Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Software Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

**LEARNING DIARY**

15.9.2021

After being away for a few months, I joined LUT courses again (through FITech). I had chosen Software Development skills modules before but could not start in due time to finish within last semester. Now giving it another try. I start with Front End, thinking that it’s the nicest and easiest maybe… I have also signed up for Mobile and Full Stack but they will have to wait.

I first went through all material carefully and did the environment set up. I have recently worked with GitLab during my studies in JAMK (ongoing) and therefore GitHub is new to me, however, I think it is more or less the same. Anyway, signed up and opened my first public repository. Cloned it to local and tested to commit, all worked well.

I have already chosen VS Code as my editor as I have used it a lot lately and am familiar with it. What I haven’t yet learned is how to keep up the Git repository through VS Code. My aim is to take advantage of this now.

I started to go through material and watched the first video, Introduction to workflow and sass. Very interesting! I performed all the same tasks than in the video. Looking forward to continuing next time.

I wondered though, what will happen to my git repository (done within environment setup) and the one we created on the lesson: maybe I should have watched the video first and then opened a repository afterwards…. Ended up moving my Exercise folder into my local git repository folder and deleting one of the .git files…as far as I understand, there should be only one in each repository…. let’s wait and see what happens when we get that far.

22.9.2021

Going through Part 2 (Homepage and Core SASS/CSS) today. This time I wanted to watch the video once before actually doing anything with my own version. Now I know what’s coming and can get prepared.

First issue I pumped into was finding the Font Awesome link. I have previously uploaded one before and maybe that’s why, or maybe a different version, but I couldn’t find the link like in the video. First, I tried to type it in but rapidly found out it is too long and complicated just to type. Then decided to google some more, got signed up again with LUT email and opened my first Kit. Let’s see if that works with the file that I’m preparing…

Well…it didn’t. I had to go back to an earlier project I did to find instructions. Eventually that worked and I got the icons to show on my webpage.

Ok, another issue, my node terminal was not running anymore, so had to go back to Part1 to see how it was started before. Once running, I started to see the scss changes on my page too. It’s funny to see that you immediately figure what’s going on and could actually solve these issues pretty fast.

Finished today’s ‘lesson’ with the same looking website than in the tutorial. All up to date so far. I wanted to touch the GitHub again also, to keep it in mind, but since its wasn’t in today’s lesson, I decided not to do it anyway. I’m sure we’ll get there.

New things learned today: scss nested styles with &-sign, usage of rem-sizes, variables and mixins in scss….and many more. HTML marking and normal CSS I am already very familiar with.

Actually, continued later today and watched the next two videos… Part3 starts with making the git commit, which I was expecting to be able to try out. I didn’t manage to do that from VS Code, but committed all using Git Bash, which worked well. I need to investigate why it wasn’t as straightforward for me as it was to the tutor.

8.10.2021

Time to refresh the memory a bit after a break (due to other studies I have ongoing). I did watch the next two videos earlier, so I know what I am up against today.

In Part 3 (Rotating Menu Button) it’s time to do the exiting stuff with the menu button. Actually, all worked well this time and despite a couple of miss-spelled classes I had to fix, I managed to repeat everything according to the video. The little bit of JavaScript also made sense, as I have used that elsewhere.

Git commit still didn’t work from VS Code. However, when I look at the git status from Git Bash, it says that ‘Your branch is ahead of 'origin/main' by 1 commit’. I am curious to know why then I cannot see the commits in GitHub?? After repeating the stuff again from Git Bash and managed to get the commit in and visible.

Moving on straight to Part 4 (Menu Overlay & Responsiveness). Having difficulties in displaying the portrait image. Why does it not show?? No error is showing in the console but it just isn’t visible. Oh, it must be the size…now I can see the forehead but nothing else 😊. Had to save a smaller pic..

Now I get it! I was missing the ‘git push’ step in VS Code. In the video tutorial this was not done, but noticed that it is needed, similarly to Git Bash. Maybe he has automated this in his version. So…learned a lot today. I ended up downloading the portrait pictures from the site repository, since I wanted to see exactly the same outcome, will modify this later with my own material. This part introduced the media queries, which I already have some experience on, therefore could follow quite easily. I still wonder, what is SCSS’s role in this, I mean could I have done all this with CSS only…I am new to SCSS so I have to google a bit. Maybe there is a crucial difference, which is not clear to me yet (or it was said in the very beginning so I don’t recall it anymore).

20.11.2021

It has been a while. First thing was to memorize what was I doing again…

Trying to start the app with npm start and a few other commands which didn’t work, so I opened it with the live server. Next scss changes didn’t go through then obviously and I had to go all the way back to the first video to find the start command: npm run sass. Well of course.

When I got my app up and running and in the same stage than in the tutorial, I moved on to the next video, Part 5 (Page With CSS Grid). In this phase we coded the about page. Repeating all the steps along with the video but my outcome wasn’t the same as in the tutorial. I checked and checked again but couldn’t find anything for a long moment, all the classes and scss were correct. What is happening here?? It took me a while until I noticed that I was wrapping the div-tags incorrectly in the about.html. Corrected that and everything was fine.

I also watched the next video today, Part 6 (Work and Contact Pages) and prepared the pages. This was pretty straight forward as we only did some tweaks to the about page layout.

Everything is up to date in GitHub as well so I am happy for now.

21.11.2021

Part 7 was about Web Deployment. Before moving to that part I decided to prepare my own project, my personal portfolio website based on what I have learned. Instead of sass used in the course material I wanted to do my own project with regular CSS. I had my suspicions about how this will work but decided to give it a try. After all, node sass is just compiling the code into regular CSS, I should be able to copy most of the stuff from the main.css file which was created during this process.

I opened the project in VS Code and set up index page and the main.css file. I wanted to move one page at the time, kind of repeating the stuff again instead of copy & pasting from the John Doe -project. This way I could more easily keep track of any possible problems that could be caused by moving from sass to CSS. Also I didn’t want to copy everything from the main.css, but keep the learning perspective and only take what I needed when creating the pages.

I did the easy stuff first, changed the picture and name and chose the color scheme. Then moved on to the content itself, which required a bit more. Since I don’t yet have any work experience in the software industry, I decided to list my studies on the about-page. This worked quite well as I could use the same grid-template layout still but make it suitable for my purposes. I completely fell in love with the grid-template and wanted to use that on all pages.

For the work page I already had some ideas. There are some projects I have done during my studies, I wanted to include 5 of them and therefore prepared a grid template with 3 columns for regular and large screen sizes and just one for the small screens. I included the respective pages as well, one for each project that would explain the work in more detail. Images on work-page act as links to these detailed pages. There are also links to the demo and/or GitHub where applicable.

All of these pages were prepared using grid-template-columns or grid-template-areas, as said, I noticed that this is easily controllable layout and the structure is fully understandable.

For the contact page I wanted to do something different for my own portfolio. In addition to the boxes only I added a word cloud listing the tools, programs and technologies I have used. I also changed the hover effect, since I didn’t like the changing size of the flex-boxes.

I also wanted to test the parallax style on one of the pages. I prepared a separate html-page for now and need to decide where to place it. This page could be telling a bit more about myself while keeping the other pages more professional and concentrating to my technical skills.

4.1.2022

Wrapping up the work and preparing for the submission. The parallax-page ended up working well and looking so good, but it didn’t really fit the style of the other pages. Therefore, I decided to skip it from the portfolio but added it to the GitHub anyway to show off. I will definitely be using this in some of my further projects.

One thing to consider still is the content of the repository I am going to include into this project. My demo work is in one repo for now and my own project portfolio website is in another. I could combine these into one, but I would be losing the commit history. The demo work has been regularly committed as well as the portfolio but how to keep both…

I also went through the instructions and also designed the video presentation. This will be shot in one of these days.

31.1.2022

The video has now been recorded, all the stuff has been sent to GitHub and my portfolio webpage is live. I decided to keep the original repo which was done based on the tutorial. The commits are referring to that work, done according to this diary. There is another folder containing my own project and in the readme there is also a link to that repository, if anyone likes to have a look at the commits done back then.

Readme also includes short description of the content. There are links to the live version of my Portfolio and to the short video presentation.

I hope you enjoyed reading this. Thanks for the course, I had fun.

Henna