Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Sofware Development Skills: Back End

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LEARNING DIARY, All MODULES

**LEARNING DIARY**

**REST Intro**

**09 May 2021**

In this pretty short first module, I got a basic hands-on the Rest API with some of its basic applications. I suppose, the main point of the video is that there is a limitless number of options that one can use for their own purpose. Personally, I was already aware of the points made in the video, yet it was still great to refresh some of the options, such that I could use them now. I am also looking forward into doing the next modules, as I have never done any ‘real’ backend applications before.

**NodeJS**

**11 May 2021**

In this module I was introduced to the vast possibilities of NodeJS options, as well creating a simple server which can be deployed on Heroku. Overall, I really have enjoyed this module, especially the last part of the video, where we are building a server and deploying it onto Heroku. That is because, the first hour of the video, is simple ‘here is a function and you can do this with it’, and one side that is a necessary thing to know, however, I always preferred to learn by applying these new methods/functions in a small application (like the server one). I did not know much about the back side of NodeJS, expect for basic understanding of NPM, which I have learnt in the Front-End course. In conclusion, I have learnt many useful methods, which hopefully I would be able to apply them myself later in the future.

**MongoDB**

**12 May 2021**

This day I was able to complete the MongoDB module. Overall, it was a satisfying tool and I have learnt many new things, and I was surprised by the different capabilities that Mongo offers. That is because, I thought that Mongo is just a basic (but scalable) framework for databases, however, based on the different options (even just on the download page), I have discovered that you could so much more with it. With that in mind, I was much more motivated when studying the module, as there is a chance that one day I could use it myself for my own projects. Similarly to last module, one thing that I wished could have been better, is again the fact that most of the video we had ‘here is some function, that is what you can do with it’, and I always would prefer to have an actual application of it, for example creating some simple database using MongoDB and then being able to read all the data form some simple html file (similarly to how the end of the NodeJS module was doing).

**ExpressJS**

**18 May 2021**

I have finished the entire video of the ExpressJS, I had to divide the video in few parts, so that I can have more time for trying out new things. I tried adding additional commands with more functionalities, fx. the possibility nicely displaying the .json format if the user would want to. Overall, it was the most interesting module so far, I loved the fact that from the very start we were building a practical application. Based on the NodeJS, I already had a good idea on the basics of back-end, thus when going through this module, I had more time to focus more on the ExpressJS/Javascript syntax than the ‘back-end’ terminology. In the future, I would for sure try to learn more on how to nicely integrate such back-end framework with any of the popular front-end frameworks (Vue, React or Angular), as I liked that you can really do a lot of different things with only very minor changes. This is by far my favourite ‘back-end’ module in the course.

**REST**

**19 May 2021**

On one side, I have really enjoyed all the modules in this course, even if I was a little bit sceptical about my abilities to learn a bit about back end development. On the other side, this small project with REST showed me that the ability to be able to put all that knowledge (of different back end technologies) can be a little bit challenging. I was struggling with this chapter as I kept getting numerous errors, and I was not sure if that is because my code is not correct (I tried to check line by line) or is it because some things are not working for me as they are supposed (I thought that maybe the problem could be with my MongoDB). Either way, I was able to complete that small subscriber project, and by the end of the day, even if I became a bit disappointed with my abilities, I was still able to grasp some of the fundamental understandings for the back end development.

**Project**