Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

Turku University of Applied Sciences

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, Software Development Skills: Front-end 2023-24 MODULE

Date : 04.06.2024

Activity : First video guide about Portfolio Website – Sass workflow setup.

Learning outcome: Basics of Sass as a CSS preprocessor. Responsive design – dynamic layout changes for different screen sizes. A few helpful VS Code extensions and what they do.

Date : 09.07.2024

Activity : Second video guide – Homepage structure and Sass/CSS styling

Learning outcome: After creating a general HTML structure of index page, basic Sass styling was made. I learned about Sass variables and “mixins”, which are kind of functions for styling. Another thing that was new to me is nesting inside selectors.

Date : 11.07.2024

Activity : Third video guide – Rotating menu button

Learning outcome: Created a rotating menu button with some basic JavaScript and styling in Sass. The 3 lines button switches to X shape after being pressed and the transition is smooth, thanks to easeOut function.

Date : 12.07.2024

Activity : Fourth video guide – Menu overlay

Learning outcome: Created a smoothly sliding Menu overlay that shows up after pressing the Menu button. It is made of 2 parts equal in size – left side will have a Brewery logo and the right side has navigation to other subpages that are not yet ready. Used my first FOR loop in Sass.

Date : 15.07.2024

Activity : Fourth video guide – Responsiveness

Learning outcome: Worked with Sass to make the index page usable on larger, and most importantly, on smaller screens. Requires some UX designing skills, so it is valuable practice. Additionally, I generated a logo for the project and prepared more graphical assets to be used in the future.

Date : 17.07.2024

Activity : Fifth video guide – building About Us and Our Products pages with CSS Grid

Learning outcome: To manage this task I utilized CSS Grid to align elements properly. It is a bit tricky to understand how it works but with some tries and additional check in CSS documentation it starts to make sense. Two more pages are started, but needs some more work to be perfected.

Date : 19.07.2024

Activity : Fifth video guide – additional fixes for two sub-pages in CSS Grid

Learning outcome: More CSS Grid studies and trying out new things. Elements on the About Us page turned out to look pretty good. Footer has been added to all pages, but needs more styling to be acceptable.

Date : 23.07.2024

Activity : Sixth video guide – Our Products and Contact pages.

Learning outcome: Development of Our Products and Contact pages by using CSS Grid. It is a complex tool and I need to do more digging to understand it. Added new examples of products for the page with short descriptions. Needs more work as it is still misaligned. Next step will be fixing the design of Our Products and adding Flex Boxes to Contact page.

Date : 28.07.2024

Activity : Sixth + seventh video guide – Contact page with Flexbox and deployment.

Learning outcome: Our products page has been finally finished by using Flexbox to display products with responsiveness included. Additionally, the Footer is now aligned properly. The last task to do is creating Flexboxes in Contact page and to deploy the project on Github Pages.

**LEARNING DIARY**

**Day one – initial setup and preparing the local environment**

04.06.2024

In the last few days, I carefully read the course’s objectives and goals and I believe I made the right choice. This year I have found my interest in Web Development, especially Front-end, and that´s the direction I want to take in my studies.

Because of my small previous experience in Web Dev, I already had most of the required software on my computer but in order to proceed further I needed to install additional packages like node-sass and a few extensions to VS Code to help me in the process.

Through following the video tutorial, I have created the necessary files and prepared the initial setup for the project, with dependencies and libraries ready to work with.

I already have a GitHub account and used GIT before, so this part was quite easy to do. A freshly created remote repository has been connected to my local one and the first initial commit was a success.

**The studying continues – general HTML structure of a main page and basic styling**

09.07.2024

After a few busy weeks with other course work, I have finally come back to my project – Zukos Brewery! While I wasn’t coding the pages, I prepared some media and assets to be used in my project, alongside a few ideas I wish to make happen. I have utilized an AI generative tool called Stable Diffusion from a free source www.stablediffusionweb.com to generate samples of my brewery’s products – beer etiquettes. Although they are not perfect, as the free AIs have limits, they will be suitable placeholders.

The background pictures are also AI generated but were taken from www.vecteezy.com and are free to use, with only one requirement – attribution of source.

I followed the second tutorial video and prepared the general HTML structure of an index page with some basic styling in Sass. Many parts are subject to change because I want to apply my own ideas for project design, but for now I try to follow the guide closely to properly learn the used technologies and tricks. I already used one of my prepared graphics as a background and it fits perfectly with the theme of my project. One problem occurred along the way – when I wanted to use my background picture, the whole page turned white. The solution was simply fixing the location of the file, as it is relative to compiled CSS file, not Sass one.

I learned how to create own functions called mixins, and defining own variables, both in Sass. Overall, there was quite much coding involved today, both HTML and Sass, but I´m sure there is way more to come. I´ve got some solid base to build on, and I´m looking forward to the next steps.

**Making smooth Menu button with JavaScript and Sass styling**

11.07.2024

Today I have created a rotating menu button with Sass and some basic JavaScript. JS injects certain classes into my HTML code, “show” and “close”, and that allows the fluid transition from 3 lines into an X shape. The transition is smooth thanks to easeOut “mixin” function defined in the previous lesson. These classes have defined styles in Sass and there is still some work to be done there as I want it perfected and more customized.

That was my first experience with JavaScript and for now it looks quite cryptic. It is an integral part of the front-end and I will dig deeper into it in the future.

**Creating smooth Menu overlay**

12.07.2024

I have created an overlay for the Menu button that activates after the button is pressed. It is equal in size and splits the screen in half. The left side will have a logo of my Brewery, generated by free AI, but it is still in progress. The right side of the overlay has navigational buttons for other subpages which are not yet built.

These nav buttons smoothly transition from the right side based on the unit of time. Sass allows using FOR loops and one of them is used to iterate through the nav buttons, making each one of them appear in order, synchronized.

**Creating smooth Menu overlay - responsiveness**

15.07.2024

It was my first take in responsive design of a website, so that it looks and works well on widescreen monitors and smaller screens like smartphones. It is harder than I thought and requires some smart thinking and UX design. A few “mixins” are utilized to do this task, especially for medium to small screens. They include special styling for these screen sizes so that the elements of the page are reconfigured and aligned so the page is readable and user friendly.

After many tries, I finally figured it out and the menu overlay is sliding sideways like it was intended. Once the next pages are completed, I will have to make them responsive as well so there is a lot of work ahead.

**Creating About Us and Our Products pages**

17.07.2024

I have created two additional pages for Zukos Brewery project – About Us and Our Products. It is still a work in progress because aligning elements is quite tricky. CSS Grid is utilized to make this happen, and it looks how it should, but the mobile version is not completely ready.

Apart from that I added a footer section which still needs a bit of styling to look perfect.

**Some fixes for About Us and Our Products pages**

19.07.2024

Added additional fixes for both pages and the footer. About Us page looks quite good already with only the footer still being a bit misaligned. Our Products page needs to have assets added and proper CSS Grid done to align the elements.

**Creating About Us and Our Products pages**

23.07.2024

I worked on Our Products page, and it is the hardest one to do so far. It requires smart thinking about styles and some imagination. I added examples of beers with short descriptions, but they are still not aligned as I want. I´m using CSS Grid to do this task but I need to do some more digging in documentation or videos because it is a complex tool to work with. I must admit it is a bit of a struggle in this part but hopefully I can make it work.

The Contact page draft is completed, and my next step is to use Flex Boxes there for contact details.

**Progress with products listing and further development of Contact page.**

28.07.2024

Today I finally managed to finish the product listing, which was the hardest thing to do in this project. I have used Flex to do this task instead of Grid as it turned out to be less complex and offered a perfect solution to my problem.

I have 5 example products and each one of them has its own “card”. It is a simple div that contains the product picture on the left side and all kinds of information on the right side, separated by a vertical line. I manipulate these cards with Flex properties for clean look and responsiveness as well so they shrink and go over one another in a column if required. I have used the same solution, Flex, to align both elements in the Footer section.

Product cards have a hover effect to distinguish them more from the background.

Additionally, I added media attributions to the Index page because some sources required it, but also because it just feels right to acknowledge the source.

The last step left to do is deployment to Github Pages. The process is quite straightforward so there shouldn’t be any issues.