Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

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LEARNING DIARY, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FRONT-END PROJECT

**LEARNING DIARY**

4.11.2022  
To start off the course I read through the introductory segments in the course overview, general course information, and environment setup tabs to learn what was expected of the course and what needed to be done. I already had all the necessary applications installed so I didn’t need to do much extra setup to start doing the exercises.

I watched the first video in the task list and followed his advice in setting up the workspace for the website. I hadn’t heard of cscc or sass before, so it was completely new to me. I still don’t quite see the reason of using cscc instead of just writing the CSS-file yourself but I’m guessing it will be explained in the later videos. I have some prior experience of working with HTML and CSS from the introduction to web programming course so everything in the video made sense for me and I found it quite straightforward.

I learned what sass does and how to use it to automatically create the CSS file which was quite interesting. The syntax seems to be quite similar, but it has different keywords for text color and such. At the start of the video, he also explained how responsive websites should function in different screen sizes. In the web programming course we didn’t get to work much with CSS to make good looking websites so I am excited to finally learn a bit more on how to format websites to make them look decent.

6.11.2022

Today I watched the next 2 tutorial videos, parts 2 and 3, which explain how to create a somewhat good-looking layout for the starting page and create functionality for a navigation menu button. Using the video I created a homepage for the website with proper formatting to make a decent and simple layout with a background image and different information sections with some text. I also made a hamburger menu button in the top right of the screen that will eventually open the navigation sidebar. For now I only created the button and styled it. I also created the animation for switching the hamburger icon back and forth between the usual 3 lines and an X symbol when clicking it. There was some JavaScript required to create an eventlistener function when clicking on the button, which would add some classes to HTML-elements which was used for creating animations for the button and which will be used later for toggling the navigation sidebar.

Making the layout for the homepage was quite interesting and it helped me learn how to create good looking layouts using CSS. Most of the CSS and JavaScript parts were familiar to me though making transparent and differently colored sections was new to me.

I didn’t have much difficulty understanding and creating the layout but there was one issue with getting the button to align to the right side of the screen. I spent a while trying to google how to position div-elements to the right side of the screen, but none worked. Eventually I figured out that the div-element that the button was inside wasn’t set to the whole width of the display, so the button wasn’t going to the very right side of the screen but to the right side of the div-element, which was too small.

11.11.2022

Today I created the side navigation menu using the part 4 of the video. I implemented an animation for showing and hiding the navigation menu after pressing the menu button on the top right corner. Implementing the animations was quite easy since there was only need to write one line of code to indicate the starting position and ending position of the animation and the rest of the animation is done automatically from start to finish. You only needed to change the parameters for the animation based on which direction you wanted the items to move in. There was also some styling done to the links and text in the navigation menu which looked quite unappealing before doing any styling.

The other main section of the video was to demonstrate how to change the layout for mobile devices using css media queries which would change how the main screen and navigation menu look when using smaller screens. For smaller screen sizes the navigation menu was changed from having 2 sections side by side to having only 1 vertical section.

There wasn’t much I had difficulty with. I was able to make everything using the video and by googling some things like fixing a problem with the example where the portrait was made slightly transparent when it wasn’t intended to. In the example there was a global opacity value assigned for the whole navigation menu which also made the portrait be transparent. Instead of applying a global opacity value it was necessary to apply an alpha value to only the background color and not the portrait so only the necessary section was made transparent.

20.11.2022

For today I watched the example video 5 and finished the ‘about me’ page of the website. I made the page according to the template and modified it to display my own information and changed the layout to look good on both desktop and mobile devices. It was quite enjoyable figuring out what sort of layout would look the best and how to make it all look decent.

5.12.2022

Today I completed the 2 other pages of the website, the sort of “previous worked on projects” page and the contact information page. I searched for some working websites I have completed and attached pictures of them to the website. I followed the video example and used it to create the layout for the pages and edited them to my liking with my own information. There wasn’t anything too complicated to implement into the new pages, so I didn’t really have difficulties creating them. Though it did take a bit of effort to make the pages look good on both big displays and mobile screens by changing the font sizes and text colors so that they would be easily readable.

13.12.2022

Today I deployed the webpage using the GitHub’s Pages deployment option so the website can be accessed from anywhere using a browser and not only by locally opening the html file. I had some difficulties deploying the website since the method used in the video didn’t work for me, so I had to google and follow some other tutorials to deploy it. I ended up creating a new repository using the GitHub-Desktop application and naming it using the appropriate naming scheme “(username).github.io” and pushing all the files into the github-repository. After pushing to the repository, the website was deployed successfully, and it was accessible online using GitHub’s hosting service.

19.12.2022

Over the past couple days I’ve worked on adding parallax images to the home page of the website to see how it works and try to implement it to my website. I ended up adding parallax images to the home page of the website with sections made into the other subpages of the website. It took quite a bit of tinkering to make the parallax images work and look good since the sections were already built so I had to make some changes to these sections in the html-file to make it into the correct structure. It also took some time to remember what all the class names were. Today I ended up finishing the website and afterwards I created all the necessary documentation into the GitHub-repository. Over the project I learned quite a bit about how to style websites and how to structure them in general. Also I learned how important it is to use easily recognizable naming schemes for variables. Overall I think I am better now at creating websites compared to when I started working on this project so I think this course was quite useful for me.