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The Odin Project Notes

A collection of notes

Contents

[Foundations – Introduction 2](#_Toc110667310)

[How This Course Will Work 2](#_Toc110667311)

[Introduction to Web Development 2](#_Toc110667312)

[Motivation and Mindset 3](#_Toc110667313)

[Asking For Help 3](#_Toc110667314)

[Join the Odin Community 4](#_Toc110667315)

[Foundations – Prerequisites 5](#_Toc110667316)

[Computer Basics 5](#_Toc110667317)

[How Does the Web Work? 5](#_Toc110667318)

[Installation Overview 6](#_Toc110667319)

[Installations 6](#_Toc110667320)

[Text Editors 6](#_Toc110667321)

[Command Line Basics 7](#_Toc110667322)

[Setting Up Git 7](#_Toc110667323)

[Foundations – Git Basics 8](#_Toc110667324)

[Introduction to Git 8](#_Toc110667325)

[Git Basics 9](#_Toc110667326)

[Foundations – HTML Foundations 10](#_Toc110667327)

[Introduction to HTML and CSS 10](#_Toc110667328)

[Elements and Tags 11](#_Toc110667329)

[HTML Boilerplate 11](#_Toc110667330)

[Working with Text 14](#_Toc110667331)

[Lists 15](#_Toc110667332)

[Links and Images 17](#_Toc110667333)

[Commit Messages 18](#_Toc110667334)

# Foundations – Introduction

## How This Course Will Work

* “The Odin Project is an open-source community dedicated to providing the best information sources to take you from zero to a full-stack developer”
* Will go over the basics of internet, Git, GitHub, HTML, CSS, JS, back-end technologies, etc
* Lessons will contain questions that should be answered before moving on
* After the foundations course, the Full Stack JavaScript and Full Stack Rails paths can be taken
* A collection of the best sources that could be found by the community
* Some things made by the community themselves

## Introduction to Web Development

* Web development is project-focused and involves collaborating with a team that helps to co-ordinate the client’s needs into the end product.
* Front end:
  + What the website visitors see
  + The presentation of content and user interface elements
  + Use of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
* Back end:
  + “The guts of the application”
  + Stores and serves data to ensure the front end has what it needs
  + Uses languages such as Java, Python, and Ruby
* Full Stack:
  + Developers that are comfortable working with both the front and back ends
  + The Odin Project focuses on teaching full-stack development
* Can work for large tech companies, startups, as a freelancer, or as a consultant
* <https://web.archive.org/web/20160925155912/http://www.happybearsoftware.com/how-to-get-a-programmer-job.html>
* Can help add to the project (Will be good for CV)
* <https://github.com/kamranahmedse/developer-roadmap>

## Motivation and Mindset

* Someone with a ‘fixed mindset’ believes that if they don’t get something on their first attempt, they never will
* Someone with a ‘growth mindset’ believes they can get better at anything with effort and persistence
* Intelligence is not fixed and can be developed
* ‘Focus mode’ is when your mind is focused on learning, reading, watching videos, or working on a project
* ‘Diffuse mode’ is when you are not actively learning and is the state where your mind starts to connect what you have been learning (This is why when you are falling asleep you might have a breakthrough on a problem you were stuck on)
* This is why taking a break when you are really stuck on a problem is good as you can usually come up with a solution
* Teaching things to others is a great way to solidify what you have learned

## Asking For Help

* It is essential to ask well formed questions to make it easier for people to help
* Always provide code and the surrounding context
* Ask for help, not the solution itself
* <https://medium.com/@gordon_zhu/how-to-be-great-at-asking-questions-e37be04d0603>
* Text

  Description automatically generated<https://xyproblem.info/> - When people ask about their attempted solution rather than their actual problem.
* <https://stackoverflow.com/help/how-to-ask>
* https://slash7.com/2006/12/22/vampires/

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. Context or code
2. Where someone asks for help with Y to assist their solution with X when they really should be using an alternative X. Asking about their attempted solution rather than their actual problem.
3. Doesn’t google things/read docs, doesn’t ask specific questions, asks common questions that have already been answered before

## Join the Odin Community

* Working and collaborating with other people is an important part of working as a web developer
* Use the #TheOdinProject
* Community discord
* Rubber duck debugging – Go through the code line by line
* Use backticks in discord to show code different from the rest of the text.
* Use three backticks above and below code for multiple lines of code
* Specify the language after the three backticks to add colour

# Foundations – Prerequisites

There are not many notes for this section as I already know lots about the topics taught in this section, thanks to GCSE’s and A-Level’s.

## Computer Basics

* <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/computerbasics/what-is-a-computer/1/>
* <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/computerbasics/understanding-operating-systems/1/>
* <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/computerbasics/understanding-applications/1/>
* <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/basic-computer-skills/open-source-vs-closed-source-software/1/>
* <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/techsavvy/taking-screenshots/1/>
* <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/techsavvy/password-tips/1/>

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. Windows is an operating system
2. Open-source software is software where the source code is publicly accessible and usable. Closed source software is the opposite.
3. Showing error messages to show IT support and showing evidence of code for exams.
4. Weak: password123 🡪 Strong: P4$$w0rD231

## How Does the Web Work?

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHp1l73ztB8>
* <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Common_questions/How_does_the_Internet_work>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_LPdttKXPc&t=46s>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrXPcaRlBqo>
* <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/Learn/Getting_started_with_the_web/How_the_Web_works#Clients_and_servers>

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. A network is two or more computers that are connected to share data.
2. A global network of networks
3. A unique identifier for a computer using the Internet Protocol
4. A router connects networks together. It allows devices to connect to the internet.
5. A client is a device that is requesting and receiving data from a server and using its services.
6. A server is a device that stores and provides data, services, or programs to client devices.
7. A web page is a document for the WWW, viewed in a web browser.
8. A web server is a server that stores websites and processes HTTP requests
9. A web browser is software that is used for accessing websites/the WWW
10. Software that searches the WWW using search queries
11. A DNS request is a request to a **Domain Name Server** asking it what IP address is associated with a given domain name
12. Google Chrome is the browser I use the most
13. You send a query (a set of keywords) to google who will then go through their database of webpages and find pages that are the most relevant to what you searched. You can then click on one of the pages returned to go through the process of loading the page (DNS request, request to web server, response from web server, website sent to client, web page loaded in client’s browser)

## Installation Overview

* Dual-booting is where you install two operating systems on your computer, which can give you the option to boot either OS when your computer first starts up.
* A virtual machine is an emulation of a computer that runs within your existing OS.

## Installations

* The Odin Project recommends using either a virtual machine or dual-boot to use Linux as it doesn’t support windows.

## Text Editors

* “A good text editor can help you write better code with real-time code checking, syntax highlighting, and automatic formatting.”
* Microsoft Word and Libre-Office Writer cannot be used as they store information about how to display the text on the screen which means interpreters unable to execute the file as code.
* Code editors are tools that can take a text file an provide features such as plugins, syntax highlighting, auto-closing of brackets and braces, and linting. Visual Studio Code (VSCode) is the most popular choice.

## Command Line Basics

* The command line interface (CLI) is where you can enter commands that your computer will run.
* $ is used to show that what follows is a command that should be put into the terminal.

Knowledge Check Answers:

* A command line is an interface that lets the user enter commands which will be carried out by the computer
* You can open it by clicking the icon on your GUI OS or by pressing CTRL + ALT + T (on linux)
* You can navigate to a directory by entering $ cd /file/path
* cd on its own will take you to your home directory
* $ cd .. will take you back up a directory
* $ pwd will display which directory you are in and the path to get there
* $ ls is used to display the contents of the directory you are in
* $ mkdir directoryName is used to create a new directory
* $ touch fileName is used to create a new file
* $ rm fileName will delete the named file 🡪 rmdir directoryName will delete the named directory
* $ mv oldfile.txt newfile.txt will rename a file 🡪 $ mv oldDirectory newDirectory

## Setting Up Git

* Git is a popular version control system.
* GitHub allows you to upload code/files using Git and manage your code using a web interface.

# Foundations – Git Basics

## Introduction to Git

* Git is a version control system – “Git is like a really epic save button for your files and directories”.
* A save in Git records differences in the files and folders and keeps a historical record of each save.
* Enables you to review how your project grows and restore file states from the past.
* GitHub is a remote storage facility on the web for all your projects.
* <https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Getting-Started-About-Version-Control>
  + Local Version Control Systems – A local database which stores every file change as a patch. The patches are then put together to re-create a file at a given point in time.
  + Centralised Version Control Systems – All the files and their versions are stored on a central VCS server. Multiple people can then save to and retrieve from the server.
  + Distributed Version Control Systems – A clone of the repository is stored locally on each developer’s computer so that if the server goes down, the repository can be recovered from the mirrored copies stored by all the contributors.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oRjP8yj2Wo>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1h9_cB9mPT8&t=13s>
* <https://github.com/TheOdinProject/curriculum>

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. Git is a version control system (VCS)
2. A text editor saves all the words in a single file. There are no other records of the file recorded so you would need to make multiple copies of the file to keep track of how it has changed. Git records differences in the files and folders and keeps a record of these ‘saves’.
3. Git works at a local level.
4. GitHub works at a remote level.
5. An individual developer can use it to show off their projects to employers as well as make it easier to work on files from different computers. It can make bug fixing easier as you can go back to previous versions to see if they contain the same bug. Branches can be used to work on new files/features without affecting the main branch.
6. Branches allow developers to make changes without stepping on each other’s code. Branches can also be tested before merging them to the main branch to find bugs and problems first. Git will alert developers when there is a merge conflict and tell them where it/they occurred.

## Git Basics

* ‘git clone’ is used to clone the contents of a repository to the current directory.
* ‘git remote’ gives you the URL of the repository you are using.
* ‘git status’ displays the state of the working directory and the staging area.
* ‘git add fileName’ will add a file to the staging area. The staging area is part of the two-step process for making a commit in Git.
* ‘git commit’ makes a ‘save point’ in the repository.
* ‘git log’ shows a log of all previous commits, who made them, message given to the commit, etc.
* ‘git push’ updates a remote branch with local commits.

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. A new repository can be made on GitHub by clicking the ‘new’ button
2. The ‘git clone’ command can be used to copy a repository to your local machine
3. ‘Origin’ is the default name of your remote connection
4. origin refers to the remote
5. main refers to the branch you are pushing to
6. You add files to the staging area and the use commit to commit the changes
7. git status
8. ‘git add -A’ or ‘git add fileName’
9. git commit -m “message”
10. git push
11. git log

# Foundations – HTML Foundations

## Introduction to HTML and CSS

* HTML is the raw data that a webpage is built out of (text, links, cards, lists, buttons, etc).
* CSS is what adds style to those plain elements. HTML puts information on a webpage, but CSS positions that information, gives it colour, changes the fonts, etc.
* HTML is a markup language, CSS is a stylesheet language, and JavaScript is a programming language.
* <https://brytdesigns.com/html-css-javascript-whats-the-difference/>

Graphical user interface, website

Description automatically generated

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. HTML stands for HyperText Markup Language. CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets
2. You would use HTML to add blocks of text to a website.
3. You would use CSS to change the font and background colour of a button
4. HTML is for creating the content of a website. CSS is for styling that content/those elements. JavaScript is used to alter the HTML and CSS of the website.

## Elements and Tags

* Almost all elements on an HTML page are just pieces of content wrapped in opening and closing HTML tags.
* An opening tag tells the browser ‘this is the start of an HTML element’. They are comprised of a keyword enclosed in angle brackets. An example is <p>.
* A closing tag tells the browser where an element ends. They are similar to an opening tag but have a forward slash before the keyword. For example, </p>.
* Some HTML elements do not have a closing tag. They are known as void elements or self-closing elements.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGQuIIv2RVA&list=PL4-IK0AVhVjM0xE0K2uZRvsM7LkIhsPT->

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. A HTML tag is used to mark the start and end of an HTML element.
2. A HTML element is made up of an opening tag, content, and a closing tag.

## HTML Boilerplate

* All HTML documents have the same basic structure or boilerplate.
* index.html is the name for the main page of the website. It is the default page shown on a website if no other page is specified when a visitor requests the site. This name should always be used for this page since it is what web servers will look for by default.
* Every HTML page starts with a doctype declaration. It is used to tell the browser what version of HTML it should use to render a document. <!DOCTYPE html> will use the most recent version of HTML.

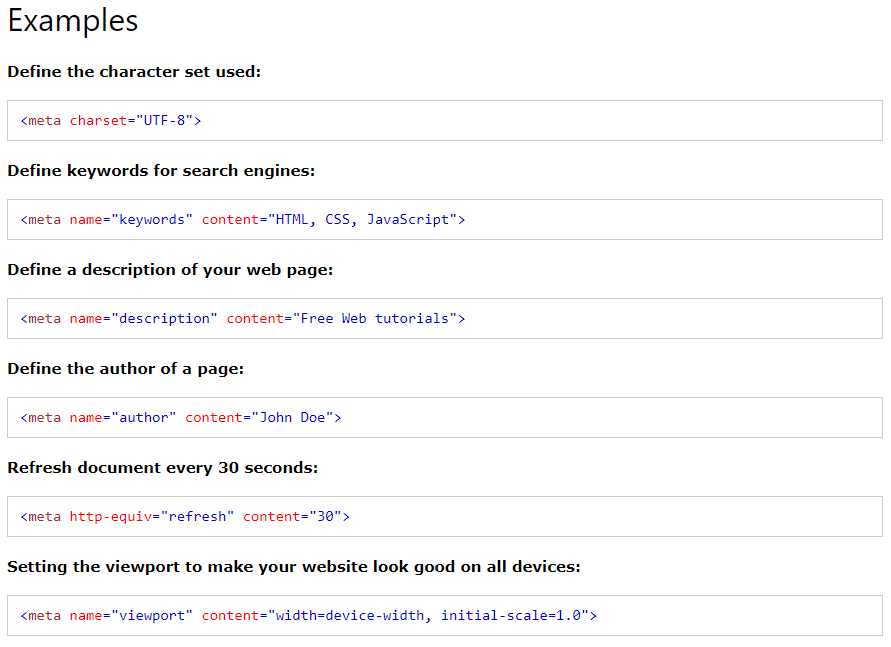
Graphical user interface, application, Word

Description automatically generated

* After declaring the doctype, the next thing to do is to provide an <html> element. This is called the root element of the document because all other elements in the document will be a descendant of it.

Text

Description automatically generated

* The lang attribute specifies the language of the text content in that element. It is mostly used to improve the accessibility of the webpage. Screen readers can adapt based on the lang attribute to change things such as pronunciations.
* The <head> element is used for storing meta data about a webpage. It should not contain any element that displays content on the webpage.
* Setting the encoding is important because it ensures that special symbols and characters from different languages will be displayed correctly.
* The <title> element should be included in the head of an HTML document. It is used to give a webpage a title which is displayed in a browser’s tab.

Text

Description automatically generated

* The <body> element is the final element to complete the HTML boilerplate. This is where all the content that will be displayed to users will go.

Text

Description automatically generated

* VSCode has a built-in shortcut which will generate a boilerplate. This can be used by entering ! on the first line of a blank HTML document.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8UAEoOvqFg&list=PL4-IK0AVhVjM0xE0K2uZRvsM7LkIhsPT-&t=93s>
* <https://validator.w3.org/>

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. The doctype declaration is used to tell the browser what version of html it should use to render the file in.
2. The HTML element is the root element which every other element will be a descendant of.
3. The head element is where all the meta data about the website is stored.
4. The body element is where all the content of the website is put.

## Working with Text

* When a browser encounters lines of text in an HTML file, it will compress them together on a single line. To create paragraphs in HTML, we use the <p> tag.
* There are six different levels of headings starting from <h1> to <h6>.
* The <strong> tag is used to make text bold. Some screen readers will change how they say the text if it is a <strong> element.
* The <em> tag is used to make text italic. This can also affect how screen readers will say the text.
* <strong> and <em> elements can be used on text that is part of a <p> element.
* <b> can be used instead of <strong> and <i> can be used instead of <em> however it is bad practice. They do change how the text looks, but they do not have any semantic meaning for screen readers.
* Indentation is used to show parents, children, and sibling relationships between different elements. It helps improve readability.
* HTML comments are not visible to the browser but let you leave comments to help explain different parts of the file (similar uses to comments in programming). They start in <!-- and end in -->.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqcd-XkxZNM&list=PL4-IK0AVhVjM0xE0K2uZRvsM7LkIhsPT-&index=4>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW6cBZLUk6M&list=PL4-IK0AVhVjM0xE0K2uZRvsM7LkIhsPT-&index=5>

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. A paragraph can be created by using the <p> tag
2. A heading can be created by using one of the heading tags, <h1> to <h6>
3. There are six different heading levels. They have different sizes and levels of importance. <h1> being the most important.
4. <strong> should be used to make text bold and show it is important
5. <em> should be used to make text italicised and to add emphasis.
6. An element is the parent of any elements that are nested within it.
7. If two elements are at the same level, they are siblings
8. Comments are created by placing text between <!-- and --> .

## Lists

* An unordered list can be created by using the <ul> tag. Items can be added by using the <li> tag. The items should be placed between the <ul> tags. An example can be seen below.

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

* Graphical user interface, text

  Description automatically generatedAn ordered list can be created by using the <ol> tag. Items can be added by using the <li> tag. The items should be placed between the <ol> tags. An example can be seen below.

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. <ul> is used to create an unordered list
2. <ol> is used to create an ordered list
3. <li> is used to create list items

## Links and Images

* The <a> tag is used to define an anchor/hyperlink element.
* An HTML attribute gives additional information to an HTML element and always goes in the element’s opening tag. An attribute is made up of a name-value pair.
* The href (hyperlink reference) attribute is added to an anchor element to tell it the destination it should go to when clicked.
* Absolute links are used to link to pages on other websites on the internet. An example is “https://www.theodinproject.com/about”.
* Relative links are used to link to other pages without our own website. An example is “about.html”.
* Normally, index.html should be at the root directory. All other HTML files should be in their own directory.
* “./” should be prepended to a relative link to specify that it should start looking for the file/directory relative to the current directory.
* The <img> tag is used to display an image. It doesn’t have a closing tag. It embeds an image into the page using a src attribute which tells the browser where the image file is. It can embed an image using bot absolute and relative paths.
* To go up a directory (for the src attribute) we use ‘../’.
* The alt attribute is used to add text to store with an image. It will be displayed if the image cannot be loaded. Screen readers will use this alt text to describe the image to its users.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsEQgGjSmkM&list=PL4-IK0AVhVjM0xE0K2uZRvsM7LkIhsPT-&index=6>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xoztJCHpbQ&list=PL4-IK0AVhVjM0xE0K2uZRvsM7LkIhsPT-&index=7>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta3Oxx7Yqbo&list=PL4-IK0AVhVjM0xE0K2uZRvsM7LkIhsPT-&index=8>
* When naming files, avoid using spaces and keep the names in lowercase.
* Have separate directories for your pages, images, css, js, etc.
* <https://www.internetingishard.com/html-and-css/links-and-images/#image-formats>
* JPG images are designed for images with large colour palettes. They are good for photos and images with lost of gradients in them. Uses lossy compression which means image quality is reduced.
* GIF images are used for simple animations. They have a limited colour palette. The image quality is not as good as JPG images.
* PNGs are good for anything that is not a photo or animated. They are mostly used for icons, diagrams, logos, etc. They use lossless compression which means the quality of the image remains the same.
* SVG images are vector-based instead of pixel-based. This means they can be scaled up or down without a loss of image quality. They are used in a similar way to PNGs. They are good for logos since they can be scaled to different sizes across your website with the logo looking worse.

Knowledge Check Answers:

1. <a> is used to create links.
2. An attribute is additional information that is stored with an element to modify it in some way.
3. The href attribute is used to tell links where to go.
4. An absolute link is a hyperlink which contains the full URL. A relative link is one that only contains a file path (relative to the current directory)
5. The <img> tag lets you create an image element
6. <img> elements need a src attribute and a an alt attribute.
7. To access a parent directory (go up) you use ../
8. The four main image formats are JPG, GIF, PNG, and SVG.

## Commit Messages

* Commit message history will be helpful if you come back to a project after a while as you will be able to read through the changes and processes you were doing.
* It is best practice to commit every time you have a meaningful change in the code. This will create a timeline of progress.
* <https://cbea.ms/git-commit/>

Knowledge Check Answers

1. Good commit messages and a good commit history can be beneficial as it makes going back to old projects easier. It also makes it easier for other people to understand what you are doing, why you are doing it, and how you are doing it.
2. No more than 50 characters for the subject line.

## Project: Recipes

For this project, I had to create a website that has a menu with links to different recipe pages (that I created).

GitHub Link: https://github.com/JoshuaBilsland/odin-recipes