Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Software Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS: FRONT-END MODULE

**LEARNING DIARY**

1.4.2022

I started the course and went through Course overview, General course information and Environment Setup. I learned there’s an extension called “CSS Peek”. I haven’t heard of it before, and it sounds really handy. Some of the extensions were already familiar to me since I’ve been studying business information systems for year and half.

11.4.2022

I learned what sass is. I’ve heard of it, and I’ve seen SCSS been used but never have I put two of these together. SCSS isn’t familiar to me when building code, so I’m excited about it. Responsive design and CSS altogether are familiar to me from earlier studies and projects.

12.4.2022

I learned what z-index is and how to use it. I’ve seen ease in use, but never realized to check how does it work. In Responsive Portfolio Website video ease was explained and it sounds quite good to use to make your design better.

22.4.2022

Today I learned how to transform menu lines into X. It looked quite easy and simple how it was done. I will definitely start using that somewhere. In these videos on Front-end tab the Brad Traversy does use CSS extensively. The way he builds the code and CSS is really clever. I have lot to learn from him.

It was good to get recap of the basis of Media Querys anyway, but he does use Media Querys in a way that I haven’t come across yet. The example of using Media Querys to change alignment of items and text in main opened my eyes. It does make a lot of sense. Also makes editing smaller screen views a lot easier.

I have used Media Querys before but mostly it has been to make things smaller in smaller screen and not to change the whole look of the page. Brad’s way is good since you can do to larger screen lot of different things that don’t work in smaller ones and fix it look good but different in smaller ones.

I started watching Brad Traversy’s videos again since I started to do my own project. I don’t know if Live Server extensions was mentioned in the course Environment Setup but if it was, I didn’t realize then what it was. It was mentioned in Brad’s first video and the extension sounds handy. I downloaded it for myself too.

I also missed the quick HTML from the first video. I haven’t heard of these quick versions before. They make life much easier!

25.4.2022

As I continued my own project and watched Brad Traversy’s videos again I learned how to easily make classes for different elements and how to make multiple of same class at the same time. Saves a lot of time! I’ve known how to give classes to elements but after creating the element so it’s not as efficient as Brad’s way. Especially creating multiple same class elements saves lot of time when doing tables, lists etc.

It has been some time since I’ve used Font awesome icons last time, so I needed to freshen my memory a bit and also learn the new way to start using them. I used to use the old version which was a bit different that time.

I also got good reminder that “npm run sass” should be run every time you continue your project, so that CSS updates automatically. I was wondering why my page is not updating when doing the changes and needed to go back to check Brad’s video how it’s done to realize I didn’t have “npm run sass” done yet for this session.

SCSS has the clever thing that you can do nesting in SCSS file, so it shortens the file and makes it easier to read. Plain CSS and it’s file can be a bit difficult to read with all the notes.

17.5.2022

Continued my own project and at one point realized myself that I should use z-index. I also understood how to use it. Brad was about to use z-index in the video in the same place as I was, but I did think it before he told about it.

I learned how to change texts for multiple things at the same time in the same file, for example if I want to change next five “add” texts to “remove”. That’s quite handy when you’re building a code and need to change multiple things, that are called the same, at the same time. Then you don’t need to change them one by one which would take more time and allows bigger change for mispelling.

I was building the rotating hamburger menu and started the understand how transform and translate work. I also changed color of the x but the btn-lines stayed the normal color. It was fun to try different things than there were in the video.

18.5.2022

I learned how to make elements show and hide when clicking something. It was much easier and simpler than when doing it with Javascript, HTML and CSS. There were lot of new CSS tricks to me in the fourth video. I’ve build couple of quizzes which have things hiding and showing when pressing something and it was fun to build but also took lot of concentration so that you wouldn’t misspell anything and created correct id’s and/or classes. There was also lot of “after you do this, this happens”, so it was a bit tiresome to build.

Also using ampersand dash and then element makes nesting simpler. It also makes SCSS file look simpler. It was really fun to learn these things since I like creating code and making my sites fancy, do animations, have something specific which can be created with different CSS.

19.5.2022

I had trouble getting my nav items to slide from the right. It took time and I had to check it thoroughly to find the extra letter s which Brad did correct in the previous video (third one). In my querySelector I still had (‘.nav-items’) and it should’ve been (‘.nav-item’). I didn’t catch that at all when watching the video but since Brad’s videos are so well made I was sure to find my mistake from watching the video again.

I enjoy (and have enjoyed) this project in that way that it is easy to try things on your own and not to be afraid to screw something up. It’s nice to create own design for the page.

20.5.2022

Today I learned how to make multiple divs with same id and how to easily print lorem ipsum text as many words as you want. Lorem ipsum will come handy in those situations when you need lot of text but don’t have anything ready yet. This course material has had lot of good advice how to make writing code faster.

I haven’t used grid-template-areas before. It made building layout seem really easy and simple. I don’t know yet if it supposed to be written as the template is in the website but when writing it in the same way it’s supposed to look, makes it look even easier.

21.5.2022

Today I learned how to extend CSS to another element. That’s clever. It’s really useful since I’ve come across the situation lot of times you need to use the same CSS for different elements but then you want to add more for some of the element’s CSS.

Brad Traversy was telling the stuff so clearly that I didn’t need to check the video all the time but instead I could just write what he told to do. This hasn’t been possible before since. It was nice to realize my own learning but also the possibilities when someone’s teaching really clearly.

I watched the rest of the Brad Traversy’s videos and did rest of the pages to my project according to those. Then I started to add parallax effect on my About page and had to be really careful not to delete nor destroy any good code. Successfully I added the parallax even though I couldn’t follow Brad’s advice on the video 100 % since I already had code and styling in my project.

I had big troubles push my different stages of the project to Github since node\_modules had one file which was too large. I realized it first time I pushed my project and forgot about it. After the first time it didn’t give error about it until now. So after a few hours I finally read the easiest answer and it worked: delete .git and .gitignore files manually and locally, not using Powershell, and then creating new .gitignore file and use git init in Powershell. Did wonders to my project. Now my node\_modules are ignored and I can push updated project to Github whenever I want.

I read about how to push bigger files to Github with installing GitLFS and different ways to edit .gitignore but deleting manually and locally both files was the last one I read and for some reason it did work. I did take me long time but it was good lesson to train my persistence.

24.5.2022

Today I learned how to make cool text animation with different colors. I started googling what kind of features can be done with CSS and saw the code in Codepen, made some changes to match it for my own taste and so it looked more like my style. And I usually make changes to code I find so it’s not just copied from another site.

30.5.2022

I didn’t quite remember how to use anchor links, so I needed to do some googling to find out the rest. I used w3docs for it. I remembered it was somehow lot more difficult but apparently more experience of coding with HTML has made a difference in this.

I tried to add my own photo from About to Contact. Even though the code didn’t seem that hard to change so that the image would be on the left and the three boxes on the right one below another, with Google as my assistance I couldn’t do it. The photo stayed in About page.

31.5.2022

I went back to check the earlier material (all the way back to Environment Setup) and realized Path Intellisense would have helped me already quite much. I didn’t remember it earlier that file names do not autocomplete. I did download it now.

2.6.2022

I learned how to change style of list markers and not the whole list element. I’ve never actually used ::marker before, but I wanted to change the color of the list type and used developer’s tool to check is the list style type some specific element of its own that I can style. I didn’t use list element after all, but I did still learn new thing.

I made underlining with border and not text-decoration: underline. I did though learn how to decorate text-decoration. I do use text-decoration a lot, but for some reason I never had thought that the actual decoration could be decorated. I’ve always decorated the whole text.

I still wanted to practice grip-templates, so I created one of my own to About.html to make a small list of what’s included in the page. Took me while to get into it again, but I did it.

I did rest of the content for the website so I can actually use the site for portfolio purposes.

Final words of the project:

Final touches to my own project. I went back to check earlier sections of my learning diary and how my thoughts have evolved.

Live Server extensions has come really handy. Makes it lot easier to do changes when you don’t need to refresh the page by pressing the button or F5 all the time. I definitely will continue using it in other projects also. Building HTML code has been a bit dull since seeing your changes in real time takes lot of effort.

Altogether this was really fun project! It was challenging enough since Javascript, HTML and CSS were familiar to me, but SCSS wasn’t. I enjoyed most of my time (except when my push to Github didn’t go through – took a *lot* of time to solve that one). I did catch lot of good styling tricks. I love creating websites, create and learn new ways to do that since I’m still quite beginner. I got more experience on building websites and new perspective for it too.