Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Engineering Science

Software Development Skills

Teemu Ketonen, 545953

LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

12.5.2021

I read through the course information to gain an overall understanding of the course and its aims. After this I moved on to the environment setup page. Git is already familiar to me, so no further learning was needed. I already had my VSCode environment set up from previous projects, which means I am ready to move on to the actual course exercises.

14.5.2021

I started watching the first module called "Introduction to workflow and sass". This helped me setup NodeJS and npm on my computer. I also installed a few addons to VSCode to help me with web development. I created my initial project structure according to the video and at the end I had a working web page with some basic styling.

I moved on the second tutorial right away after the first one. I had a little trouble keeping up with the video pace but I managed to get through it with some pauses. Getting the fontawesome font to work required some additional work, because the website wasn't the same as in the video. By some Googling, I managed to find another link to include the font stylesheet. Apart from this everything went pretty smoothly, and it was an enjoyable experience to learn Sass having used plain CSS before.

Feeling interested in the ongoing work, I decided to keep going and started the part 3 of the series. First off, I ran into some issues with the '_menu.scss' since I missed a part on the previous video where mixins were moved from the 'main.scss' to the '_config.scss'. It took a while but ultimately I got there. I got to work with JavaScript which was previously familiar to me, so there was nothing new there. The menu button animation was cool though and I learnt some new SCSS syntax.

15.5.2021

It was time to start the 4th video exercise, which covered responsive design and finishing up the menu. The menu came out really great with the animations and it was a joy doing it. I already knew about responsive design principles in CSS but this was a nice addition to my knowledge. Sass also makes it much easier to work with. The site looks fine as it is, so am I excited for what's to come.

This fifth exercise has been the most interesting so far, since I had not used CSS grid before. It seems like a really useful tool to develop responsive web pages. I will definitely use it for my future projects, since I have previously done responsive design with various flexbox items and media queries. The tutorial itself was quite straight-forward but I did ran into some minor troubles due to my folder structure. So, a little effort was needed to make the menu navigation links work.

Moving on to the 6th exercise I got more accustomed to the grid system and also did some experiments myself to see how different values affect the view. It was also funny to learn that the path problem I had in the previous exercise was also fixed by the author in this exercise. Since the site is now finished, one improvement I would make is to make the sidenav visible by default on larger screen so that one does not have to take an extra step to open it.

And in the last exercise I successfully deployed my application to the web with the help of github pages. It was really easy and clear to do. I would have wanted to host it in a different sub-directory but I am afraid it is not possible after creating the course project in the root directory with a new npm project. At the the end of the video different website hosting solutions were discussed. I have actually hosted a few web pages of my own on a VPS and also acquired my own domain, so the stuff was already familiar to me.