

Reflective Learning Diary - Unit 3

Learning Outcome Reflection

Learning Outcome: Write well-structured, easily maintained, standards-compliant CSS code to present HTML pages in different ways.

Well-Structured CSS:

- **Reflection:** Throughout this unit, I have focused on organizing my CSS code in a logical and hierarchical manner. I have used comments to separate different sections, such as layout, typography, and components, which makes the code easier to navigate and maintain.
- **Example:** I have grouped related styles together and used meaningful class names that reflect their purpose.

Easily Maintained CSS:

- **Reflection:** I have adopted best practices for maintainability, such as using variables for colors and fonts, and employing a modular approach with reusable classes. This ensures that changes can be made efficiently without affecting unrelated parts of the code.

Standards-Compliant CSS:

- **Reflection:** I have adhered to W3C standards and guidelines to ensure my CSS is compliant. This includes using valid syntax, avoiding deprecated properties, and ensuring cross-browser compatibility.
- **Example:** I have validated my CSS using tools like the W3C CSS Validator and tested my pages across different browsers to ensure consistent presentation.

Present HTML Pages in Different Ways:

- **Reflection:** I have explored various CSS techniques to present HTML content in multiple ways, such as using Flexbox and Grid for layout, and media queries for responsive design. This allows the content to adapt seamlessly to different screen sizes and devices.
- **Example:** I have implemented a responsive design that adjusts the layout and typography based on the viewport size, providing an optimal user experience on both desktop and mobile devices.

Design Choices and Rationale:

The primary purpose of Unit 3 was to incorporate CSS into the website developed for the previous unit. The concentration was on keeping consistency and responsiveness in the design while structuring the CSS code in a way that it could be maintained. This is in consideration of the outcome of the units, as it was required to have a website with proper CSS for it to support compliance with web standards.

Colour Scheme:

I went with a dark color scheme and a bold accent color, #ff5733, as it puts across the themes of fitness and motivation that are "Suleyman Overload Pro." These color choices bring consistency to the site and create good visual hierarchy by drawing attention to key elements. The choice was therefore highly influenced by personas identified in Unit 1, who appreciate a lively and empowering aesthetic.

Typography:

I chose the sans-serif font Arial for easy readability and a clean look on different machines. The sizes and line heights of the font were manipulated to ensure better readability while keeping in mind that the site shall be accessible to all users, including those with visual impairments. This is part of the learning goals: to create maintainable, accessible, user-friendly CSS.

Layout:

I used CSS Flexbox to create the nav bars, footers, and main content areas. Flexbox was used because it allows for flexibility and responsiveness in design that easily adapts to different screen sizes. This means the site will be not only pleasing to the eye but also functional on a wide variety of devices, something that in the scenarios described in Unit 1 was very important.

Responsive Design:

Media queries adjusted the layout and font sizes on smaller screens for mobile devices. This ensured that the site was also usable on mobile devices, therefore adhering to the learning goal of creating a responsive design that caters to different personas and scenarios.

Reflection:

Applying CSS to this website gave me a chance to drastically improve it in terms of visual aspect and even the users' experience. These design decisions were based on fulfilling the requirements of the personas that I had come up with while keeping usability, readability, and accessibility in mind. Following best practices in CSS meant that my code was organized and maintainable for future updating and modification in the course of the project. It served to enlighten me on just how proper CSS design can enhance the user experience so much while meeting technical standards and requirements.