Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

Åbo Akademi

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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Learning Diary, My Project: Photo Gallery

16/06/2025

Today I was just checking out the course description and getting set up with my environment. I’ve done quite a bit of version control already in my studies, but now I tried using more git commands, and that was interesting. Previously I’ve only used commands indirectly, through the code editors I’ve used. I do still believe the integrated system is easier to use, but the knowledge can surely come in handy.

18/06/2025

I started watching the tutorial video, and got through the first few tasks. I’m really trying to understand what each thing I’m writing is really doing. I downloaded some recommended VSCode extensions and fetched some fonts and other utilities from the internet for the website. Google fonts did not look the same as in the video, so figuring it out took a little longer than expected. New terms: ul (unordered list), ol (ordered list), li (list item), a (anchor, hyperlink element). I’m trying to remember what padding and margin are and in what order the top, right, bottom and left sides come in the setting.

19/06/2025

Today I followed the video lecture further, working on buttons and utility classes. I feel like it’s going faster now, I’m getting used to how the settings work. I’ve learned some shortcuts, like copy down and the comment shortcut, and the syntax feels familiar. I’m reading up on my CSS units. Rem is a root element, which means that setting the .root text size as 16px (pixels) will make 1rem 16px and 2rem 32px.

01/07/2025

I’m working on the video lecture still. 2 hours of video is more than 2 hours of learning, I’m learning that much at least. Today I’m tackling CSS grids and cards, and some javascripting with FAQ elements. I’ve learned the significance of ordering inside of the cascading stylesheet. I feel like the mistake of writing “.faq .faq-group .open” instead of “.faq .faq-group.open” might be something I do in the future. Other than that, javascript is feeling pretty straightforward.

06/07/2025

Once again doing video lecture stuff, mobile menus and responsiveness. After this it’s just deployment of the website left. I learned how to use the @media query, when to use (e) in your eventlistener and when not to, what no-repeat means and what it’s usage is, aswell as some more CSS and javascript syntax. I imported my repository from bitbucket to github to upload the website to github pages. Apparently bitbucket pages is a thing, but the course suggested github pages so I’m going with that. Pages won’t work right now but I’ll try again tomorrow.

07/07/2025

Alright, I got the website uploaded. I don’t think I did anything differently, but now suddenly it is deploying as it’s supposed to. Looks good, I reckon. The footer is annoying me a little, it doesn’t look like the figma example but I don’t exactly know how to fix it. I did some small aesthetic changes but they won’t matter when I start this personal project.

15/07/2025

Project planning and beginning development. I’m thinking of some options for what I could make for my own project. Not exactly sure yet, but in the meantime I’m trying to find some pictures to put in it and to figure out what I especially want to have in it, that wasn’t in the example or that I’m disappointed in. The footer thing comes to mind, aswell as the links not leading anywhere. The road to href:# ends here. Also the navbar should be always on display

16/07/2025

My personal project will be a photo gallery. I’m a hobby photographer, and I would use my own photos in the website anyway, so why not. I’m thinking some kind of gallery grid or a slideshow, but I don’t know how difficult those will be. Could I make it sort by different things, like date taken or where they are taken or what the subject matter is? I’d want to be able to extract that kind of metadata automatically then, not write it in myself. Maybe not really necessary for a front end course. I’ve made a favicon and drew a logo.

17/07/2025

I created a navigation bar, like in the tutorial, but made it with fixed position. I also made a parallax background image with the tutorial in moodle.

18/07/2025

I figured out some more parallax website quirks. There was something that wasn’t working correctly yesterday that I now figured out. With the navbar being fixed I need some margin in the top of the image, but not so much that you can scroll up above it on accident. I made a simple image grid today aswell, but I’ thinking I should make something bigger, to take advantage of more of what I have learned. The text I had on the parallax image had it’s position determined by percentage, which I now realize means it will move everytime the website grows. I changed it to a pixel amount. I also added a footer. I don’t know what I want to write in it, but I put the logo there for now. Looks pretty nice so far, I think.

20/07/2025

I’m trying to make a big gallery grid, but I’m not going to put all the images there myself. That takes ages, and won’t be something I do in the future if I run into this kind of problem, so I’m looking for another way. Ideally I’d want to be able to press the “upload” button, then pick some images from my files and have them placed nicely in a grid. Maybe later, but for now I’ve learned how to create html elements from files inside of javascript. This is something, but the images are being uploaded in one column, even though I tried to use the same code as in my previous, small gallery. Perhaps it’s so small it works differently.

21/07/2025

Alright, I might be getting a hang of it. I learned how different layouts affect each other, divs and grids and such. I was trying to make a grid of text and more grids with images before, which wasn’t working. Now I’m just going to have some grid intercepted with some text. It’s not the best looking right now, and lags a bit, but perhaps if I can make the gallery into a accordion like in the tutorial it wouldn’t need to load so many images at once. I don’t understand though, why my bottom margin isn’t working on the gallery. The footer comes directly after the last row of images, and it looks really shabby. I think I could just extend the margin on the footer and make that background color the same as the gallery but that doesn't feel like trying to learn, it feels like avoiding learning.

25/07/2025

I made the new gallery work as an accordion, so that you can hide or show the contents of each year. It does not look the best, because when all the accordions are closed the section is really small. I think I’ll leave the old gallery up, since it looks nicer. Also, I can’t come up with what to put in the footer, so I’m considering just copying the text from the tutorial and just making it look nicer. After that I might add media queries with a hamburger button and then create utility classes. After that I’m going to have to be done with this, or else I’ll never end the project.

Continued with the project later during the day, and I got stuck trying to figure out the minus to plus sign thing for the accordion, and learned that the whole system might be simpler without javascript added. Nevertheless, I managed to figure it out without having to change the whole system. I also changed the grid according to some advice I found on the internet, and got the grid looking a lot more appealing to the eyes. I had thought I needed to use display: grid; to create a grid, but apparently I did not. I also did the footer, and I feel I succeeded in emulating the figma example better than the tutorial.

28/07/2025

I learned that my recent commits to my project have not gone through to GitHub, and am now working on solving this issue. I am getting an error, which according to stack overflow could have a magnitude of causes. My guess is that the images in my grand gallery are too much for GitHub to handle as a single commit. This does surprise me, as I have seen much larger repositories on here previously. My issue right now is that I am trying to remove some image files, 2 gigabytes and more to be more precise, but the size of the project is not getting smaller. The reason for this seems to be that the previous local commits still have to go through first. This means that the files need to be added before they can be removed. This would be fine, if the images were the only thing added in those commits. I believe I could simply undo the commits and begin again, but of course I have a lot of code in there too. Today’s course time has been spent trying to solve this one problem.

29/07/2025

I chose to copy the repository to a new one on GitHub. This time, I didn’t add the images before after the code. I copied over the hamburger menu from the tutorial and adapted the media queries to my page. I learned about the aria labeling, because my code editor suggested I add one to my hamburger menu, but I believe for this project it isn’t a necessity. However, in the future this might come in handy. After that, I slimmed down the image folders and added them too, and everything went through. I deployed the site to pages, this time without trouble.

I recorded a video of me using the site, and put it in a file which I then uploaded to my repository, because this seemed to be a requirement. I tweaked my ReadMe so it included a tutorial on how to run the site, and was going to send in my repository in moodle, but moodle is apparently under maintenance today aswell as tomorrow. I hope I can still get my work graded.

LEARNING DIARY, notes

Date : 15/06/2025

Activity : Environment setup

Learning outcome: Git commands, command line

Date : 18/06/2025

Activity : Video lecture, Introduction and base html + Links and Core CSS

Learning outcome: VSCode utilities: Formatting and web-page visualization extensions. Stylesheets, the roles of HTML and CSS in building the interface of a web page, and fetching Utilities from the internet. Learned how to create CSS variables. Especially confused when the tools don’t look like they do in the guide. Google fonts, to choose certain font sizes and formats: Pick the font first, then go into your “basket” and pick the specifics from there. Not all fonts offer the ability to choose a few, some say one or all.

Definitions:

a = anchor (hyperlinks)

ul = unordered list

li = list item

ol = ordered list (1, 2, 3…)

Functions:

* Display: block; makes an invisible border all around the text, not just from the sides. Pushes assets above and below
* Padding: 10px 25px 50px 100px; means top padding is 10pixels, right padding is 25, bottom 50 and left 100 pixels. Removing “100px” makes the left the same as the right, removing “50px” makes bottom the same as top, and with just the “10px” all sides padding will be 10px. So “padding: top right bottom left;” is the command.

Date : 19/06/2025

Activity : Video lecture, Buttons and Utility Classes

Learning outcome:

* VSCode shortcuts (Comment, copy down…)
* What is a rem (root element)
* Faster coding, getting into the groove
* Figuring out proper syntax and use of comments

Date : 01/07/2025

Activity : Video lecture, CSS Grid & Cards + FAQ elements

Learning outcome:

* The significance of ordering inside of a CSS stylesheet
* Cursor: pointer, despite having used this earlier on the button I just now get that this is what makes viewers understand that something is clickable. Don’t know how it didn’t “click” earlier, but now I’ve internalized it.
* “.faq .faq-group .faq-group-body.open” vs. “.faq .faq-group .faq-group-body .open”
  + The space between “faq-group-body and “.open” decides whether we are looking for an element inside the group with the class open or if we are looking for if the group itself has that class.
* Javascript feels pretty straightforward

Date : 06/07/2025

Activity : Video lecture, Mobile Menu & Responsiveness

Learning outcome:

* @media usage (apply different changes when using certain screen sizes)
* When to use (e) in your eventListener vs. when not to (e means event and is used when something relating to the event is to be changed or used again, in this case for ease of use (e.target.closest)
* What is “no-repeat” (used because the default is to repeat the background image sideways)
* Some CSS and javascript syntax (Comma when applying to multiple areas in css and the use of different brackets in javascript)
* Imported my repo to github to be able to use github pages. Could not get pages to work, and my computer died, so I have to try again later.

Date : 07/07/2025

Activity : Website deployment, Small aesthetical fixes

Learning outcome:

* Tried deploying yesterday, but I couldn’t. Now I figured it out. Don’t feel like I did anything differently, but if it works, it works.

Date : 15/07/2025

Activity : Project planning and beginning development

Learning outcome:

* I analyzed a bit of what I had learned, and what I hadn’t learned that I thought I could have use for.
* Came to a few key things:
  + The footer in the guide did not look like the figma file. I want to redo it
  + All links led nowhere in the guide. I want my links to link to a different part of the page

Date : 16/07/2025

Activity : Personal project

Learning outcome: Got some images for my project, made a favicon and a logo. Fun stuff.

Date : 17/07/2025

Activity : Personal project

Learning outcome:

* Created navigation bar
  + With fixed position
* Created parallax background image

Date : 18/07/2025

Activity : Personal project

Learning outcome:

* Figured out the parallax website quirks. Something hadn’t been working before, and I got it to work
* Learned how to make a simple image grid

Date : 20/07/2025

Activity : Personal project

* Html element creation from file in javascript

Date : 21/07/2025

Activity : Personal project

Learning outcome:

* Learned how different layouts affect each other: Divs, grids and such.

Date : ( date here)

Activity : Video lecture or other activity details here

Learning outcome: what did I learn