Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Engineering Science

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

LEARNING DIARY

5.9.2023

I enrolled to the course and read thoroughly through the first few tabs on the Moodle page. Having used Git and VS Code extensively during my earlier studies, I decided to skip the 'Environment Setup' tab and come back to it if any problems were to arise. With the aforementioned experience, I decided to use GitHub and VS Code as my version control and IDE respectively during the course's exercises and project. I watched the first lesson and setup the coding environment with no issues. The first video was pretty basic as I'd done similar setup dozens of times before, but I've never used SCSS, which caught me by surprise. The first lesson didn't cover anything special to trip me up regarding SCSS, but in the future I might have to use online resources to better understand this new "language" of sorts. All in all, getting through the first lesson was a breeze.

(6.9.2023)

I forgot to push the contents of the first lesson into Git, so I did it now. One line of code was enough.

8.9.2023

I completed the second lesson and got through without any major hick-ups. I had previously used Font Awesome on other courses and my own projects but was surprised to see that you couldn't just visit the website and copy the CDN code from there; the code now requires signing up. Creating an account was a trivial task, but it caught me by surprise compared to how simple the experience was before. Having not used SCSS before some of the conventions were also a bit surprising to me, but they were relatively easy to grasp quickly. SCSS seems like a useful tool to consider in my own future projects.

11.9.2023

Lesson 3 was completed again without any major issues. The only thing of note about this lesson was the use of CSS animations, which I've never really gotten into. The animation done on the lesson was simple enough, but I can clearly see the potential in using clever and interesting animations on my own projects / websites / etc…

12.9.2023

I finished lesson 4 and I'm starting to really like the SCSS nesting, and the shorthand that the

developer can use. It makes the code easy to read compared to just pure CSS. Only using pure CSS in my projects I've really come to hate how much scrolling up and down the file there is without nesting. Using nesting, everything is neatly exactly where it's supposed to be, which in turn makes it really easy finding and editing a certain part of the code.

19.9.2023

I completed lesson 5, once again without any major hick ups. Using CSS grid was somewhat new to me, especially the ability to use 'grid-template-areas' so efficiently. I've messed around a lot with flexbox in my own time but never gotten around to trying Grid and what it was to offer. I can say I was pleasantly surprised how versatile it can be. Other than that the lesson went over some basic CSS commands, all of which I'm familiar with.

21.9.2023

Lesson 6 was completed. The finished project looks quite nice, nice enough that I'll definitely try to take some ideas from and update my current portfolio. The highlight of the project for me is definitely SCSS, which I will 100 % incorporate into my own projects. Vanilla CSS can sometimes be painful, but SCSS seems to introduce so many quality-of-life choices and special features that allow for more options to choose from when making the websites look pretty.

I also watched the 7th lesson as well. The method of setting up a hosted website through GitHub seems to have changed (for the better), as I've hosted sites before with none of the hassle shown in the video. Though learning about alternative ways of doing things is great, I'll probably stick with other methods of hosting the website when this course's project is finished.

26.9.2023

I started to work on the project. I decided to use the lesson materials as a base since I really liked the look of it. I thought for a while for some options on which to base the website on. Typing any ideas I came up with to a notepad, I decided to mock up a website for a Café. I looked through 'picsum.photos' and 'pexels.com' for stock photos to use and started editing the project for my needs. I decided to keep the layout the same as it functions well for my purposes. Ultimately, I changed some things around and messed with the color scheme and whatnot until I found what I liked the best. I had some troubles with the images not saving and breaking the responsiveness, but after some trial and error I got it fixed.

27.9.2023

After finishing the project, I started to look ways to host the website. Naturally, the easiest option for me was to use GitHub Pages as I've done it previously. Looking through the documentation the task was relatively simple, but I managed to find a problem; since the 'index.html' file is in '/dist' folder instead of root '/', GH-pages couldn't deploy the site properly. This was a problem I hadn't encountered before since I've only ever had smaller projects hosted where index was on the root level. I quickly began to troubleshoot my issues and found a relatively simple fix on StackOverflow.com, after which the project was up-and-running with no problems. I've commented and credited the fix in my source code.

Next, I filmed the video part of the project, which was no issue at all having recorded plethora of different videos for many other courses before. I recorded it with OBS Studio and published to my coursework-related YouTube page as a hidden video.

Finally, I wrote a short README.md for the repository to give some information on the project and how to access the finished product.