Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto School of Business and Management

Sofware Development Skills

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**LEARNING DIARY, Front-End 2020-21 MODULE** 

## **LEARNING DIARY**

19.12.2020

I read the course overview and general course information. I got an understanding of what I need to do on this course to complete it. I also familiarized myself with the course goal.

I worked on the environment setup tab in Moodle. I watched the intro to version control and managed to setup Git and create an account on bitbucket. I also decided to pick VS code as my code editor because I have prior experience from using it on other courses.

Finally, I briefly looked at the exercises in more detail and now I know what kind of exercises I need to do, and I now have the project on the back of my mind.

23.12.2020

I completed the part 1 and part 2 of the exercises today. I didn't experience any difficulties following the tutorials of the parts, so it was fast to follow along and test the different things that were being introduced.

In the first part (**Introduction to workflow and sass**) I learned how to setup VS code for coding. The VS live server was totally new to me, and I think I will have a lot of use for it in the future. It is a useful extension for VS code. Also, I didn't know about the existence of Emmet in VS code. But now that I know about it, it really speeds up the process of typing. I also found scss interesting and it is surprisingly easy with no prior experience on it.

In part 2 of the exercises (**Homepage and Core Sass/Css**) I learned more about the use of scss. I found scss functions and variables especially interesting. I found it fun how easy it is to create good looking graphics on a website with scss. Especially the ease of transitions really surprised me.

Today I completed the part 3 and 4 of the exercise series. In part 3 I had a small problem when my website didn't update live, as I changed the code. I managed to solve this problem on my own fast by doing "npm run sass".

I found part 3 (**Rotating Menu Button**) interesting because it went more in depth into animations on the website. During the tutorial I started thinking about the possibilities of what can be done with the animations and I quickly realized that the possibilities are endless.

Doing part 4 (**Menu Overlay & Responsiveness**) was a smooth process. I didn't face any difficulties as now I knew that I sometimes need to rerun "npm run sass". I did spend some time trying to figure out how to make the branding image not transparent with the background being transparent. However, I didn't find any fast ways of doing this because the image is a part of the background.

## 27.12.2020

Today I completed the last 3 parts of the exercise series. I also planned the main features of my project. I also did the setup for the project so I can start developing it once I'm done with the exercises.

During part 5 (**Page With CSS Grid**) I didn't face any problems following the video. I followed the video closely because CSS grid seems really interesting and it needs to be included in the project.

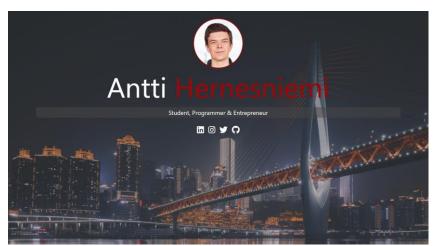
Doing part 6 (Work and Contact Pages) was a smooth process. At one point I did notice that when I clicked to go to the home page it just went into while directory. I instantly knew why it happened and I fixed it fast on my own. At the end of the tutorial it happened, and it was fixed the same way as I fixed it.

In part 7 (**Website Deployment**) I deployed the website on GitHub. I did face some difficulties. I don't really know what happened but first the deployment script kept giving me errors, but it fixed itself when I retried running the script. Also, I didn't really understand how GitHub sites work so it took me sometime to figure out the address.

Currently my plan for the project is a personal portfolio. I plan to make the homepage fairly simple, I though I would only make it include a picture of me, my name, a brief description of me or the website and then a button which bring up a menu overlay which only includes links to other pages. I first though I would make the menu include my face, but I then realized that it might seem a little narcissistic to have the page filled with my face. I will keep my options open.

#### 28.12.2020

Today I started developing the project (personal portfolio). I did some more planning before I started making the homepage, and my plans changed a little. I decided to make the homepage without a menu overlay. I plan on making the page navigation with a clickable flexbox design. The flexbox design would be placed in the empty space seen in the image below.

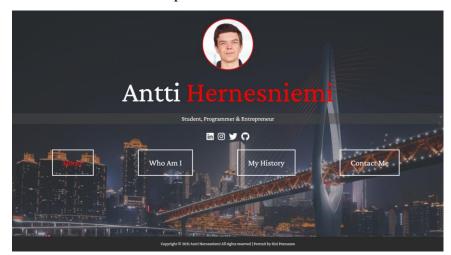


The process of creating the homepage was fairly easy. I did face some problems with centering the portrait image. After some trying, I managed to get the image centered and padded correctly.

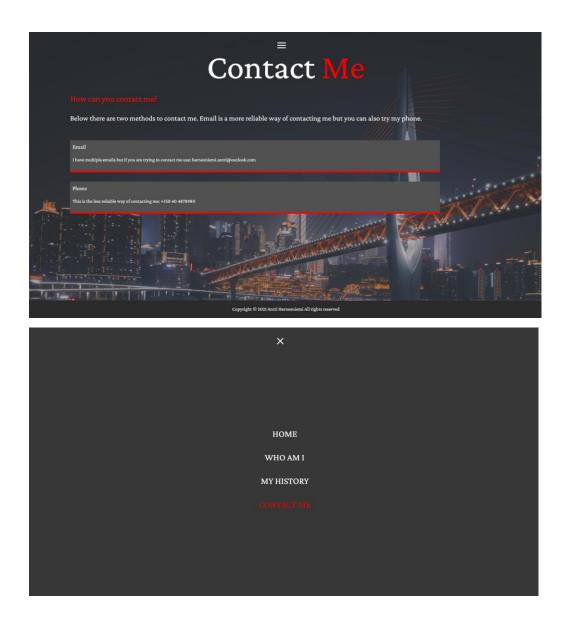
While creating the responsiveness for the homepage I realized a problem. I noticed that my last name is too long for mobile devices. As a solution I decided to hide the element containing my last name by turning the opacity to zero and font size to zero. This way the site only shows my first name on smaller resolutions.

#### 29.12.2020

Today I worked on the project. First thing I did today was finish the homepage (image below). I created the navigation with flexbox, and I personally think it looks good. I also created a footer. It contains my copyright and it also mentions that my portrait image is taken by Sini Pennanen. I had to mention the photographer because of our contract and I though that the footer is the best place.



Today I also created the "Contact Me" page. I decided to create it by using css grid. I also had to change up the navigation because having the same sort of flexbox navigation wouldn't look good. Below images of the current navigation menu and contact page.



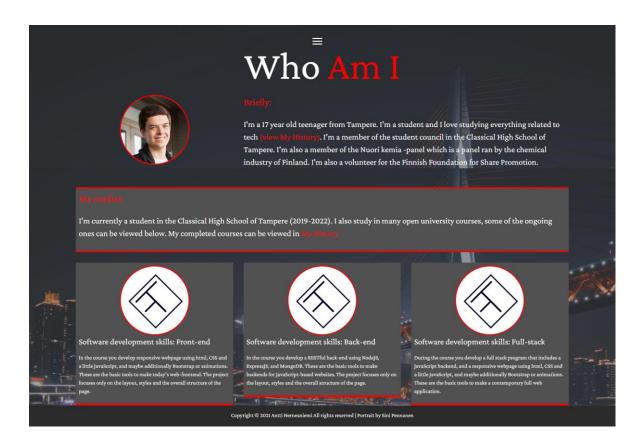
During the creation of the contact page I decided that I'm also going to create the other pages with a similar look. So, I created the first things on the other pages already (picture below).



My plan for the next time is to start creating the content for "Who Am I" and "My History" pages. I think I'm going to use css grid for both pages. I will try to figure out a good-looking way to create the boxes of the grid. I will see how it goes.

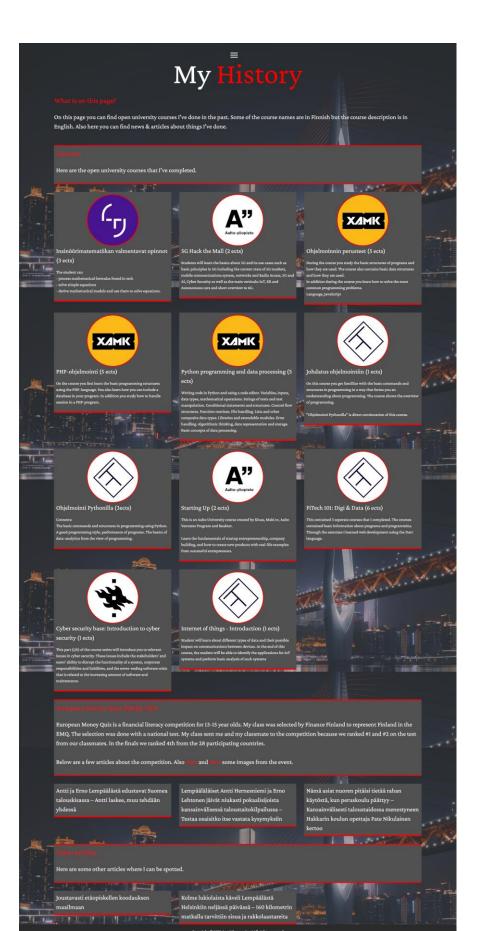
# 31.12.2020

Today I worked on the "Who Am I" and "My History pages". I first worked on the "Who Am I Page". I made the page with css grid and it was relatively easy. I also really like the outcome. I was skeptical at first but now I think it looks decent (Image below).



However, I did face some problems while creating the responsiveness of the page. At the end I managed to work around the problem I had and got the responsiveness into a good-looking working condition.

Creating "My History" page was very similar to the "Who Am I" page. It had way more work to do because the page had more content. While making the page I ran into the same problem on responsiveness, but I managed to get it work in an acceptable way. Next time I will see if I can make the responsiveness better.



The website looks like what I was thinking about in my head when I started. I don't have much to do anymore. I think that in its current state the website is an acceptable portfolio.

## 1.1.2021

Today I tried making the responsiveness better, but I faced a problem that I couldn't fix the way I first though. I ended up fixing the problem in a different way.

I decided to deploy the website because it's in a ready state. I faced a lot of problems while deploying the website. My bad internet connection didn't help because it took me forever to browse for solutions. After a long struggle I managed to get the website to deploy. The problem might have been that my internet was too bad to deploy the website.

Now the last thing I had to do was record a quick video about the website working and I write the readme for the repository. After doing those two things I had to finish this diary and make the final push to GitHub which includes this diary and the video.