Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, portfolio\_project MODULE

4.9.2023

Today I started with the environmental setup for my portfolio project as a starting point, and I chose to use VS Code as my editor because I have used it before, and VS Code also offers great code coloring for better readability. I also started watching the first video lecture about setting up a html project with Git. I followed the video and now I have committed my first version of the project. I have tried out html before, but the usage of sass or open live server were something new to me so I also learned something new today.

5.9.2023

Today I started watching the second video lecture and followed through to the end to get my background working as in the example. I also gained some knowledge about the structure of the html code while I worked on my background because the videos explained everything in a good manner. I also learned to move out the text elements to front and back and that will probably help me in the future so that I can avoid problems with my background. The video also taught me more about how margins and paddings work to make the website more responsive. Lastly the video discovered different types of size units used to change the size of the elements which was good to know.

So, now that I have started making my own portfolio, I have learned to use margins and paddings and know what size units I should be using for different elements.

9.9.2023

Today I did quite a bit of changes to my project when compared to other days since I watched the rest of the tutorial videos and got to publish my complete template of the project to GitHub. In the end, I also got to deploy my website so that the http link also works but it had some problems on the way.

First, I learned to use transitions to make the UI more responsive and readable for the user. The videos covered the grids, and they gave me a pretty good understanding of how they work and how they scale when I change the window size. While watching the videos, the process of making all the menu tabs was getting clear for me because all of them had a similar structure.

After watching the videos, I did run into some problems regarding GitHub and deployment of my website. I had problems at first regarding the GitHub but after I deleted my previous repository and started with a clean new repository, the problems disappeared. I also encountered some difficulties on getting the website to work with the deployment because the website didn’t work even though the deployment was successful. At the end, however, I noticed that the name I set for the GitHub repository was written in small letters and not in capital letters, and that's why the website didn't work. I made the changes to my homepage section in the Json file and then it started working.

Now that I have completed my code template and everything seems to work as intended, I’m ready to start creating my own project website for the course with the help of my template.

14.9.2023

Today I started making my project website and the goal is to make it look more like me. First, I wanted to change the color palette, so I changed my color theme to white and blue. After the color change, I had to change some of the color in borders so that they match the color theme.

The next step for me was to start making the portfolio look like it’s my own. Of course, I had to change my own name to the website homepage. I also wanted to write my own bio to the About Me - tab and write something about my experiences. Now that I have finished my bio and experiences, I started to work on the portrait.

The portrait was quite a difficult but simple job to do for me because I found it hard to scale my own image to that. I decided to give up with the scaling because it became too stretched all the time and it looked weird. I started with cropping my image to a square shape and resized in an online website to the same size that was in the template. After being done with that, I also decided to make my image black and white to match the theme.

The last things I decided to do for today was to change the font family to Roboto because it matches with the theme and change some font sizes such as the headlines on About Me –tab because they were quite small.

All in all, lots of improvements were made and I think that my website is already looking a lot better. There were only little changes this time, so I didn’t learn anything but at least I gained some experience while doing those changes. Next time I’ll think of doing some additions to my project.

15.9.2023

Today I continued to work on my project by making additions to My Work -tab. I mentioned about my own Unity game project in “About Me” page because I think it’s a valuable experience for me and that is why I wanted to showcase the game. I also added some other projects that I have been part of in different courses such as the Lutemon project that was done in the object-oriented programming course. Other projects that I wanted to show is my risk management report on SkillShare and UX final project which is the lunch queueing and ordering application made on Figma. Now I have a variety of projects to showcase but I have only replaced the pictures on the projects tab. Next thing is to make them interactable, so I will add links to them and their GitHub repositories if there is one. Regarding the GitHub repositories, not all of the repositories are on my GitHub account (TommiUp) but I have linked them because I was part of the project (e.g. Spaceball, LunchQ).

After I had added the links to the projects, I decided to add functionality to my social media links as well and start to make some modification to the menu overlay transitions.

I like the current menu overlay that was used in the tutorial videos so I will leave it like that but regarding the open and close transitions I want some things changed. I didn’t like the way, the menu overlay appeared and disappeared even with easeOut function because I could see the boxes come from the top and bottom without any effect of fading in or out and that is why I went to Stack Overflow to check for something that might make it smoother. I found this transition called Cubic Bezier which helps with easing the animation, so it fades out more clearly when I close or open the menu. W3Schools had a good showcase for the transition, and it helped me set up the numbers to make it look good. I also increased the opacity a bit to make the menu more readable. The last thing I want to do on the menu overlay today is to change the transition on the menu overlay on small screens so that the menu comes logically from the same side, the tabs come out (Home, About Me, etc.).

Lastly, I decided to make a new HTML section called “My Skills” for my website to talk about my strengths as a person. I followed the same way as in the tutorials to make it work and then make changes to my liking. I wrote new code to main.scss to display three boxes where I talk about my strengths in skills.html. I also got the scaling done correctly so that it looks alright with smaller screens, but it could have some improvements.

All in all, I made the project look more like I wanted and added a new section. I learned a lot today regarding the menu transitions and Stack Overflow and W3Schools helped me pick the correct transition to fit to my menu overlay out of the huge collection of different menu transitions available. I also got to work with my own .html addition which wasn’t difficult as it was made similarly to the other .html files but this worked as a learning lesson because I also modified my main.scss to make it look good. So far, this project has gone from a good template website to more of my own portfolio website.

16.9.2023

Today, I decided to make some final changes to different things I had on my mind. First thing was to make some changes to my skills page by using grids instead, so I made some changes in the main.scss. I also wanted to make my grids look good on mobile devices, so I also had to make changes to my mobile.scss to align the grids properly on some smaller screens.

I also had lots of problems with the menu overlay transition because I didn’t understand the logic behind Cubic Bezier transition, so I decided to replace the transition. Because the easeOut mixin was too weak to my liking and it affected the other parts, I made a stronger version for my menu overlay only which worked way better for me than the Cubic Bezier transition. The last thing I did with the code was some changes to the looks of borders. I rounded the corners of the project images, buttons and other borders and changed the project button to a darker color instead of white to increase readability. Lastly, I tested out that the website works as intended.

Now, I think my project is ready for deployment and I only need to make a video of my website running as intended and add a read me -file to my GitHub repository. All in all, I had fun making this project and I can’t imagine how much I have learned in such short time. The tutorials helped me understand the basics of the structure and how things worked and the own modifications to make the website look more like me helped me understand many functions even further.