Technical Report

HTML and CSS CA

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Word count

Main text:736

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1.1. Introduction

During the last five weeks I have completed four modules of HTML and CSS at Noroff – from the absolute basics to advanced coding. These lessons culminated in a course assignment, where I had to put all my newfound knowledge (and then some) into good use.

1.2. The assignment

In Design 1 I made a stylesheet, wireframe and then a working prototype for the website of an online store- Rainy Days. For this course assignment I was to build on my previous work, and make a "properly functioning and responsive" website. (Noroff, n.d.) Making a website reponsive means using media queries to make content fit different screen sizes. (Noroff, n.d.)

1.3. The homepage

The module assignment of HTML and CSS – Module 4 was a kickstart for this week's CA. There I was to deliver the frontpage (index.html) of our website, including all design elements. The homepage had to be responsive, but did not need to have properly functioning links.

I found this task challenging, and delivered an unfinished assignment - not up to my standards. In sheer frustration I spent late nights trying to learn and improve, and finally I felt in controll of the subject. I therefore went into this weeks CA with a finished, responsive homepage for my website.

1.4. Creating the website

Going forward with the rest of the website, I naturally used the same approach as for the homepage. I started with writing the HTML. HTML is the "backbone of website creation" and contains the content of the website. (Noroff, n.d.) When adding the content to HTML, it was important to ensure that all code was relevant and meaningful – semantic. (Noroff, n.d.) I also made sure to keep all code neat and wothout any unatural breakpoints, to ensure readability.

Next was the CSS coding- the styling of the site. (Noroff, n.d.) In this process I have made some changes in my design according to the feedback on the prototype in the CA of Design 1. First I did the styling of the different elements on my site, that is the background color of the elements and the size and color of the buttons.

Moving on to positioning of the elements, I had a few options- grid or flexbox. The difference between grid or flexbox is the ability to work in more dimensions at a time. Flexbox only allow you to work either horizontally or vertically, whereas grid is a two-

dimensional layout and therefore allows for a more advanced styling of a website (Noroff, n.d.)

However, Flexbox offers greater flexibility as it has the ability to "fill or shrink elements into empty or smaller spaces." This was a particularly important function in this instance, as part of the assignment was to make the website responsive – to shrink the layout and content in order to fit smaller screen sizes (tablets and phones) (see 1.2.).

The vision for the design of the website – as stated in my style sheet in Design 1 – was to keep the site simplistic and clean. The opportunities for advanced layouts offered by grids, was therefore not deemed necessary for this project. The positioning tool chosen, was therefore flexbox.

The website consist of seven pages in total, and much of the design elements is repeated throught these sites in order to make the website as a whole recognizable for the customer. In such a circumstance, one can argue to use CSS variables – a reuseable code for the recurring design elements such as background color, font size etc. (Noroff, n.d.) However, variables are most often used on larger sites, and in this particular CSS code there are so few references to for instance background colour, font size, border box, that the implementation of variables was more a hazzle than a necessity.

Furthermore,to make some of the design elements of the site, such as colored dots in the product gallery and the background blur function on the checkout success page, I have made use of the learning platform W3 Schools and the forum Stack overflow (see How TO – Circles in (W3 Schools , n.d.), and Blur content behind a div using CSS3 in (Stack Overflow, 2016)).

1.5. Conclusion

Upon delivering my website I am finally happy with my efforts and with the result. I have managed to use some advanced code functions, like flexbox, in order to accommodate my vision for the design and especially to make the website responsive – hard as it was!

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