

Lappeenranta teknillinen yliopisto  
School of Social Engineering

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

**Meri Vikström**

**LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE**

# **LEARNING DIARY**

## **First look at the course**

7.4.2025

I checked the general information and to be honest – feel bit scared. I took this course as I need one credit, and this was an on-going course that students can roll on in the middle of the semester. I have no prior experience with front-end so I'm bit worried about how I will manage.

## **Second look at the course**

2.5.2025

Second try, it has been almost a month since I last opened the course environment, but now I'm committed to doing and passing the course tasks. I took three days off from work (and family) and it is going to be some serious coding for the next few days. I watched both the "Git & GitHub Crash Course For Beginners" and the "Professional Website From Scratch"-video and followed along the video the whole time. It took me three days to finish both tutorials and my own project.

## **Introduction and BASE HTML**

I managed to download Git for Windows as well as the VS Code. I followed the tutorial and managed to set up my environment (Meri-Engineertobe/kurssiprojektitesti) but somehow was unable to create a new repository on the command line. I was bit annoyed (well "bit" is a little underestimation) that I confronted problems right away but fortunately, after a little break and some coffee I managed to find help from Slack overview and now I have done my first commit. I have to admit, that it is quite time consuming to try to find answers from the internet as I don't really understand people's comments and tips – it feels like finding a needle from a haystack. But from this section I learnt the basics of setting up the environment.

## **Links and Core CSS**

When starting the Traversy Media's tutorial, I somehow faced problems right away. Adding Google Fonts did not work exactly like in the tutorial, so I had to find a solution from the internet again. But I was able to create my base HTML and the feeling when your first "Hello" pops-up in the live server – it is quite amazing! I also learnt to add the navigation bar as guided in the tutorial.

## **Buttons & Utility Classes**

I had some trouble adding photos, but luckily the stack helped me out once again. Otherwise, this section went smoothly, and I had no bigger problems. Well, the only problem seems to be that there are advertisements like every 30 minutes on YouTube and that is a bit annoying when you cannot even skip them. But from this section I learned more about the CSS and how to style your front.

## **CSS Grid & Cards**

In this section I spend quite a while, as I did not manage to get the "grid" to work. I spent quite a while debugging my code until I found the errors. From this section I learnt more again about the whole subject.

## **FAQ elements**

I would say that also this section went quite smoothly, as at this point, I had realized that the coding is actually as precise as the code of python. I had mistakenly added spaces and colon instead of semicolon, so it meant that I needed to debug my code again. I also had some trouble with indents and had to rewind the tutorial for awhile and do it all over again.

## **Mobile Menu & Responsiveness [1:47:05].**

The difficult part in this section was that I'm not familiar with JavaScript and had made some silly mistakes once again like dot instead of hyphen. Also, my live server did not respond to the change made to js.main-file and I tried to find an answer from the internet for a quite while until I decided to do a new file and copy the code there and then link this new file to HTML. Luckily, it worked! From this section I learnt how the FAQ works, and it was nice to learn how to make it responsive.

## **Website Deployment**

With the last section – website deployment, I had some major problems. And to be honest I was nearly giving up. It was so frustrating that I managed to create this nice website with little details and was unable to deploy it! I first set my repository at the beginning of course just like in the tutorial and now that I tried to take the files from my local repository to GitHub, it says that “remote origin already exists”. I tried Google the answer and tried like million different things, but I think that in this point I need to ask for help from the teacher.

## **Project**

I used the same base code for my project, but I tried my best to make it look like my own. I had some troubles with the sizes of the photos and logos. My idea was to look up the size from the Figma file, but unfortunately, I was not able to make the link in the YouTube tutorial's comments to work. So, I had to just try and see what would fit and then try to change the size in the code. I have to admit that I'm quite proud of the logo as I made it myself. I also managed to change all the photos and logos as I wanted – even the one in the browser. It was also great practice to change the background and button colors. Also changing the FAQ questions and answers was good practice.

I would say that the project was overall very good practice, even though I used the same base code. During the project my understanding grew about what changes affect where and

what do I need to change in order to make the website look good. In the project I was able to put into action everything I had just learnt.

## **Conclusion**

I had no prior knowledge of front-end before the course and to be honest I was bit afraid how I'm going to manage. I'm going to be so bold that I'm going to say that I did actually quite good when taking into account that in the beginning I had no idea what I was actually doing. I feel that my understanding and knowledge grew the whole time. One of the biggest learnings was the understanding of the code – or more like how delicate it is. This realization allowed me not to get annoyed or mad when something did not work. I realized right away that I had made a silly mistake somewhere and now just need to find it and correct it, and then it will work.

Also, one important learning outcome was the understanding of how websites are created and the understanding of front-end. This will be valuable information in my work life and now I understand the meaning behind the phares “do not look the front yet, concentrate to the code”. Like I said before, I took this course in order to get the one missing credit, but I was positively surprised how much I learnt.