Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Sofware Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONTEND MODULE

**LEARNING DIARY**

04.11.2019

I downloaded git and refreshed my memory about how it works. Previously I had only used git with GitLab, so I had to check the details about using GitHub. I was already using VSCode so choosing an editor was easy. I chose the frontend module because it seemed like an interesting one, and I already have a little experience about frontend development with React and React Native with Typescript, so I’m interested to learn how things work on a little more basic level without any frameworks.

17.11.2019

Today I started watching the videos and doing the web course work. I downloaded the live server extension for easier development but decided that I don’t need other extensions for a simple project like this. I downloaded nodejs and npm, which I was already familiar with from previous developing experience, so I already knew about things like package.json and npm scripts. SCSS was completely new for me, and I also had never used basic html, but obviously my knowledge from using React made it a lot easier to pick things up. I made the basic homepage according to the example given.

18.11.2019

I followed the web course videos and made the rotating menu button, menu, footer and the “about me” page. Translations, transformations and changing classlist with Javascript was new to me, but the clear example made it easy to understand. I also learned about delays, responsiveness and a simple way to do the footer. Understanding CSS grid took a bit more thought, but luckily it was explained pretty well in the video.

19.11.2019

I continued the web course and made the work page with more CSS grid and the contact page with Flexbox, which I already had some experience using. Everything went without issues. I also checked the video about github pages webpage deployment but I didn’t deploy anything yet.

26.11.2019

Today I finally started working on my actual project after completing the web course videos. Using the example project as a baseline I did my own menu button and basic menu and footnote. I decided to use flex for the menu button and menu as I was most familiar with it and it seemed to be a fitting choice. It took a bit of trial and error to get all the alignments and transformations right, but in the end everything looks good. I didn’t like how when closing the menu the list only moves when it’s already out of sight, so I added an extra delay to first move the list items and then the background.

27.11.2019

I added the basic navigation to the menu (all the pages are still empty except for the menu), and made the menu responsive so that it goes vertically when the screen is small enough. I don’t like how the menu links aren’t centered for some reason in the small screen version, so I’ll have to fix that later.

04.12.2019

I divided the project to multiple files for better clarity and organization (I had intended to do this from the start, just didn’t bother doing it until now). I figured out that the problem with vertical menu not being centerd was simply missing width: 100% on the items.

09.12.2019

I made the home page continuing to use flex, and also changed the footer to use flex because it wasn’t behaving the way I wanted it to. I also changed some minor details to be more how I liked.

10.12.2019

Today I made the second page using CSS grid. At first it was a bit hard to remember how it worked, so I went back to the example project to refresh my memory about it. After that it wasn’t too hard to make everything the way I wanted. When I added responsivity and a one-columned view for smaller screens, it took some effort to make everything look right as I wanted the images to be adjacent to their descriptions, but even after googling I couldn’t find a way to change row gap size for individual rows. I ended up changing some margins and paddings, which I don’t think is a very great solution, but it works and looks like it’s supposed to. When I added a color changing effect to the links I noticed it wasn’t working for smaller screens which was quite confusing. After some testing I found out that the header was taking up all the space on screen for the vertical menu, and it was easy to fix by changing a couple values.

It took some time to decide how I wanted to do the images for the second page, because I wanted them to change size with different screen sizes, but this could be a problem when their aspect ratio is different. Fortunately I discovered that setting background size to cover makes them as big as it can and then cuts the edges as needed. When I can also change the images position and so decide where the edges are cut, this is exactly what I wanted as it isn’t a big deal that the images are cut a bit. Later I can also add more control to how the images are being resized and minimize the effect.

11.12.2019

I made improvements to scaling to smaller screens by adding a maximum height to images on the second page in the one-column view and aligning them to bottom of their row so that when the screen gets smaller there’s a limit how tall they can be. Then I changed the width percentages on a mid sized screen so the column isn’t stretched as much, but I’m not sure if I like the way it changes. I made the home page “Welcome” text break into parts if the screen isn’t wide enough to hold it, so it won’t get cut off. Then I noticed that the vertical menu wasn’t displaying properly on Firefox (I had previously only looked at it in Chrome). The menu background width was too small, and I had to play around a bit with the width settings to fix the problem. Lastly I made the initial info page using flex once again.

12.12.2019

I realized the scaling of the second page to screens of different sizes can be improved further by instead of changing width percentages I can just add maximum widths for both the one-column-view and the normal grid, so that they won’t be stretched too much. I made the third page using fixed backgrounds for parallax scrolling effect to make it a bit more interesting. The height of the images took a bit of deciding. In the end I chose 50vh as a fitting one.

17.12.2019

I took some free to use images from a site called pixabay and put them in their places on my page.