Lappeenrannan Teknillinen Yliopisto

School of Engineering Science

Software Engineering

Software Development Skills: Front-end

LEARNING DIARY

Janne Pennanen

537026

**LEARNING DIARY**

**30.10.2020**  
  
I created a repository for the course, created a README-file and a couple of directories, one for exercises and one for the project I’m going to be coding in the future. Git isn’t something I’m particularly good at handling, but I know the basics and am keen to learn more, since I’ll definitely need it in the future. After downloading VS Code and installing some addons, it’s time to start the first video.

Whew, that was quite a ride. I have not written almost any JSON, SCSS or HTML before, so the first video was a bit of a culture shock. I got the hang of it in the end. I had to fiddle around with Node.js, npm and node-sass for a while since I encountered some problems, but I managed anyway.

I now have a workflow ready to go, and I have a basic grip on what’s going on.

**20.11.2020**

I finished the second video in the course material, which went a little more into detail with how SCSS/CSS and HTML works, and what kind of tricks one can do to make a website livelier. I am starting to get the hang of creating the website layout in HTML and modifying it to suit one’s needs through SCSS. During the second video I created a homepage for the website I’m building which contained my name, a short introduction and some text and icon links to other pages. What I found really exciting was how easy it is to use open-source icons, fonts, etc. I’m looking forward to continuing with the course, it’s been fun so far! For my own project, I used green for the secondary color, and a slightly darker shade of gray for the primary color than what was used in the video.

**23.11.2020**

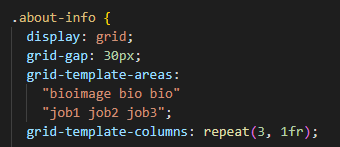
I got into the third video, in which I was taught how to create transitions using a combination of HTML, JS and SCSS. Really interesting stuff, and powerful. I, a complete simpleton when it comes to web development, threw together a smoothly animated rotating menu button within 5 minutes! The power of mixins is something I’m starting to realize now as well, since creating universal mixins to use with everything you need them for saves a lot of time compared to writing the same code again for every transition. So far, I’ve been absolutely enjoying the course, the videos are good and easy to follow. I’m happy that I chose this course!

**24.11.2020**

I watched the fourth video, during which I made relatively simple sliding animations for the navigation menu and its items. Again, I’m very impressed with how easy it is to create such elegant websites! I suppose we are dealing with rather high-level coding languages after all. I’m at the point where I can comfortably say that I know what’s happening during the videos and can start imagining how I would/will use the knowledge I’ve acquired for the course project by modifying the transitions used in the videos, for example. At this point I don’t really have any major issues coding or understanding HTML or CSS anymore, at least I can handle the basics even if I don’t know the minute details of how the languages work. After the video, I fiddled around with the animations and customized them to my liking and to better fit my project. For example, on my site the menu slides in from the left and right, not from the top and bottom.

**26.11.2020**

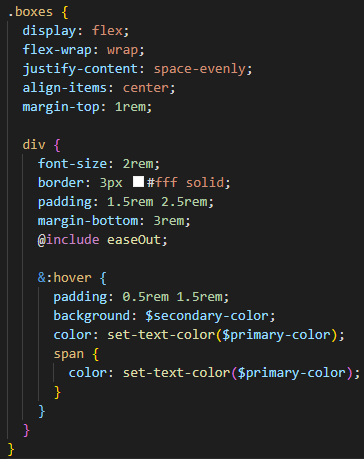
Fifth video is in the books and feeling as good as after any other session of the front-end course. The videos are still very well put together and easy to understand. I feel like I know what I’m doing and why I’m doing it. This time I wrote html and SCSS/CSS for the About Me -page in the portfolio, in which the biggest difference compared to the main page was a CSS grid for different items in the page. SCSS still amazes me in its power and simplicity, and a good example of that is how easy it is to put a grid together:

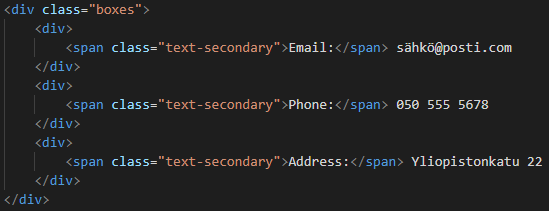


I mean seriously, after doing coding with lower-level languages (meaning mostly C), I’d never have thought these kinds of things could be so easy! Don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying C is a bad programming language, it is one of the most powerful and portable languages out there, but this is a change to say the least!

**27.11.2020**

After watching the sixth video, the initial website structure is complete. This is the point where I can start really making the website feel like my own. I’ll probably change some thins about the pages and their content, but it’ll stay as a portfolio website since I feel like some sort of customized portfolio might help me with job seeking in the future! What I learned during the sixth video was how to create a flexbox layout, which -again- was simpler than I had anticipated:





Something I find very effective is the use of the easeOut mixin and the set-text-color function that were written during the videos. They save a lot of time and are very simple to use. A clever way to limit the amount of code one has to write. I changed some of the padding and margin styling used in the video, because I feel like the website is more user-friendly and pleasing to the eye with the changes.

**29.11.2020**

I watched the last video on the course, which taught me to deploy the website I’ve created using GitHub Pages. There weren’t any major issues, just the fact that GitHub pages is case-sensitive with image names so one of the pictures on the site didn’t show up. I figured the issue out with a bit of googling, though. I also filled out the site with actual information about me, changed everything to Finnish etc. Lastly I tested the website on my phone and laptop to see if everything works smoothly.

**30.11.2020**

I continued the deployment work from the previous day, added some more content to pages where it was lacking and so on. The About Me -page is complete and contains information about my education. The My Work -page on the other hand is a bit of an issue, since I don’t know what to fill it out with. I might end up just having placeholders on it, since the content of the pages isn’t really the focus on this course.

**1.12.2020**

I added a link to my CV on the My Work -page and the rest of it is just placeholders, since having a CSS grid was a requirement for the course project. With the contact page also complete, I feel that the course is finished. The deployed website had some issues again and fixing them required me to take the site down and re-publish it, which didn’t cause me too much trouble in the end. I tried to come up with a picture to use for the homepage background, but couldn’t think of a suitable one so I stuck with the one that was given during the course.

**Final thoughts:**

To conclude, the course was fun, interesting, and accomplished its task in giving me an idea on how web development works. The videos used were clear, even though not a lot of the basics of the languages used was covered, you had to sort of figure it out as you went. It wasn’t a problem at least for me, though. All in all, completing the course was a very fun experience and I got what I expected from it.