

Lappeenranta teknillinen yliopisto  
School of Engineering Science

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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**LEARNING DIARY**

## LEARNING DIARY

8.5.2023

Today I started by watching three coding videos. I am familiar with web programming as I currently work as a developer. However, I am not that familiar with Javascript or CSS (especially not with SCSS). In the first video we started with very basics so we created a repo, initiated a project with npm by installing modules and SCSS. Then we created an html file and an SCSS file. SCSS compiles into basic CSS and html code should be reading the CSS file to apply the style written in SCSS. The first and the second video introduced creating global variables containing colors, booleans and other general settings. As I understand, it is not possible in normal CSS. In my opinion, this is a very useful feature as it makes CSS code much easier to modify in future if you decide to change the color theme for example. It was also cool to see how you can add conditional code into the styles and create animations pretty easily.

It was amazing how fast from the default blank page the maker of the video created a decent looking design. I know that I wouldn't have that good ability to create something out of scratch straight away. I will possibly use this page later as my actual portfolio after I apply some improvements and actual information to it. I also read that one of the requirements for this course is to deploy this project, so that would support using it as a portfolio later.

9.5.2023

I continued the project and started with animating the menu button. Normally I would use some premade icons, but here we were using only SCSS. It was amazing to see how simply you can create animations. After applying some SCSS the default hamburger menu lines are rotating into an "X" mark as the user clicks it. Then we elaborated on the menu itself and we started by putting the context buttons into it, so they were not visible all the time anymore. For the menu we also created an animation and there was nothing new. However, when it came to animating the text so it comes from left to the center of the bar, we used a

for-loop to make them appear not at the same time, but one after another. I have to admit that the syntax of the for-loop is pretty terrible.

After that I moved to creating media queries for different screen sizes, but I already knew all of that before. Simply you define different properties for different screen sizes, so if the screen size is under or below some defined size limit, the different CSS code will be applied.

There still are some bugs in the project considering the media queries, but I will fix them later.

10.5.2023

Today I decided to watch only one video. We covered a topic of grid and functions in SCSS. Grid seems pretty easy to use since you only have to define template areas and template columns. Then I learned about functions. The difference between functions and mixins is that mixins work kind of like “if” statements and immediately apply some options. Functions on the other hand return values and can also use “if” statements to have an ability to return several values on different conditions. It seems like in functions you can include much more logical algorithms compared to mixins.

Besides SCSS I learned about html snippets. I already knew that writing “div” will result in “<div></div>”. However, I didn’t know about assigning class names or ids with these snippets. Also one good snippet was that writing “dev\*3” will result in three similar and separate divs.

11.5.2023

Today I finished the project by creating a contact and a work page, and deploying the project to Github Pages. The commands introduced on the videos were not anything since the most things were used in previous videos. However, I didn’t know that you can apply styling from one component to other components and then add more styling. That can be done by using the “@extend <class-name/id>” and writing more styling below that tag.

One big surprise for me was that deploying a web application / website is very simple and, in addition to that, free. I am familiar with deploying projects as containers to server services such as, for example, AWS or Azure with CD/CI pipeline. It is a pretty complicated process where you should know what you have to do and how to configure everything right. However, with static / front-end web applications it is simplified to a surprising level since you only have to install an extension using npm and add a couple of lines in the config file. At least it is that simple with Github Pages. This is very useful information for me since I have a lot of things that I would deploy.

Overall on this course there was not too much new information for me, but that new information, indeed, does simplify the coding process and allows me to create even more good-looking projects more efficiently.