Lappeenrannan-Lahden teknillinen yliopisto LUT

School of Engineering Science

Software Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

**29.11.2020 – Starting off**

I was very excited to start the course and learn about HTML, CSS, and JavaScript since I do not have very deep understanding with these subjects. I have previously (over 5 years ago) done couple of dull looking web pages with plain HTML but never actually included any dynamic styling elements with it. At this stage everything looks quite frightening but hopefully I manage through it as I have heard this course is not especially very hard.

Setting up the environment went quite nicely without too big problems. I am familiar with GitHub already and making a repository went fine without any guidance. Since I have never used Visual Studio Code for any projects, I decided to use it for this course as I have heard it is good for managing projects. Usually I have used mostly SublimeText 3, but it is more of a plain text editor than development environment.

I watched the first part *Introduction to workflow and sass* and tried to keep up with the video while installing all these things I have no idea of. I learned that sass is actually CSS extension that makes designing web pages easier. This was also my first time to anything related to Node.js, which I have heard in many places but never known what it is. Well, I still do not know what it is, but at least it has a package manager (npm) that needs to be used when working with sass. I liked that the video also introduced a few VS Code extensions that make developing the code easier.

One bigger problem I encountered during the first part was *npm* trying to run the “sass” script “node-sass -w scss/ -o dist/css/ --recursive”. At first, I found out that the folder structure of ./coursework/ was making difficulties for me but adjusting the file structure and opening the terminal in right folder fixed that problem. Then the script started acting up by telling me the scss-file is unreadable. Googling for a while resulted me into conclusion that it is a bug. I somehow managed to find a fix for the problem from node-sass GitHub discussion post from 2018, which I questioned a bit as I figured this would have been fixed after all this time. Anyway, I managed to change the background color after all, and I hope that the sass script will keep working when actually starting to create the web page.

**29.11.2020 – Getting started**

Because I was so excited to get on coding, I started the part 2 *Homepage and Core Sass/CSS* during the same day. The video went straight to coding and there were a lot of lines that just appeared on the screen. I managed to keep up as these HTML tags were familiar for me but still would have wanted some more explanations for the choices. That was basically a whole site I would have made years ago done in 5 minutes. Only thing I really managed to learn at this part was that one could just borrow icons straight from web, which is quite handy.

Then we stepped straight to deep waters, the CSS and SASS. All these tags started appearing on the screen just like the HTML code earlier and I could not process why these tags are there. Of course, I understand what each of these tags does, but there could be a whole lesson about how to style objects instead of just displaying dozens of tags on the screen on a rapid fire. When running into rem -units the video finally explained what it means in a very good way; I understood the subject well when it was explained and shown with an example.

For the rest of the video I just followed through and added tags to the main.scss -file. I still understand almost everything if I start to inspect the already written code, but if I were supposed to make something like this from scratch, I would not be able to. Every line of code I wrote was basically just copied from the video without any thinking of why this was made since the video did not explain many things more in depth.

I feel like I would learn more if there was an assignment to complete after watching every video instead of just copying what is already shown on the screen. Now the learning happens in kind of a reverse order: I write something and then wonder how it alters the web page, instead of figuring out how to style the page in a certain way and then writing the code for it. Hopefully, the project will make me think about my choices and make me learn more the other way around.