Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

Tietotekniikka – Software Engineering

Sofware Development Skills

Henri Hujanen

613717

LEARNING DIARY, Software Development Skills: Front-End 2022-23

16.1.2023

I started the course. As I was already familiar with version control, I skipped straight to the first module, Introduction to workflow and sass. I learned how to use the Live Server extension for VSCode, which seems very useful. I followed the instructions in the video, but I soon learned that Node Sass was deprecated, and that I had to install Dart Sass. Luckily the commands in Dart Sass were quite similar, and I was able to reproduce a similar looking website as seen in the tutorial video.

23.1.2023

I continued working on the website. Following the tutorial, I added some headers and buttons for social media. The buttons have no functionality for now, and I might change a few of them. The fonts and icons were added to the site using Font Awesome's free kit.

I also added some padding between the elements and some cool fade out effects while hovering over buttons. A greyed-out background image brought some life into the site. I might redo the color scheme and background images on the site later if I feel like it.

Overall, I learned some useful things about using sass, like the Mixins to define re-usable styles, and using the ampersand symbol (&) for nesting.

30.1.2023

I started by adding the CSS for the hamburger menu button. However, there was some kind of problem with it, as it did not show up in the live server. The tutorial had a similar problem, and they solved it by restarting the live server and rerunning the 'npm run sass' command. I thought that I would do the same, but it didn't work. After browsing the tutorials comment section, I was convinced that there was some kind of problem with Scss.

I spent a good while searching for solutions, trying out VSCode extensions, but nothing worked. I thought this was strange as everything else rendered normally in the live server. This should have been an obvious clue. I decided to re-examine my index.html file and found out that the name of

the div class was 'menu' instead of 'menu-btn'. I changed the name and, surprise, everything worked perfectly. After this huge waste of time, I continued following the tutorial and quickly added the JavaScript functionality and CSS rotating animation and got to the desired result.

Overall, I learned that you could do all kinds of cool effects and animations with CSS, and that I should probably quickly revise what I have done in the previous weeks before starting a new topic. This will save me from obvious mistakes like the one I had today. I should also learn to be more precise with my naming practices.

7.2.2023

I finished the rotating menu according to the tutorial but had some problems with the portrait image. The comments on the video were very helpful, as I learned that I could add it as an element in index.html, and it seems to be working fine now. The tutorial also left the portrait image to be transparent, so I changed the opacity so that you can't see text through the picture.

After this I added responsiveness to the site, and now the main page and menu look good on mobile and various screen sizes. Unlike the tutorial, where the portrait image was made smaller for mobile users by adding a smaller version of it to the image files, I just modified the element pixel width and height, and produced the same result.

13.2.2023

Following the tutorial, I added a responsive About Me page to the website. Not much new information was needed to complete the HTML markup, as I could just use the old html file to create the new page. However, I learned about using CSS Grid to map the layout of the page, and about adding a sticky footer to the bottom of the page. I also changed the text color behavior, so that it changes from white to black if the background is white, and vice versa. I also changed the text background on the main page to only stretch as far as the text itself, not the whole width of the site. This made the page look cleaner, and I also added to this by fiddling with some of the paddings.

20.2.2023

Started working on the site again, but the background image was not greyed out like it was supposed to be. I opened GitHub and started going through all the changes I made last time to see what could have caused it. After a while I noticed that a Google Chrome dark mode plugin was running, and after disabling it, everything worked correctly.

The work and contact pages were added, and again the html could be just copied from the about page with some minor changes. The pre-existing mixins and functions made adding effects and styling easy. The initial website is now complete and all that's left to do is to deploy the site and change some information on the pages.

6.3.2023

I made no changes to the actual website, as todays topic was just deploying the website using Github pages. The tutorial video made an entirely new repository for the website, but as I had previously published all my changes to Github, I decided to not make a new repository. This meant however that I could not fully rely on the tutorial video, and I instead read Github's own tutorial in setting up Github pages. This was quite simple, as I just had to go to the repository settings, select the branch to build from, and save the changes. The site is now working correctly being hosted by Github pages and accessible at https://henrihujanen.github.io/Front-End/.

13.3.2023

I started working on the final course project by creating a new branch for it. I started thinking about features that I could add to the project, and decided to add a parallax effect for the site landing page and a slideshow for showing off my projects. I followed the tutorials provided on the course page, but as they were starting from a blank page, I had some challenges in fitting them into the site without breaking anything. After some fiddling around with the html and Sass I got to a very nice looking result for the responsive parallax landing page.

After finishing with the parallax, I started to work on the slideshow. I added a new html page for it that can be accessed following the links on the projects page. As the main Sass file was getting

uncomfortably large, I created a new partial for the Sass required for the slideshow. At first the slideshow didn't look right at all and was starting at the wrong places. The tutorial had a mistake in it, and after a comment pointed it out, I figured out how to fix it. The slideshow now works correctly and I'm happy with the way it turned out.

Finally, I added some finishing touches by changing some fonts and colors to make the site clearer and writing some more convincing text for the descriptions. At last, I could deploy the site with gh-pages, and all that is left to do is to add some information to the Github repository and turn in the course for assessment. The finished project is accessible at https://henrihujanen.github.io/Front-End/.

Overall, the course taught me a lot about front-end web development, and about techniques that can be used to make sites more responsive and pretty. I also learned some good coding practices, Sass, and my understanding of version control and using Github got deeper. I learned a lot of new things and felt like the course from my part was a success.