

Lappeenranta teknillinen yliopisto
School of Engineering Science

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, Front-End

Date : 26.7.2025

Activity : Environment Setup page and links

Learning outcome:

I already have Git setup on my machine, and I generally use it through Git bash, so I skipped that section. In terms of version control I set up a Bitbucket account and a workspace, to use as version control on this course. I haven't used bitbucket before, but I have used similar version control systems, such as GitLab and Github, which as I understand are quite similar, with some small feature differences. Also, in terms of a code editor I already have VS Code set up and I have used it quite a lot, so I'm very familiar with it. This is why I didn't really spend too much time with the code editor section either, although I checked out SublimeText and Atom, to see what they are. In the end I still decided to go with VS Code, since that's what I'm most comfortable with. I also already have a lot of useful addons added in VS Code, such as live server, that is used to host the web page locally.

Date : 26.7. 2025

Activity : Introduction and Base HTML

Learning outcome:

To begin with, I am quite familiar with the basics of frontend and the languages and practices related to it. Out of the three courses available I chose frontend, since that is the section of programming, I am most interested in. I have already used the programming languages used in frontend programming, such as JavaScript, HTML and CSS styling. Out of the languages I'd especially like to further learn about CSS styling, since I've basically only used styling limited to a few simple lines, such as color and positioning. This course is a good way for me to deepen my knowledge on frontend programming and refresh my memory about the things I have already learned before.

Watching through the introduction section refreshed my memory of how frontend programming generally works and how to set up the HTML file. I also learned how to plan the frontend on Figma and how I can import some of the features used in Figma to my project. Although I learned how the Figma image slicing and exports work, I didn't do that, since the images were already in the Github, where I got them from directly. Because the idea is to make the website for that base, there is no point in going through exporting the images again.

In terms of coding, I created a new project, where I'll follow along to the video and make a similar website, to test the taught coding practices out. So, during this introduction section I created the css, images and js folders as well as the HTML file, which I initialized with the default head and then started editing. I started by picking the fonts I wanted to use, which were Newsreader from Google and for the icons, I also ended up using font-awesome. Then I proceeded by following the video with creating the navbar for my own program and got it up and running.

Date : 27.7. 2025

Activity : Links and core CSS

Learning outcome:

As I already mentioned before, CSS is what I'd like to learn about the most, so from this section on I'll do more of my own research, on top of watching the video. Thus far I've followed the video quite accurately, without making any of my own additions, or modifications, but CSS is the section where I want to get more creative with differences.

To begin with, I added the universal features for box-sizing, margins and padding, similar to the video. Then I also created the default styling for body, hyperlinks, lists and images, to make the baseline the same. I made a utility class section like in the video, where I also added the container styling, which I didn't make any additions yet, only added the margin, width and padding. The idea of having preset utility styling is something that I hadn't used this extensively before. I have only had one utility per element before, such as only one button style and hadn't thought of having a general button styling, with different specific button styles, such as different colors or shapes. This is something I will use in the future, especially in larger website projects.

Then I started with the navbar styling, which I at the beginning made in the same way as in the video, to have it looking functioning and aligned with the video. From the video I got the basic display, padding and font stylings. Also, I added the colors mostly by just typing the color, since I'm not completely familiar with the color codes. After the navbar was done, I started testing some other settings and googling for some additional navbar modification tips and styles. I didn't implement any other navbar features yet, but I'm keeping the ideas I found saved, and I'll utilize at least one new feature in my project work. Some ideas that I found are alternative layouts, a dropdown menu, some cool features regarding hover and even some alternative animations.

Date : 27.7. 2025

Activity : Buttons & Utility Classes

Learning outcome:

The next part began with creating button styling, which I have done a little before. I am familiar with how the buttons are shaped and sized using display and padding, as well as the difference between background color and text color. I started creating these similar to the video with one general button style and then a few specific additions for different kinds of buttons. The general button is gray, with black text, and it's always used, unless one of the other stylings is specified in the code. The other button styles are a primary button, which is

blue, a darker button which is black and a stretched button (block), these all take all the other features from the general button style.

After that the video proceeded to text styling, which was included in utility classes. From my understanding before the text styling mostly involves the size, color, font and margins of the text. These also seemed to be the features that were added to text styling in the video. Then the video added the hero styling, which I'm overall not that familiar with. I've heard the term hero in the context of websites, but I wasn't sure what it actually was. From the video I understood that it's the background of the main page. I then proceeded to create the hero styling according to the video, which mostly included the sizing of everything to stay contained within the page and having proper margins to things, so they shouldn't be too close to each other.

The video section of the site seems quite straightforward, where the video is added as an image for simplicity and made to be aligned with the webpage. Again, I followed the video by adding the video image and the button related to it. The styling of the video is also very straightforward with just aligning it to fit the page well. The background utility classes were added, to make it easier to have the color you want as the background of the webpages section.

Date : 27.7. 2025

Activity : CSS Grid & Cards

Learning outcome:

This section began with adding the testimonial, which were very simple cards with just text in them. It did utilize a grid that the cards were in, which was a very neat way to do this, that I had never done before. This grid technique is something that I will keep in mind if I'm creating this kind of section for a website in the future, because it made having the card sizes aligned regardless of the content inside of them. Also, this section included some smaller features that I had not encountered before but seemed quite useful. This includes the repeat function, so you don't have to type all of the numbers separately, if they're the same, and the nth-child function, to select a specific element from a section to add styling to. These

will both be useful in the future. When making the pricing section the grid was also utilized, which is helpful to remember in the future. Also, the block button was used for the first time, which stretches along the entire container, that is the pricing card in this scenario.

Date : 27.7. 2025

Activity : FAQ elements

Learning outcome:

The FAQ elements seem somewhat more complex, based on the Figma template, since there are questions with openable/closable answers. Before watching through the video, I wouldn't be sure how that is done (although if I searched it up, I'd probably learn it), but this will hopefully teach that to me. The beginning of the section is just adding the the questions and answers as static text, with the +/- icon. Also, simple styling is done to these texts with borders, padding and margins, to have them aligned in size and shape.

The FAQ section includes JavaScript code as well, but from my understanding it isn't the focus of this course as much as HTML or CSS. So, I didn't add anything additional in JavaScript, at least for now. I do know that if I want to modify the site more with for example a drop-down menu, I will need to write more JavaScript code for that, so JavaScript is used for the dynamic elements of the site. I have also made simple web pages before, where I have used JavaScript, so that section of the video didn't teach me anything I hadn't encountered before.

The footer is also something that exists in basically all web pages, but I had not ever tried creating that before on any of my previous projects. So, this also proved useful in something so basic, as to what elements are relevant in a usual web page. The structure of the footer and the visual settings were useful to learn. Also, another new function in CSS to me was the utilizing input type, which in this scenario was utilized in the email field. I do not recall using the HTML types to adjust the style of an email field like such.

Date : 28.7. 2025

Activity : Mobile menu & responsiveness

Learning outcome:

Obviously, websites should be responsive when used on different devices that can reach the site, which includes mobile devices. Mobile styling/media queries I have also used before, but it was a while ago, and that section of the video refreshed my memory on that quite well. I also do understand that media queries can be used in other scenarios as well, such as setting a min-width as well for very large screens to make the site more responsive. I also proceeded to Google about different kinds of media queries that are available and found the orientation option interesting as well for mobile to adjust the site to horizontal or vertical orientation.

The deployment to Netlify was also very interesting, since I had not heard of that service before, but wanted to try it with this project, to deploy the site, since it seemed so simple in the video. I went and created an account on Netlify using my GitHub account and authorized it to read my repositories. I didn't deploy the project yet, since it was not ready, but I set my account up so I can just go on there and deploy it.

Date : 30.7. 2025

Activity : Website deployment

Learning outcome:

I have not used GitHub pages ever before, so to begin this taught me a new service that I can use for some simple web hosting. I still ended up deciding to host the site on Netlify, since it seemed simpler, and I didn't have to initialize npm or configure any JSON files.