

Lappeenranta teknillinen yliopisto
School of Engineering Science

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY

Date: 16.9.2023

I browsed through the course moodle and started the course. I already had git set up and I'm familiar with it so I didn't go through the moodle links. I made my repository in GitHub. I also have VSCode installed and have been using it before so I decided to keep using it as I think it's a very good IDE. I watched the first lesson/video on youtube and did the necessary initial setup stuff and also pushed my project to GitHub. Not much new but good revision.

I also watched the second video. The icons from "fontawesome" were new to me but were very handy to use. I haven't done anything with scss before so it's been interesting to learn about the ways you can use it. I especially think the variables, mixins and nesting are very useful features. The possibility to create pseudoelements was cool too. It's interesting to see just how much you can do with scss.

Date: 17.9.2023

I watched the third video. Got into Javascript which was fun, it's been a while since I coded with js. Right now everything seems so simple but I know if I had to do a small

project like this by myself from scratch, I would have a hard time knowing where to start. It's really helpful to see how the program is structured and how things like the menu button can be transformed.

I decided to try to add a feature that could change the secondary colour of the site. I wanted the secondary colour to change when clicked on the surname on the main page. I first made a similar 'class adding and removing' -Javascript function like for the menu. I got the surname colour to change but couldn't figure out how to change the secondary colour overall when clicking it. While researching I came across css variables and a way to change them through Javascript (https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/Using_CSS_custom_properties and <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/51372501/how-to-set-a-global-variable-with-css-var-without-having-to-set-the-property>). With the css variables and changing my Javascript code to not add/remove classes but to set properties, I got it working!

Date: 19.9.2023

Watched the fourth video. Went pretty smoothly, except I had to tinker with the branding picture a bit. I used a different photo, which was a different shape and had to position and fiddle with the repeating so the background would fill with just once with the picture. The opacity of the branding picture was also bothering me. The first comment under the video was just about that so I made the background colours transparent with rgba as instructed. Also making the page responsive was actually surprisingly simple with scss.

I also watched the fifth video. It started with making the about me -page. I realized the secondary colour change wouldn't work when changing to another page, it was resetting. So I tried to research how to save the variable and stop it from resetting and came across the localStorage property which could be used to solve this issue (<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/67471715/how-to-store-css-variables-in-the-browser-memory>). The grid functionality was also very interesting and useful!

Date: 20.9.2023

I watched the sixth video. It was all quite straight forward. One thing that seemed to be a bit of an issue was using the set-text-color function with the secondary colour. I didn't find

any simple solutions so I just made the text colour turn black on hover. It's not the perfect solution but also a simple fix if I wanted a secondary colour that wouldn't work with it. Right now everything looks good and readable.

I also watched the seventh and last video. Somewhere in the beginning of this project I had made the .gitignore file in the wrong place and also forgotten the dot, so that caused some interesting things to happen but I quickly noticed the issue and fixed it. The deployment was easy. I wasn't aware of Github's Pages functionality. But it's really cool you can make and deploy pages for free.

Date: 21.9.2023

I wanted to try to do something extra so I checked out the parallax tutorial. Looked nice so I wanted to try it. I decided to change the front page. I made it so it has three more images and on those images are links to all the other pages. The process was a lot of trial and error with deciding what elements are needed, where to put the elements and what kind of classes are needed. I could luckily reuse a lot of stuff that was already made like the sheer overlay of the background mixin.

Date: 22.9.2023

I changed the images to some freely available stock images. Made also some small tweaks to the parallax front page. Changed the secondary colours.

Date: 23.9.2023

I also added a new page. I decided to add a blog page, which has an overview of blog posts with images. No big issues making it, just had to remind myself how the grid works. Then I wanted to make things harder for myself and do a popup window which comes on top of the main blog page when clicking on the "read more". It works like the menu overlay which I used as a guide. I had quite a bit of struggles. One mistake I made was not starting the "npm run sass" again after making a new file. For a while I wondered why the page was not updating even though every file was saved. I also came across many issues because I mixed up the class names all the time.

Date: 26.9.2023

I continued the blog page. I positioned the button better and made some changes to the popup minimum width. I had issues with positioning the button, but found a great tip that helped me achieve what I wanted (<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/4962266/css-positionfixed-inside-a-positioned-element>). I wrapped the fixed button in an absolute wrapper. Without it the button wasn't positioned relative to the main-post like I wanted. I also added a fading animation by changing the opacity.

I also noticed I've understood the coursework wrong... I went back to reading the general course information to see what I needed to turn in and noticed that exercises and project were two separate things. I was thinking I needed to do a website like in the videos and then make it my own by adding some things.

So I started my original website for cake recipes. Just some main page stuff.

Date: 27.9.2023

Continued cake site. Added a lot of stuff on the main page and made an about page.

Date: 30.9

Continuen cake site and made the cakes-page.

Date: 2.10

I wanted to get a random recipe with the click of a button and found some help (<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/5915096/get-a-random-item-from-a-javascript-array>). Also struggled to get the page change correctly and at the same time show the right random recipes information. First I noticed that the js wasn't being run fully if the function that was ran returned null. So I just changed the order of the code and made a span element with the class from the other page that was giving the error. Now the page change actually worked. The next issue was getting the recipe information to show up after clicking the main page div. I found the "DOMContentLoaded" (<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/11936816/execute-function-after-complete-page->

[load](#)) which helped me to make the information show up only after the page was loaded. I then added a localStorage item to check if the function should be executed.

Date: 7.10.2023

Added different scss for certain recipes.

Date: 8.10.2023

Made the page more responsive and made some changes overall.

Date: 9.10.2023

Made some finishing touches to the portfolio page and my original page. I'm quite happy with the final results and this course has definitely inspired me to continue practicing on my free time and try to make a more websites from scratch without tutorials.