

Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY

10.9.2024

I watched the first module of the course (Introduction and Base HTML). I did the coding parts that were done in the video which included setting up the environment and adding links to different font systems (Poppins and Awesome). This part was easy as there was not much to do.

I continued straight after to watch the second module (Links and Core CSS) part and practice along the way on my own. This module aimed to create a navigation bar that used an unordered list as flexbox. This was interesting as it made it surprisingly easy to align items. I found it quite hard to follow the teaching at regular playback speed as it felt way too fast to really understand every line of code as HTML/CSS were new languages to me. That meant I paused the video multiple times, rehearsed harder topics, and put the playback speed to 0.75X.

11.9.2024

On the next day, I continued the course by watching the third module (Buttons & Utility Classes). The amount of different styling options that CSS has blown my mind as it felt that new stuff was coming into the CSS file all the time and I felt a little desperate about how I'm going to learn all of them. Luckily, the key idea of padding, margin, and border and all text-related options became familiar by doing the buttons CSS. Also, the way CSS is used by classes ".class" became more and more familiar which boosted my confidence. Utility classes that can be used again by simply adding the class seemed a very efficient and easy way to repeatedly use e.g. same color scheme. I also started to understand the efficient way of writing HTML elements like "a.btn.btn-primary".

That day I also found an interesting topic for the course project of creating a website for my NHL Esports team. I started to add the already-learned elements to it and the main index.html page got the basic structure on it. The navbar on the top used flexbox as in the coursework.

12. 9.2024

I moved on to the fourth module (CSS Grid & Cards) which taught me how to use CSS grid. This was a very interesting topic as it is an efficient way to align multiple items side by side and style it as you wish with the “grid-template-columns: X fr, X fr” thing. This part also strengthened the things that were shown in the past like how to stay consistent on the CSS marking with “.class .subclass {}”.

The fifth module was about FAQ elements which added JavaScript into the mix. This part was quite easy as I studied JS in the Introduction to Web Programming course this autumn. One trick that I learned was the way you can add some class styling in JS by using “.classList.add()” and “.classList.toggle(‘open’)” calls. It was fascinating to know that I can add classes to elements inside JS. On the HTML and CSS side there wasn’t that much new compared to the previous modules.

I also continued my course project by adding a newsfeed to the index.html page which used CSS grid.

13.9.2024

I continued to the sixth module of the course which handled Mobile Menu & Responsiveness. This topic seemed crucial to master as users can have different sizes of screens when they are using the application. This part taught me to use media queries which used the “@Media” sign with “max-width: x px” which determined when the changes that would be done inside the media query would display. Making the hamburger icon for the mobile menu was fun as it is widely used in mobile applications. Also making the CSS grid elements into a list where the items are below each was a practical skill to learn.

This part was extremely useful also in the course project. I added media queries into the project which helped to make the website responsive. I had a little trouble on making the navbar responsive as the image in it seemed be way too big and the gaps between headers were fixed size. I fixed the issue by modifying the CSS on the navbar.

17.9.2024

I spend the whole day working on my project. First, I watched the seventh part of the course which was about website deployment. However, I found this video quite unhelpful as it was done on another project which had `dist`, `package.json`, and `package-lock.json` files. I tried the `npm install ghpages` thing but I struggled to understand what I would write on the `package.json` script `"deploy": "gh-pages -d dist"` as I don't have a `dist` folder. After that I watched some other videos and tutorials in the internet and found out you can deploy your website straight from GitHub by hitting settings and then pages. There I only had to select the branch where the deployment would be done and it worked flawlessly. I did this first with the coursework and then with a different repository with the course project.

After that I started to do modifications to the course project which weren't taught of on the course. I found the hardcoding of information directly into the HTML page pretty hard and thought fetching the data from JSON file would be a much more appropriate approach. I created a data folder where I wrote JSON files on my own which handled different types of objects. I used skills learned in the Introduction to Web Programming course of fetching data and it made updating the website much easier as I had to only make a new object to the Data files rather than copying an HTML block and writing the information there.