

# Project case study

## Overview

A dynamic demo web application built with Ruby on Rails.

## Purpose and Context

This project is part of Career Foundry's Web Development Course. Through the project, I learn how to build static and dynamic websites. The project is still a work in process.

## Objective

The aim of this project is to build a fully functional e-commerce site to show off my web development skills.

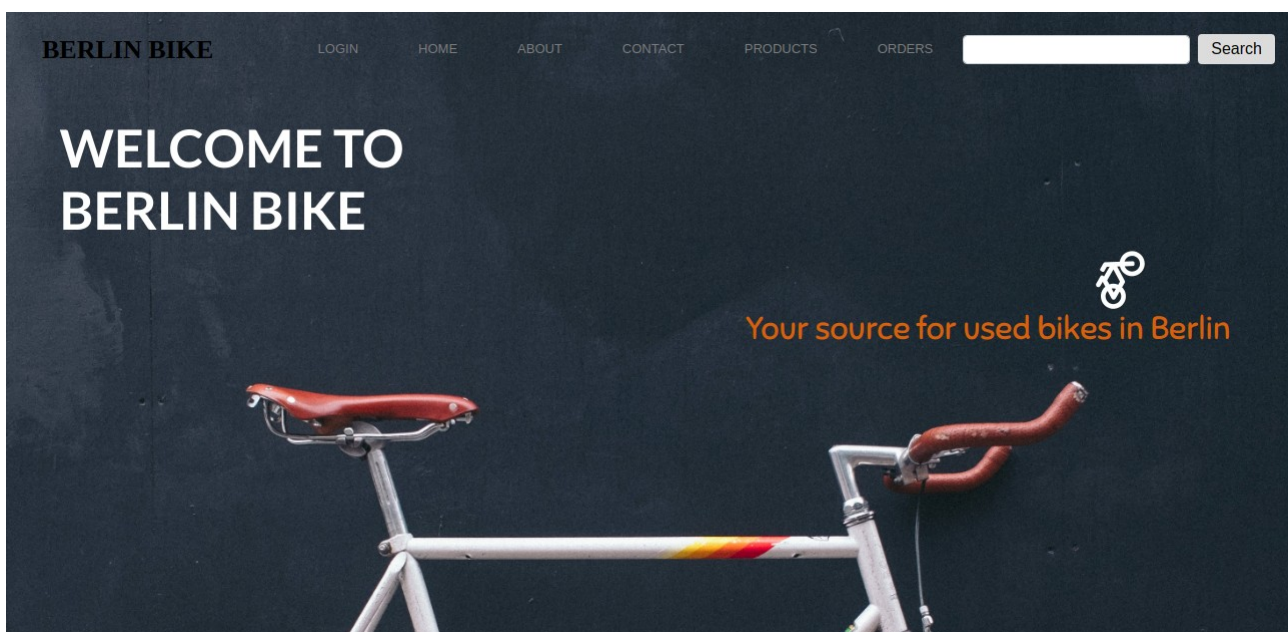
## Approach

I am following the curriculum of the Career Foundry course, carrying out assignments and navigating the course with the help of my Tutor and Mentor.

I visit commercial and non-commercial websites to inspire myself in order to improve my skills and my artistic (or commercial) eye.

So far, the most satisfying aspects for me in this course have been the front-end programming and experimenting with Chrome Developer Tools as well as with some JavaScript features. Especially building the front page of the app was fun. I had figured out how to get a bike loco move, and when I found an image I liked, I knew immediately how the page should look like.

The challenge was to set the image as a background in Rails and get it show up both in the development and the production environment. With the help of Google, that problem was quite easy to solve.



## Challenge

During this course I have encountered multiple challenges which I managed to overcome in a reasonable time. To mention the biggest one: A person in a meet-up destroyed my application and pushed it into my master branch in Git. I had to build the whole app all over again which took me one night and a half day. Ironically, I learned about branches couple of Exercises later on the course.

This was a real learning experience in many ways. I learned to 1) never let a non professional touch my app, 2) always make a branch before letting someone touch my app.

## Retrospective

### What went well?

- Skills: HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- Processes: Front-end coding
- Solutions: Keep exploring different features and carrying out own ideas

### What didn't go well?

While doing this course, I also took a database course and Java programming course at the Open University of Helsinki which led me to be too busy to learn Ruby on Rails properly. For personal reasons I had set the deadline for completing this course about 2 months before its due date which made the pressure that much harder.

- Skills: Ruby on Rails
- Processes: Using Ruby language to create a Rails application
- Skill gap: Missing some basic skills on Ruby syntax, punctuation and functions
- Solution: Read 'Ruby For Beginners' and 'Web-apps For Beginners' from Rubymonstas and re-read Ruby on Rails material on the CF's course and other Ruby tutorials online. I got back on track when the basics were clear.

### What can be improved?

It's great to be able to multitask, but it's important not to let it have a negative impact on the quality of the learning process.

- Skills: Concentrate on one thing at a time
- Processes: Learning, and integrating what has been learned
- Skill gaps: Assessment of own capacities
- Solution: Take time to learn, integrate and relax