Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Sofware Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

LEARNING DIARY

28.11.2022

I started the course and understood what it was about and how to complete it. I decided to first learn how git works and set up a repository for the course. I already created a "Coursework" and a "Project" folder for this repository.

I finally understood how to use git over the terminal (on MacOS), which I never did in my study program until now. I installed Visual Studio Code as well as Atom, as I worked with both in the past and I am not quite sure which one I am going to use in this course. In the first semester of my studies I already worked with frontend, which is why I wanted to deepen my knowledge and signed up for this module. At that time, we worked with Atom, but I haven't heard of that editor in other contexts until now and I might try using VS Code this time. What I am most happy about is that I finally got an introduction on how to use git, which is a huge step in my Software Development "career".

04.12.2022

Today I decided on how to proceed with this Learning Diary and set up a structure to follow.

22.12.2022

I started to watch the first video and got an introduction to Sass. As I thought it would be the easiest to follow along, I decided to also use VS Code editor for this course and installed addons such as LiveServer and Prettier. I also installed Node.js and worked through the first video until the end, which means I created folders like dist and scss to work with on the example project.

I had some trouble with the end of the video, because the creator initializes a new git repository for the modern_portfolio folder. I proceeded the same way as him with the .gitignore file, but realized I already had one in my main repository, so I just added the path of the node_modules folder and got it ignored in my own repository without having to follow the last steps of the video.

Right now, I'm not sure if it's a problem with the two branches on git, because I push to master branch and there is also a main branch. Might be confusing, but I'm pretty sure I looked it up when I watched the introduction to git, and it was right this way.

25.12.2022

I watched the second video and besides from setting up some classes and the navigation elements in the .html-file of the example project, I learned and did the following:

The most important thing might probably be the use shortcuts in VS Code, for example setting up a class by typing .class and press TAB to complete the line, or copying code fragments using shift+option+down. I included the fontawesome link from the video in my .html-document, because I had to sign up on the original fontawesome.com page and wasn't sure if the link I got there works the same (I copied it into my document but commented it out).
Then I created the js folder with a .js-file in it. I also learned about variables, for example to reuse specific colors, the rgba-value for opacity and the z-index which stands for depth inside of the page (to put something in the background or closer to oneself).
But most importantly I've worked with Sass because of the video and understood what it is being used for. In the past I've only worked with CSS itself and didn't know about the things I just described yet.

Later I googled a lot and tried to fix the branches on git, but encountered some problems while switching the branch over my terminal and switched back to the master branch. I am probably going to try and fix that some other time.

I also watched the third video and created the rotating menu button. Another shortcut I learned while doing this was how to select several same strings one after another by highlighting one and press Ctrl + D. I understood how to show and close (in this case) nav items. It is interesting how the example project creates the menu button itself. In the past I have used an icon. Like this I also learned how to transform single lines for example.
Additionally, I learned how to split up .scss-files and import different ones into the main file.

26.12.2022

I started watching the fourth video about the Menu Overlay & Responsiveness. I've learned how to use the &-character to add classes to the class I am already in in the Sass-file. I also learned how to position specific items vertically and horizontally and how to style them. To avoid scroll bars, overflow always needs to be hidden. To darken or lighten colors a little bit, there are useful functions that need the color and the parameter of how much one wants to darken/lighten that specific color. I already knew about list-style that hides the bulletpoints if it is set to none.

An important function that was shown in the video was translate3d(). It helps for example the menu to slide into the viewport smoothly, depending on how the parameters are set (if from the top, left, right, or bottom).

I also learned how to implement a delay for each individual item (nth-child), which can also be useful in the future.

27.12.2022

I continued working on the fourth video and learned a bit about responsiveness. From what I've learned in the past I already knew about the four different screen sizes that are also being used in the video. Still, I had no clue about how to implement them as Sass functions / Mixins as I did not work with Sass before.

I think the responsive part of the example project would be best to use for my own project as well, because I cannot think of any reason why I would need to change that, if it works so well.

Also, this might be my favorite part of the course until now, because responsiveness is such a useful topic to go through and it is easy to understand why the person in the video is doing what he is doing and how one could change that according to their own wishes.

28.12.2022

I worked through the fifth video and therefore created a color function which I will probably be using in my own project as well. It makes sure that there won't be any unreadable texts in terms of how background and text color work together.

The "About Me"-html page part was not very new to me, because I have worked with html a little before, but what I learned was another way of creating the CSS grid.

29.12.2022

In the sixth video only the last two html pages were created, so nothing completely new for me. But I learned a bit how to style them in a different way again. I think in general I learned a lot about CSS with the usage of Sass and I think it might even be easier this way. The easeOut feature is another thing I would probably use in all of my future works as I really like what it does to the User Experience. I even got better knowledge in responsiveness and found it a lot easier to follow along while reproducing the example project.

The next step is to use that project to create my own.

30.12.2022

I started creating my own project. In order to do that I needed at least an idea about what I wanted to show on that website. I decided to create a page about my Finland trips. So I started by creating dist, scss, index.html, main.scss and set up the connection between Sass and CSS. I edited the .gitignore file so that node_modules would be ignored in every folder. The next step was to create the journey page, where I added my Finland journeys equivalent to the works from the example project. I copied everything from the config file, because I would not know what exactly to change there.

After that I chose some photos from all my past Finland trips and got the idea to include a picture carousel, which we have used in the other media informatics course. After some tries the carousel did not work out, because I had some trouble combining Sass and Bootstrap, so I chose one single photo for each trip and included them in the journey grid.

Next, I created the mobile Sass file without menu branding & nav at first. I tried to edit the menu screen but encountered some problems with the picture I wanted to include there.

31.12.2022

At first, I fixed the picture problem partly and modified the colors of the text and links in the menu. I googled how to make the picture in the menu responsive, but this did not work again. Then I decided to redesign the About Me page of the example project and added some additional background images to the backgrounds folder, so I could decide which I wanted to use for each page later.

Then I included the picture carousel on top of the journey page, because every single trip with a carousel would have been too much anyways. Bootstrap was needed for this, but only on the journeys.html page.

After that I spent a lot of time trying to edit the contact page into a "Leave a note" page, which also did not work out. I googled a lot but could not find a solution on how to save the submitted comments, so I decided to modify the contact page of the example project a little, so it would look more like my page.

In the end I had some trouble with deploying the website. After some time, I could fix that and saw that the responsiveness of my page is not perfect. I tried to change that as good as I could, but unfortunately I did not have enough time for that.