

PowerPoint
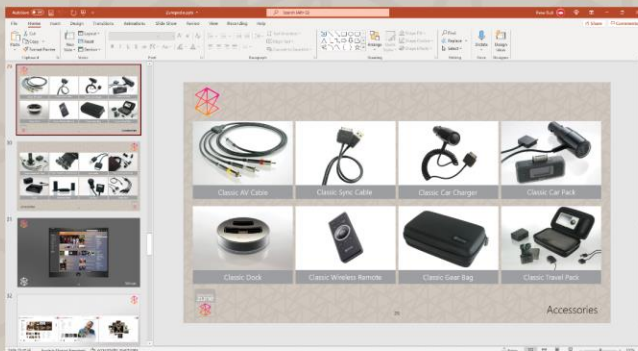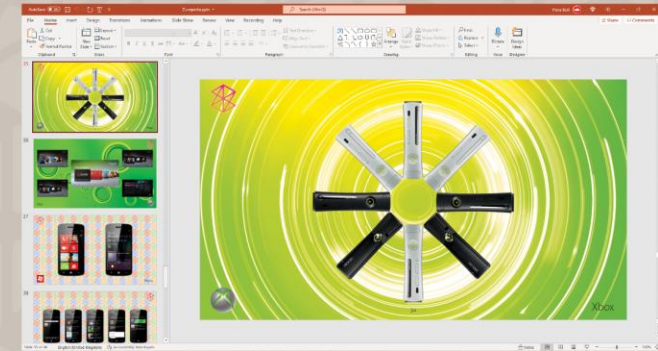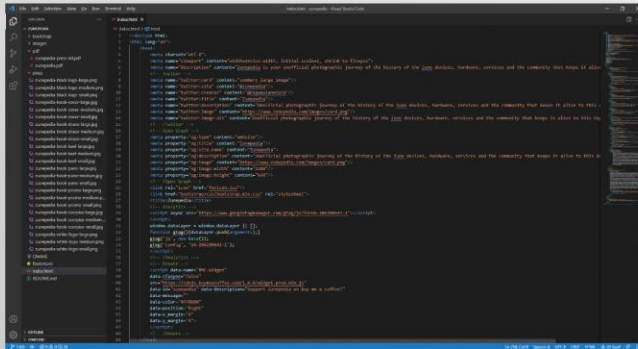
Website was created with Visual Studio Code using HTML and CSS plus Bootstrap for layout. Content was written to give potential readers an insight into the book and the author. It also included featuring new images created in Adobe Photoshop to help showcase Zunepedia.
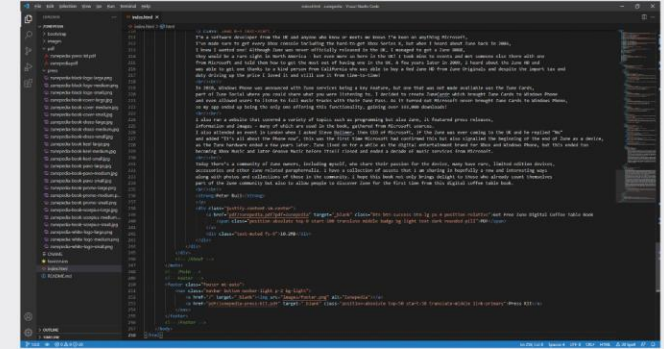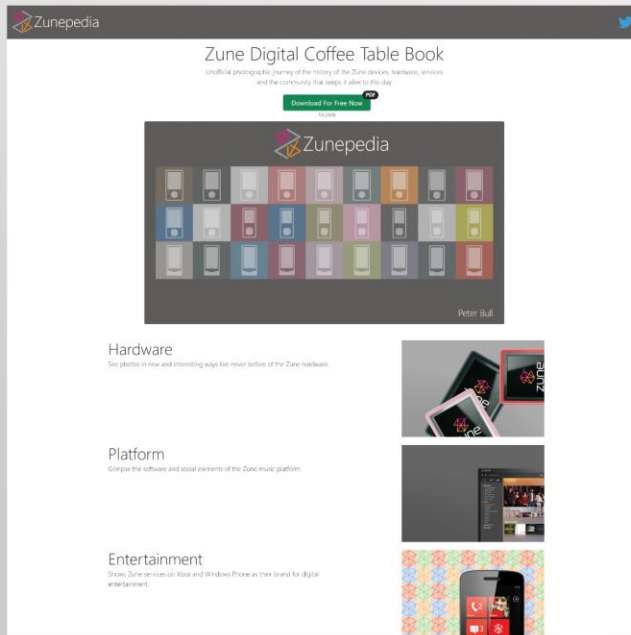
Website

Website would not serve as the place where potential readers could get an overview of the book but also where they could download the book itself as a PDF document. It would also give readers the option to support the creation of Zunepedia with Buy Me a Coffee, also linked to from the book.

Website
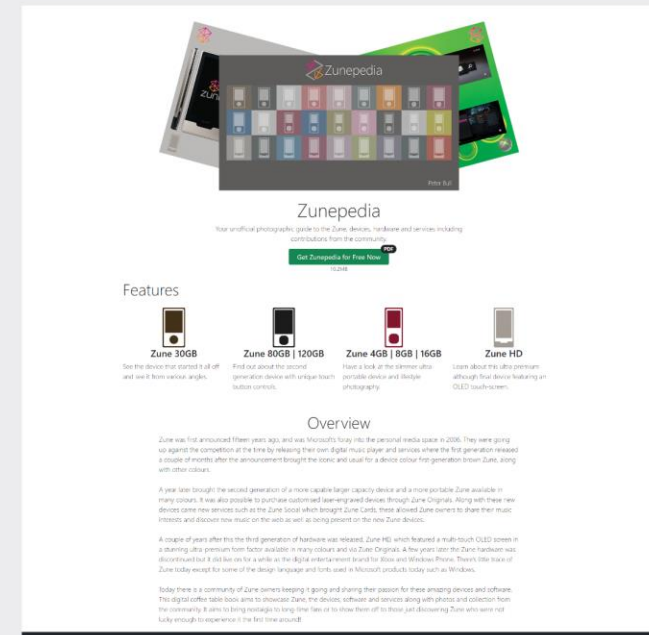
Contributions were a key part of creating the book with submissions requested for photographs of devices or collections from members of the Zune community, which were kindly submitted by various people and these would be shown off in the Community section of the book.
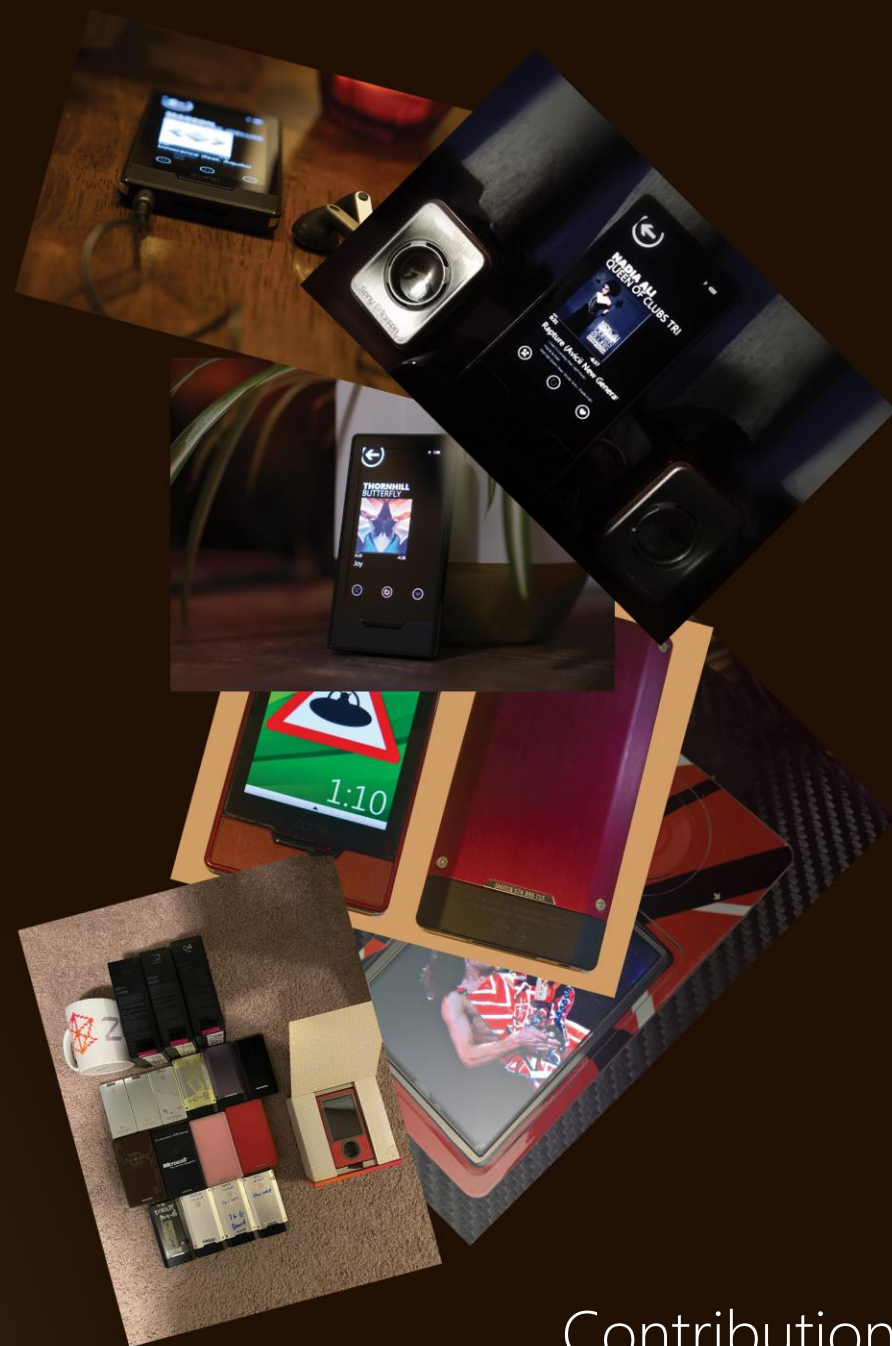
Contributions

Contributions not only included photographs of individual devices, but some in the community had large collections, including rare and limited edition devices. These would really help to show the enthusiasm and interest of the Zune community and be a great way to end the book!

Contributions

Creation

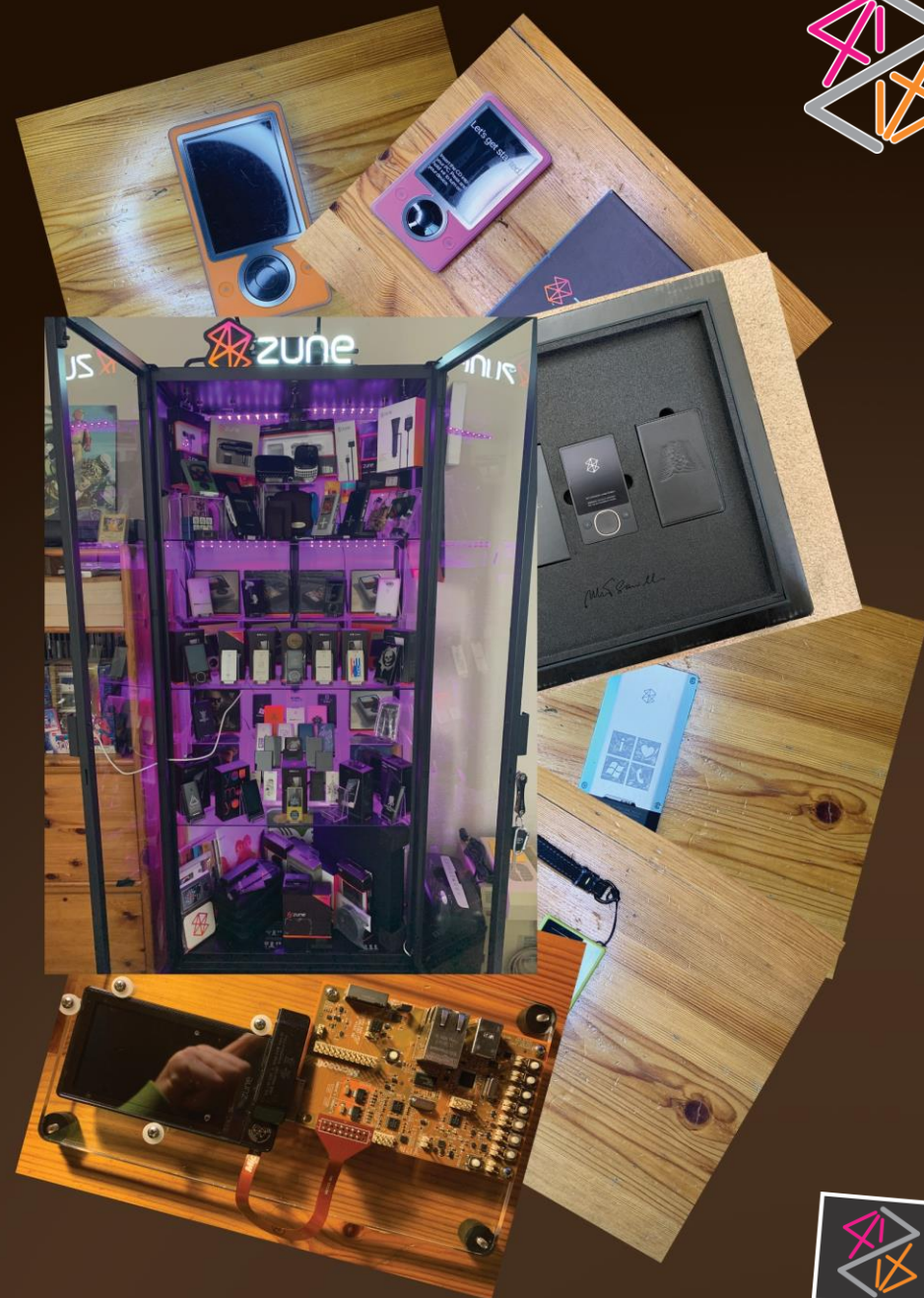*Zunepedia* was a great challenge to take on for a software developer with no real design experience, but with so many assets to use gathered from various *Microsoft* sources back in the day, it was hard not to do anything with them after all this time. Curation of the assets involved going through all the folders of images and putting them together for each section, the largest images would be selected to allow for the best quality and these would be processed using *Adobe Photoshop* to give them a transparent background, if not already. The images would be put together to form the pages in 8K (7680x4320). Alongside this, other design elements were made for the cover, including creating outline versions of each *Zune* device, combined with the colours of almost every device that was available, including a few that only featured in the *Zune* software, as an easter egg for readers who might know of those images!

Once the pages were assembled and arranged for *Zunepedia*, the pages were then exported as PNG files and imported into *Microsoft PowerPoint*, which seems an usual choice but was something I already had access to that would produce the results required. Other elements such as logos and the text for the pages that featured any text were then added and to bring the sections together. One page for myself which was great to do, involved showcasing *ZuneCardr* which was a popular app that exclusively brought the *Zune Cards* from the *Zune Social* to *Windows Phone*!

Zunepedia would also feature photographs from the community, so a request was put out on the *r/zune* subreddit on *Reddit* and over a dozen members there were kind enough to provide photos. Some of them had a large collection of devices, accessories and more so was able to dedicate pages to those. The fantastic support from the *Zune* community was a key part behind the book being what it is.

To all those who supported *Zunepedia*, whether that be with photos, their interest, supporting with *Buy Me a Coffee* or just reading the book, my thanks go out to you!

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