

01.06.2020

General introduction and Environment setup

I read the general course information of the course and learned how the course is structured and how I can complete the course assignments.

I also went through the environment setup section. I have already used Git and GitHub, so I know the basics of version control. I considered installing Sourcetree since I have never used a GUI application for version control. I ultimately decided against it since it requires a Bitbucket account and I already use GitHub, and I would rather focus on web development rather than learning a new tool, especially if that tool does not work on Linux, which means I can't use it on every system I work on.

I chose VS Code as my code editor since I have briefly tried it in the past and my friends have highly recommended it. I know that VS Code is popular because of its many plugins, so I googled for some common plugins and found tools that seem really useful, like automatically closing brackets for HTML tags, and automatically finding CSS related to a specific HTML class. (I have done some basic HTML and CSS in the past).

Introduction to workflow and sass

I went through the first tutorial video and created the basic infrastructure for building a project with sass and HTML.

I have a clear idea about what the final product of these videos will look like, and what software is needed to make it work. The VS code plugins really do make life a lot easier!

I still do not have a very clear image of what sass is: I will see if this gets clearer in the following videos. If not, I will have to study about sass elsewhere. I understand that it dynamically creates CSS files, helping me to programmatically create CSS. What I don't understand is how to manipulate variables and how the .scss files get compiled into .css files.

Homepage and Core Sass/CSS

Now sass is starting to make more sense to me. I learned a lot about the sass syntax, and how nesting in sass differs from nesting in CSS. I feel like I understand the main mechanisms of sass, including the mixin "functions". I do feel like I need more experience on trying things out myself before I can confidently use sass in my own projects.

I had almost forgotten the structure of HTML webpages, but now it is all coming back to me. I understand the way the elements, classes and ids work and remember the general structure (head, body, divs etc.)

I feel like this course will give me exactly the kind of hands-on-experience I need to design simple web pages from scratch, and modify existing ones that use these technologies.

Rotating Menu Button

I learned how changes in a website content can be done by changing the class of elements on the page with JavaScript. To me, this feels more like a workaround or a hack than an actual solution, but I guess that is just because my programming background is from a very different field.

I also learned how animations can be done with pure CSS, which I actually wanted to learn for a side project, so I'm really happy this project taught me that as well!

Menu Overlay & Responsiveness

The main thing I learned from this part was how to make a website responsive. This is a really important skill to know, since all websites need to look good both on desktop with large resolution displays as well as on mobile.

02.06.2020

Page With CSS Grid

I learned the basics of placing objects in a grid and how to make the page responsive, with the grid layout changing depending on the screen size. This seems useful, and can help me with a lot of projects, I really like the grid layout.

I also learned how text color, or any other property can be adjusted based on other properties of the page

I learned to use sass functions, which will prove helpful in the future. I need to review this more in the future. I noticed that the same Youtube account has a crash course on Sass, I will check that out before starting my own project after this!

Work and Contact Pages

I learned how to use flexible spacing of objects on a web page. This seems like an easier solution than the grid placement since the flexible layout is automatically responsive. Unfortunately, it seems to offer less control over the spacing of items than the grid approach. I will probably have to test both in my projects and see which works best.

I also learned that a simple change in padding can create quite cool hover effects. I will definitely test this out with my project!

Website Deployment

I learned how GitHub pages works. This seems like an extremely nice option for hosting simple web pages, especially since it is possible to have them with a custom domain! I will definitely take advantage of this feature with other projects as well.

03.06.2020

More tutorials

I watched another tutorial on HTML and CSS to make sure I'm on top of things. While I did not learn that many new things, I do feel much more comfortable starting my own project. I am also beginning to see the differences between Sass and pure CSS better.

I also figured out a way to make my project web page have 2 languages: Finnish and English. My initial thought was to use two classes: "fin" and "eng", define content for each element and for each language using the classes, and create a button for changing the class of each element. Luckily I found a better solution: I will create two JS dictionaries, where I will store the text for each element. One dictionary is for Finnish, and one is for English. I will then create a button that switches the dictionaries, and voilà!

04.06.2020

Flexbox CSS

I watched a tutorial on flexbox CSS and learned the principles behind flexbox and how it differs from the CSS box model. I only got a basic idea from the initial tutorial videos, but the actual flexbox video filled me in well. I was able to construct a simple navigation bar for my website.

HTML forms

I studied the basics of HTML forms and learned how the forms are used. I tried to format the form myself, but I quickly realized that HTML forms require a lot of formatting, and I would never do it from scratch in a real job, so I saw no reason for doing it now. I found a useful, simple template for my form. I did need to tweak several things to make the form look like I wanted and to make it responsive, so I did also learn a lot of CSS in the process.

08.06.2020

CSS Grid

I watched a separate tutorial about CSS grid and learned about the core principles behind the grid. I was able to implement a grid solution for my website without looking at the example code from the tutorial project, and I feel like I have a solid understanding of the basics of the grid system.

With many minor tweaks to the outlook of the page, the website is now ready to be deployed! I have the option to add more things if needed, but at this point, the website should already satisfy the requirements of the course. My project is a web page for a society I'm involved, so if I want to take the project further, I will listen to suggestions from other members before making more changes.

09.06.2020

I deployed my website today! I also learned how to add a favicon for the website, and how to monitor loading time of the page with Firefox Web Developer tools. I made my background image smaller to reduce the loading time drastically.