

Lappeenranta–Lahti University of Technology LUT

School of Engineering Science

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Software Development Skills: Front-End 2023-2024. Online course

Learning Diary, Front-End Module

Date: 11.5.2024

Activity: Environment setup, tasklist part 1

First I set up the GitHub and programming environment. I decided to use VSCode since it is a platform I am familiar with. I had NodeJS and npm preinstalled so the setup was quite easy. I had not used node-sass before this course so some of the content in part 1 was new to me. Overall, it did not seem too difficult, so I am confident going forward.

Date: 11.5.2024

Activity: Tasklist part 2

I finished the entirety of part 2, which contained a few new topics that I was not familiar with. Firstly, the mixins and includes in node-sass were something that I had not used before. However, this did not take long to get used to, and they are quite useful when having to use similar styling multiple times.

Date: 11.5.2024

Activity: Tasklist part 3

This part was quite easy but included a lot of useful information about the transformations. This is also something that I have used a bit before, so the implementation of the transformations was not too difficult.

Date: 11.5.2024

Activity: Tasklist part 4

Responsiveness is something that I have focused on in some other projects that I have done. Media queries were familiar, but using them inside multiple files with node-sass was not something I had used before. I had to make some slight modifications to the code since some of my texts were different, thus causing some issues with responsiveness when using the exact pixel counts from the videos.

Date: 12.5.2024

Activity: Tasklist part 5

I completed the fifth part without bigger issues with the grid system. The only slight hiccup I had was accidentally having the wrong class for the main tag, which prevented the grid system from working properly. After noticing that, everything worked as intended. I have used CSS grids before, so there weren't many new things that I learned in this part.

Date: 12.5.2024

Activity: Tasklist part 6

This part was similar to the previous one so working with the grids was easy. Overall these last few parts seem to mostly combine the topics of previous parts so there are not many new things to learn. However, it is good practice to get to use these things in multiple parts so you can learn them better. I got tired of the slow animation speed used in the video, so I decided to make the easeOut-mixin a bit faster.

Date: 13.5.2024

Activity: Tasklist part 7

I successfully deployed the tasklist website, which can be found at https://hageli.github.io/frontend_tasklist. I was not aware that you can host websites for free with GitHub, so that was an interesting thing to learn. The process of deploying the website was extremely easy so it didn't take me a long time to get it running.

Date: 13.5.2024

Activity: Starting the project and minor site improvements

I began looking into what I wanted to do in the project and decided to use the tasklist website as a base. I will slightly modify the hamburger menu in a way that it will not show my profile picture. This will also make the website more simple for mobile users. I also adjusted some of the media screen sizes to improve responsiveness. Going forward, the About page will have the parallax style but will include the same information as the tasklist About page. The projects page will be in a similar fashion, but I will make some stylistic changes compared to

the example website. Finally, the contacts page will be implemented as a slideshow, that will include all the necessary contact information.

Date: 13.5.2024

Activity: Parallax style for the About page

I followed the parallax tutorial on the course website for the most part to create this page. I modified the original tutorial to fit my needs and the website's styling better. According to the tutorial, the background-attachment: fixed can sometimes cause issues on mobile devices so on small devices it is set to scroll instead. Overall this part was quite easy to create and now I know how to create a parallax effect on any website.

Date: 13.5.2024

Activity: Projects grid

I decided to leave the grid part mostly unmodified since it was a convenient way to display the projects. However, I made some stylistic changes, for example, removing the project button and leaving only the GitHub button under each project image. On the largest screens, 4 projects are displayed on a single row, with large screens having 3, medium ones 2, and smallest screens only one. This way the project page is way more responsive than the examples in the tasklist even on the smallest screens.

Date: 13.5.2024

Activity: Slides for Contact Information and closing the project

I had a bit of trouble with the slide animation, where it would not start or the size of the slides would not work properly. These were, however, fixed quite quickly and I was able to change the styling slightly to fit my project better. I tried my best to find all the possible pixel thresholds where responsiveness issues arise, and according to my testing, the website is working as intended on all devices over 350px screen width, which is almost all modern devices apart from watches. Uploading the project went without issues and it can be found at https://hageli.github.io/frontend_project. Upon finishing my original plan, I decided to modify the index page to not be directly similar to the tasklist. I changed the headlines to a similar "block" style that I have on the other pages.

Date: 14.5.2024

Activity: Closing thoughts

I realized that I had not committed the project multiple times over the development period due to finishing it in a couple of hours. This can make following the development more difficult, but I have done the learning diary entries for each part of the project. A similar issue arises from combining some of the tasklist parts into single commits, but all required learning diary entries exist for these too. Overall, I did my best to follow the tasklist instructions (with a different color scheme) and modify the example code to create my own version of the website.