

Lappeenranta teknillinen yliopisto  
School of Business and Management

Software Development Skills

**Oskari Kivekäs, 0570588**

**LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE**

## **LEARNING THE FRONT-END**

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When starting the project, I had a somewhat good idea about the concepts and technologies around front-end development I chose to do this module, since it is essential part of software development as a whole and because having a portfolio when applying a job is a must. The project started first time in summer 2021, when I enrolled into the course. Having some motivational issues and the lack of skills to create “exactly” what I want caused project to halt. When came the time to start applying for next summer job, I picked up the project again with fresh attitude and was able to finish it in around 2 weeks during January. Between the start and the completion, I also attended into the web applications course, which naturally made me learn a lot of the technologies used in this course. In the next sections I will describe the process of development and learning experience.

### **Learning and development process**

Since I am writing this few months later than the actual code, I won't describe day to day progress and the style of this learning diary will probably be a little different from the others.

After watching the videos, I started to write my first lines. GitHub and Visual studio code were both already familiar to me and setting them up didn't cause any additional hiccups. Developing the project with the provided guide was mostly nontrivial, and concepts were clearly explained which helped a lot. Although writing code from example is easy, it is far from understanding the relations between all pieces of code you write. This realization came quickly after I started to add content to the html pages.

Since I didn't start the project from scratch this time, I decided to add something which I didn't really know how to as an additional practice. This feature was shadow containers, which I found in another example but had absolutely no idea how to add them into this project. At this point, I figured that the hardest thing for me in css/scss is making things go where I want them to.

Understanding the concepts of aligning content and learning by trying was most definitely the most time-consuming part of the project. This would have been probably easier if I had used more time to learn about the fundamentals. I still don't remember all the box alignment specifications but learned enough that I at least know what to look for.

### **Things I learned**

The project made me learn basics of front-end development using the “most basic” technologies. These include building the DOM with HTML using classes and id's, adding responsive styling with SCSS and publishing the webpage using github Pages. JavaScript appeared in the menu functionality but was only a minor part of the project. Additionally to the required features, the content of webpages was put inside shadow effect containers, which were based on another tutorial. Combining these two into a working solution on my own was probably the most rewarding experience. All in all, creating a front-end for a website is something I'm now capable to do myself.