Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto, LUT

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

Summary of video lectures and learning outcomes

Date : 15.02.2024
Activity : Video Lecture: Introduction to workflow and sass
Learning outcome:
- More information about environment setup, VSC extensions etc.
- What Cascading style sheets / CSS is and how it will be used in the project.
- How to use sass/node.js in combination with VSC. (For example, what kind of files and filenames the project requires and why, npm run sass)
- HTML is fairly new to me still so overall seeing the html-code, how the headers, bodies and other parts are structured and what they do.

Date : 16.02.2024
Activity : Video lecture: Homepage and Core Sass/CSS
Learning outcome:
- During this lecture I created my first heading with two colors, added social media icons to my project, added the background image and changed the opacity of the background image to suit the page.

- HTML writing, how it's structured, and I found the VSC extension extremely helpful with writing HTML since I could tab and guess some of my code which made writing more natural.
- Font Awesome and how similar sites and stylesheets can be imported to your code and deployed to website.
- How to add links to icons on your webpage.
- Learned how to change font sizes, margin, colors, font etc. (These need more revisal but nevertheless got used to them)
- What rem / root-em means in HTML sizes.
- Shift-alt + down key to copy your HTML bodies or other down.
- Created my first mixin and got a grasp of how they are used.
- Lastly, created a partial file and imported that to the main.scss

Date : 19.02.2024
Activity : Video lecture: Rotating Menu Button
Learning outcome:
- During this lecture I created the menu button and all the functionalities it. Additionally made the menu button turn into X when clicked.

- Got familiar with git and different platforms. I made my first commit with gitkraken since I heard this tool is easy to use and effective when wanting to look back on your commits.

- Learned more scss while making the state for the menu button, for example rotating, removing parts and nth-child.

Date : 21.02.2024
Activity : Video lecture: Menu Overlay & Responsiveness
Learning outcome:
- During this lecture I learned how to create the dropdown menu, add aesthetic transitions to it and make it more visually pleasing with different colors, opacities, motions (for example the menu buttons coming from the side with delay).

- Additionally, I learned how to make media queries and understood the purpose of those. I made queries for small, medium, large, and extra-large screens so that the web page would show differently on all of these. (I.e. For small everything would stack to be easy-to-read.)

Date : 21.02.2024
Activity : Video lecture: Page With CSS Grid
Learning outcome:
- Learned how to create and implement automatic color change function to change the color of the text to black or white based on the primary color of the page.

- Additionally, learned how to create the about me page, the boxes for texts, a sticky footer for the copyright C (or anything else) and made the "about me" page more suitable for smaller screens (if screen is under certain amount of pixels the texts and pictures stack).

- Overall learned more scss and how to make the grids using grid-area and other methods.

Date : 26.02.2024
Activity : Video lecture: Work and Contact Pages
Learning outcome:
- Deployed the other grid for the work page and learned how to use flexbox on the "contact me" page.

- Learned how to create additional effects on the layouts such as &hover: functions in the contacts.

Date : 27.02.2024
Activity : Video lecture: Website Deployment
Learning outcome:
- I learned how to deploy the website using GitHub pages.

- As an outcome I deployed my website on GitHub pages, finished additional features on my page and completed the readme.

- I also created a video showcasing my website on YouTube and added it to the readme.

LEARNING DIARY

More In Depth Thoughts

01.02.2024

I started by reading through the course information and what is expected at the end of the course. I chose the front-end module since I got interested in the visual- and user end when working on android apps on my objected-oriented coding course. I enjoyed using android studio, writing code, and creating something visually, but I knew front-end developers could create so much more than what I was doing so I wanted to find my passion during this course.

I started setting up my environment and getting used to the tools. I decided to use visual studio code as it has been my default code editor. I added some of the suggested VSC extensions and some that I found useful such as rainbow brackets, GitLens and IntelliCode. Once I felt like the environment was set up, I read through some of the course contents and watched some snippets of the videos to get a better understanding of what to expect.

15.02.2024

I started to watch the first part of the example project and downloaded some of the extensions that the video suggested. The first tutorial went well for the most part. I had some issues with not seeing the updates on my live server and remembered that the video said to run "run node sass" when this happens. After that I was able to see my print on the live server and was able to get started.

16.02.2024

Today I started watching the second example project video which was about making the homepage and core sass. I learned how to deploy the icons on the page, how to connect links to those and how to use primary/secondary colors. The first problem I ran into was

with the Font Awesome icons. Since the tutorial video was 5 years old it wasn't exactly up to date. I couldn't find the link to import the icons and did some googling. I searched the font awesome page and found another link to import. In addition, the placing of the link wasn't the same as in the example video. I had to put the link slightly lower and found this out through the VS Code terminal.

At first finding the page source and elements from the live server was difficult. I hadn't done this before, so I had to spend more time getting used to it. It got slightly better understanding after watching the video.

19.02.2024

I realized I hadn't done any git commits, so I started with this. I was initially going to use git to do my commits. I had used GitHub desktop before and that was my only previous experience. I had a relative in IT-work that said they use gitkraken, so I decided to use this so I could ask for help in case I need it. My first commit and push went well and was able to see my project on GitHub.

After this I watched my 3rd learning video where I created the menu button and functionalities. I learned how to create the rotating elements and got more familiar with scss and new terms such as nth child. I did not have any issues with this part.

21.02.2024

On this day I watched two of the video lectures about the example project. I created the dropdown menu, transitions, automatic color change and delay to the text slides. Moreover, I also created the about me page, grids, and a sticky footer for the about me page. This part of the project started to feel a bit easier since I already knew some of the commands being used. I also felt like I could understand what I was doing even more and was starting to see the overall structure of the project better.

Now that my page was starting to come together, I got interested in the part where I'm supposed to make the page look more like me. I started googling aesthetic web pages and tried to find some inspiration. I found some extremely aesthetic and unique websites from this webflow.com article "16 best websites every designer should visit in 2024" [1].

After this I started to research colors that could go well together. I read some color theory and found another interesting webflow article "26 best color combinations for your

next design" [2]. I got inspired and decided I would try to use these color combinations or color theory to change the example project.

26.02.2024

Today I watched part 6 of the example project video series. It went through how to deploy the work- and contact pages. I coded alongside the video and created another grid in the work page. I also made it more responsive by adding some different size grids in my mobile.scss. This ensures that the grid stacks differently on bigger and smaller screens.

Additionally, I worked on the contact me page. I learned how to use flexbox to deploy e-mail, phone number and address. I also created some hover over functionality to make it clear which contact the user is hovering over. I had some small issues with adding the picture in the work page. I spent some time trying to figure out why the pictures weren't showing up on my page. After some time, I realized I hadn't added the project pictures to my gallery and forgot to run "npm run sass" and save. After this, I was able to keep up with the video and see the changes on my page.

Lastly, I opened my gitkraken, made sure all the changes were there, staged them and committed. I look through these steps carefully since I've had some issues with commits in previous projects and don't want to mess up my code or merge anything on top of previous code.

27.02.2024

Today I watched the last video of the example project, which showed how to deploy the project. Before this though, I wanted to customize my website to look more like me. I did this because I wanted all the changes to show up when I deploy the site.

I started by looking at some website ideas and started trying different color schemes. This was hard at first since I felt like almost every primary and secondary color I tried didn't go well together. I decided to look for new pictures first and found some free-to-use art that I thought would look good. The background images also helped me pick out my color schemes which ended up being orange/yellow.

I struggled a bit with adding the new backgrounds to "about me" and "my work" pages. I had to sort of "study" my previous code to understand how I added the first background picture. After a while I figured it out and was able to add the images. Once I

was done with this I messed with the opacities of the images, borders, and fonts. I added some shadowing/texture to the h1-fonts.

One of the hardest things I decided to change was to move the social media icons and add them in the menu, under the portrait. Changing the location of the icons was hard because I had forgotten how I can change the location of the items. The icons wouldn't move even if I changed the margin from top or left. After spending some time with this issue, I understood that I had to change the location of the icons in my html. So, I had to insert them on the same level with the menu button. Once this was done, I was able to change the location of the icons.

Once I was satisfied with the placing of the icons I ran into another problem. When changing the size of the screen to medium or small, the social media icons would overlap with the menu button. I fixed this by adding .icons into the mobile.scss. This allowed me to change the placing of the social media icons, so they wouldn't overlap with the menu. As I mentioned earlier, I also added the social media icons under the portrait in menu. This wasn't too time consuming for me. I found the part of the code where I declared the portrait in the menu and added the icons code under it. Then I fine-tuned the placing and was satisfied with this.

I thought I was done with the icons but realized that the home page looks a bit silly now when I have the icons under the portrait but also glowing through the background at top right. So, I added a function in java script to remove the home page social media icons whenever menu is toggled open. This took me the most amount of time since I couldn't figure out how to do this. Initially I didn't even realize that I have to work on my java script file that had the menu function. I did some googling and couldn't find specific instructions or help. What really solved this for me was reading through my own code and trying to think what part I could re-use, change or customize to fix this problem. I fixed my problem by adding a remove statement for the icons in my java script file. Then I also had to make sure that the icons had the same function to make the visibility none.

After I had worked on the social media icons, I decided to work on my "about me" page. I wanted to add some type of movement to one of my pages, so I added animation and added some pictures to cycle through. I tried out different cycle lengths for the transitions and once I was happy with the results, I committed all these changes.

I was done with creating the website, now I had to deploy it. I tried to work alongside the video, but my website wasn't showing up on GitHub at the same time. I think this was because of some outdated statement in the terminal or link that the video suggested. I ended up googling GitHub's official guide to deploying websites through GitHub pages. After following these instructions, I managed to deploy the site. I did notice however that once you run the command to deploy the website it takes maybe a minute for it to show up.

Once my website was deployed, I was able to film my video using OBS. I decided to use OBS since I've used it before and I'm familiar with it. I uploaded my video to YouTube and added the link to the video in my readme.

Final thoughts:

The course taught me a lot of CSS since this was all new to me. I was somewhat familiar with HTML, but I thought I still learned some very basic things that will help me in the future. Additionally, this was my first project where I had used GitHub so much. I learned what commit and push mean and made commits throughout the project. At the end of the project, I was fine with doing even small commits since I felt so comfortable using GitKraken and GitHub.

I also think this course got me interested in front-end work. I could tell that when I was customizing my project, I got really sucked into adding small details and wanted to work on other things when I was done. I also found the work to be really satisfying. I got excited when I was able to fix an issue in the code or add an aesthetic change to the website. It was also fun to test out my ideas and see how they turn out on the website. A lot of the ideas didn't look good on the website, but trying out different fonts, transitions and animations was still fun for me.

Most of my problems were due to 1. Careless errors. For example, typos, not saving the file, running sass etc. 2. Misplacing pieces of codes in html. I learned how the order of the code matters and understood that html is the code and CSS is more the looks and usability. 3. Not using correct CSS statements. I learned that some CSS statements are standard, for example visibility. When writing these functions there's standard statements and that's why the extension that suggests these was useful. This wasn't a huge problem,

but maybe once or twice I didn't use the right function name and that's why my change didn't show up.

Sources: (inspiration, sites I read through etc.)

1. https://webflow.com/blog/best-websites?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=SS-GoogleSearch-Nonbrand-DynamicSearchAds-Global&utm_term=dsa-1729073415988___617245336996__&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA_tuuBhAUEiwAvxkgTvwq2CFKUPTC_uQyOTtDRy_396PuusbzTjqiyRCtXOmbrJriFBo7oRoCgNsQAvD_BwE Read: 21.02.2024
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