

# LUT Software Development Skills

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## Learning Diary, Front End Module

13/05/2023

Today I read through the subject's moodle page and started the learning diary. I have created a github repository where I will upload my project and learning task together with this diary as I develop them. As an editor I will use Visual Studio Code as it is my go-to editor ever since I spent the time to create my own personal theme and it is the one I am used to.

I have watched the first video provided in the course, because my environment was already set up and I have decent knowledge about the terminal, the first half of it didn't provide much new knowledge. I however started being productive around the second half, where I created the folder structure for the learning task and I created the index.html and main.scss files as well as initialized the node repository and installed the node-sass package. I also created the npm command to compile the scss files to plain css in the dist directory.

The last part of the video talks us on how to make a git repository and upload it to github and since I have already done that I don't need to follow the video on this part either.

14/05/2023

Today I watched the second tutorial video and followed along in the programming, changing the relevant information (such as the name, links, and images) to fit me instead of the creator of the video. The task itself was pretty easy because it was mostly following the instructions provided, however I noticed the video failed to mention the need to add the bg-img class to the body tag in the html, which caused me a slight issue until I figured out the problem.

I have learned a lot in this video, especially about Sass, which I'm not very familiar with and about emmets in VSCode, which I knew about but never used until I saw them in action in this video, they saved me a tremendous amount of time in just this little task and I plan to keep

using them in the future. I also learned about the before and after pseudo-elements, which I had seen before but never actually knew how to use. And I must admit that the trick to get rid of the empty overlay div was genius. I uploaded the progress to github and called it a day for now.

15/05/2023

Today I kept going with the video tutorials, this time we made the menu button and animated it. I learned a lot with this video; how to create simple icons just with divs instead of relying on much heavier images, how to use css transitions properly and how to use the nth-child css selector were the things that I liked learning the most.

Additionally I felt very proud of my progress in web development as there were a couple mistakes in the video and I noticed them all at the time the creator was making them instead of fixing them, tomorrow I will keep going with the overlay and the menu list.

16/05/2023

Today I continued with the development of the site, specifically the responsiveness and the menu overlay. The menu overlay was easy enough, I had a small hiccup with the animations but I soon realized what was going wrong, the animation has a delay both when the text shows and when it hides, therefore when I tried to add a little more delay to it so that the text wouldn't appear diagonally it got messed up if you clicked the open menu button again too soon. After a bit of testing I decided that adding 0.1 seconds of delay was the sweet spot and left it at that.

Before starting with the responsiveness I commented out the line for the opacity of the menu, as I realized that making it slightly transparent would mean that the background text would display over the portrait image and I thought it looked extremely ugly. I tried to find a solution for it but changing the opacity of the image didn't work and neither did altering z-indexes so I decided to just have a fully opaque menu.

Then I got started following the tutorial for the responsiveness but for some reason the media queries were not being applied. I reviewed the video again and I followed every step correctly so I decided to try and look at the main.css file that was being generated and I realized that because the import was at the top of the scss file the media query was being compiled first and therefore would be overridden by the code following it, so I imported the file at the bottom, which looked a little messy but solved the issue of the media query being at the beginning. That however did not solve my problem. I decided to look up if people had had similar problems

before and I found a forum thread that talked about selector specificity and lo and behold, the creator had used different selectors for the media queries, I changed the selectors so that they would be identical and that fixed the problem completely.

The one thing I did not understand from the video was why the creator had a second smaller portrait image. I just adjusted the width and height of the original one and it looked great.

17/05/2023

Today I followed the video explaining how to create the about page. Firstly we corrected the links in the nav menu so that they would point to the correct files, then we created a function to alter color based on lightness so that the text would be readable and then we got started. I had never used grid before, I had always used flexbox to do responsive layouts; mainly because I didn't really know how to use flexbox and I must admit I was pretty surprised with how powerful it is. I really see myself using this often in the future.

We then made the layout responsive and because the file for the media queries was already created it was really easy. Just altering the grid columns did the trick. Also, the creator did change the mobile import to the bottom of the main file, which is what I did yesterday.

There were no major hiccups today, the most relevant one was that the portrait image on the about page looked stretched when I applied the border radius, which I solved by making the width and height the same length, 250 pixels to be exact.

18/05/2023

Today I finished the work and contact pages of the learning tasks. I believe this is the last of the website before deploying it. Once again all the mistakes that happened in the video I noticed beforehand, so I'm very proud of myself for that. Since I had already used flexbox before today's video was not as helpful as yesterday's but I did like learning about sass's class extension functionality. Tomorrow will be the last day of the learning tasks and then it's on with the project.

19/05/2023

Today I deployed the app to Github Pages following the video tutorial, because I had already created the github repository and had been pushing to it throughout the development of the

site it was not very hard to do; however I had never done so from the terminal before and although I admit it is really easy to do I am not a very huge fan of having to install a new package for it. The site is working great and I think I have learned a lot. Now all I have to do is think of what I want my final project to be. I did customize this page to fit me so I might just extend it. I could start by removing all the filler lorem texts, but we'll see.

31/05/2023

It's been a couple weeks where I, admittedly, did not work on this at all. I figured that since I have time I will do it when I have nothing else going on. Today, however, I finally thought of what I wanted to do with the project. It came to me while I was bored on a plane. I decided that instead of extending the page I did before I'm going to create a website where I just kind of dump some of my knowledge about Linux. When I first started getting into Linux I was very overwhelmed by the amount of different distros there were, and I figured making a site that has a quick summary of all the major ones could be a great, fun project.

Of course, I will not add every single distro I know for the assignment as that would be extremely time consuming, but I will probably add 6 or 7 of the most notable ones just to give an idea of what it will look like once it is done. I will probably not get with it for a while as I'll be spending a couple of busy weeks now.

08/07/2023

It ended up being way over a couple of weeks, try a month. I however finally found the motivation to start this project and I still have about a week left before even needing to ask for an extension, which I really wouldn't like to do, since I have spent about a month slacking off.

I simply created the directories, made a node command to update the css when I save a sass document and created the skeleton for the html files that I will be using. It is not much but I'll keep going tomorrow and I'll probably finish it by the day after that.

09/07/2023

Today I compiled the information for three out of the six distros that I wanted to include and summarized it so that it wouldn't be a long read. I did not encounter any problems with the project itself but a windows update screwed up my GRUB installation and I had to spend most of my morning fixing it, which killed my mood for the day. I'll keep going tomorrow.

10/07/2023

Today I decided that I was going to include seven distros instead of six, I decided that since I had only included independent distros and Ubuntu I would also include Manjaro to have at least one Arch based distribution.

I compiled and summarized the information for all the missing four distros and I downloaded PNGs for all the pages, then I got started with the html.

Thanks to the work I had done with the learning tasks before it was really a breeze. The only real problem I had was that I was trying to make a menu that was supposed to hide the entire screen the right size and couldn't figure out how to make it work since it was filling 100% of the screen's height but there was some overflow on some pages which I really didn't want. After a couple minutes I finally realized that I could just set the overflow to hidden when the menu opened with just two extra lines of javascript so that was a really easy fix.

The worst part for me was having to make the site responsive as doing so meant making the navbar into a nav menu, which in turn meant a lot of CSS, which was not very hard, but was very time consuming. The second worst part was realizing I needed to add CSS grid to the project as I had done everything using flexbox, which I didn't enjoy changing as it really didn't need to be, it worked just fine as flexbox. I however did change it in little time and it ended up looking exactly the same without any major complications. Which is good.

I finally tinkered with the github repo so that I could have the learning tasks and final project within the same repo while having the published site be the final task instead of the learning tasks, which was a bit of a struggle but I got the solution for it on a Stack Overflow post.

Even despite the worst parts of the development I am really happy with the way the page looks. This is the very first website I've built entirely on my own and I am extremely proud of it. It was definitely worth the struggle of getting there. Now all that's left is downloading this as a pdf, uploading it to github and returning the link to the repo. Thank you for reading!