

Lappeenranta teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Software Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

LEARNING DIARY

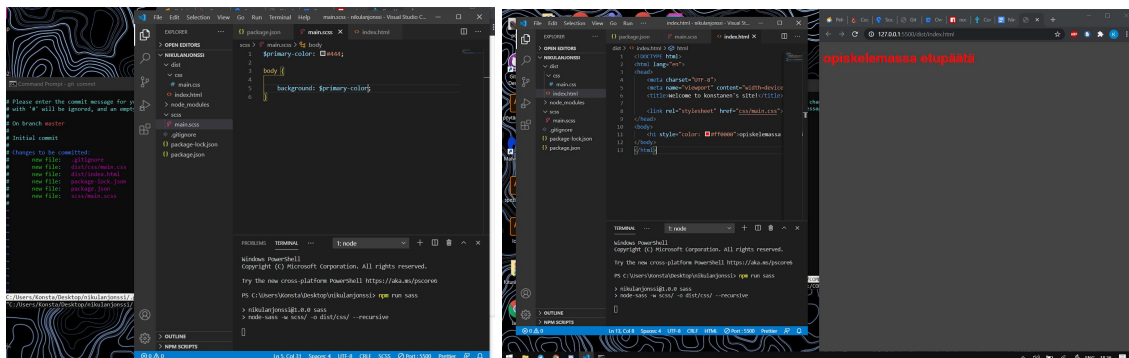
Introduction and part 1: (Introduction to workflow and sass)

1.12.2020

I logged to the course on moodle and read the general information and instructions.

I followed the environment setup, and continued to the “Front-end” -tab. I proceeded to study the first module. I watched through the video and learned to set up Visual Studio Code with useful extensions and such. I followed through the steps and learned how to set up scss-to-css script and a local live server.

There was one problem that took me a lot of time to solve. The problem was about creating the json file and installing things using npm commands. In the end I had to use Windows cmd for some installations.



part 2: (Homepage and Core Sass/CSS)

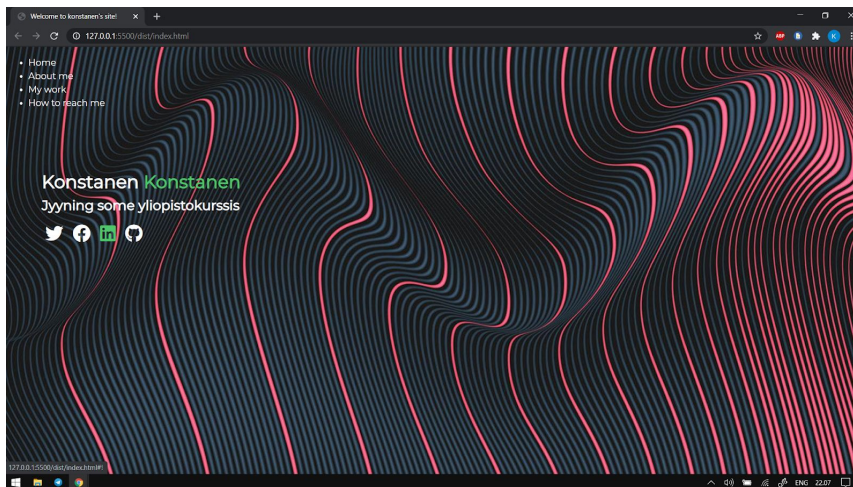
1.12.2020

I had a pretty good knowledge of intermediate css beforehand, but I hadn't ever really used scss. I had only heard about it, and now that I truly started learning it, it actually feels very convenient and useful.

By following the video, I learned to create basic styling for my front page. Beforehand I was aware of the different units and for example concepts such as z-index. Adding fonts, hoverable elements and transitions was also easy. However, completely new things that I learned were scss variables and scss nesting, and mixins. They already seem like something I will certainly use in my future projects, even though I would be able to build exactly the same thing using just pure css.

I had some problems where the live server wouldn't display my edits to the page. I noticed that the scss-to-css script was encountering an error. After a while

At the end of the second chapter, the page I was working on looked something like this:

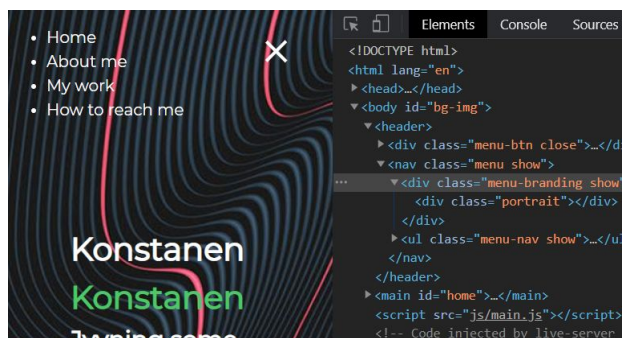


part 3: Rotating Menu Button

4.12.2020

I learned to create an animated hamburger menu toggle. I had the knowledge to understand most of the basic things of js such as functions and the basic structure of the scripts. I probably would have been able to create something similar with just my existing knowledge, but the methods taught in the video were much more professional and most of them were pretty eye-opening too, like: "oh, I can make it like this?" Basically this method where a js function gives or removes classes from objects was a completely new idea to me.

My finished hamburger menu was now able to turn into an x and the other way around. A click on the hamburger menu object triggers a function that gives a class or removes it from the items that we are transforming. The class gives the elements some new properties, and the transition-duration property is responsible for making everything smoothly animated:

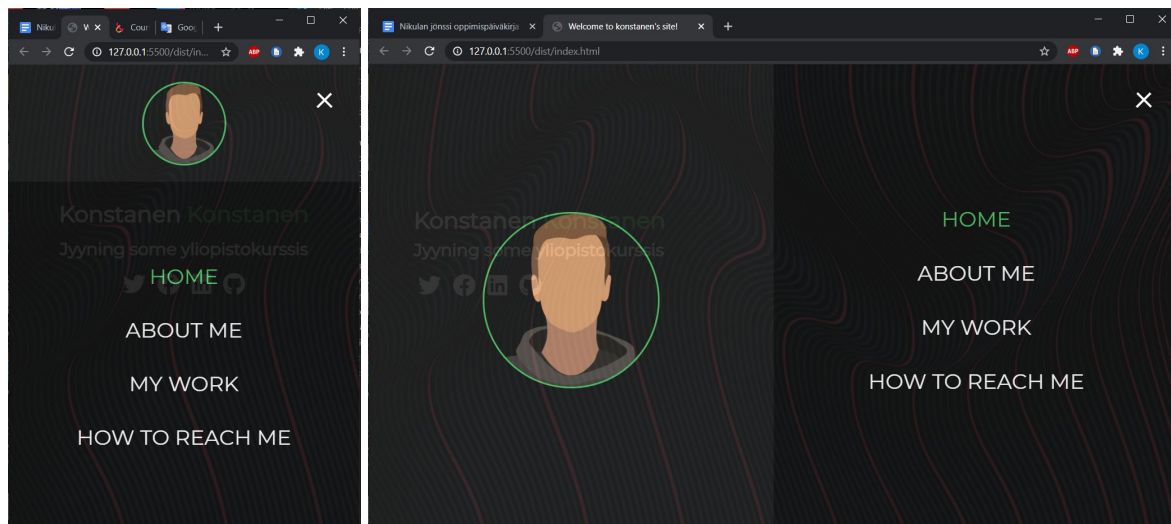


part 4: Menu Overlay & Responsiveness

4.12.2020

I learned to create the actual menu with its link elements and a portrait picture. The process was pretty simple in my opinion, since I had already learned to add and remove classes from elements using an onclick event. Basically I just had to create the style for the menu, and add “show”-classes to the elements that would be animated and moved when clicking the menu toggle.

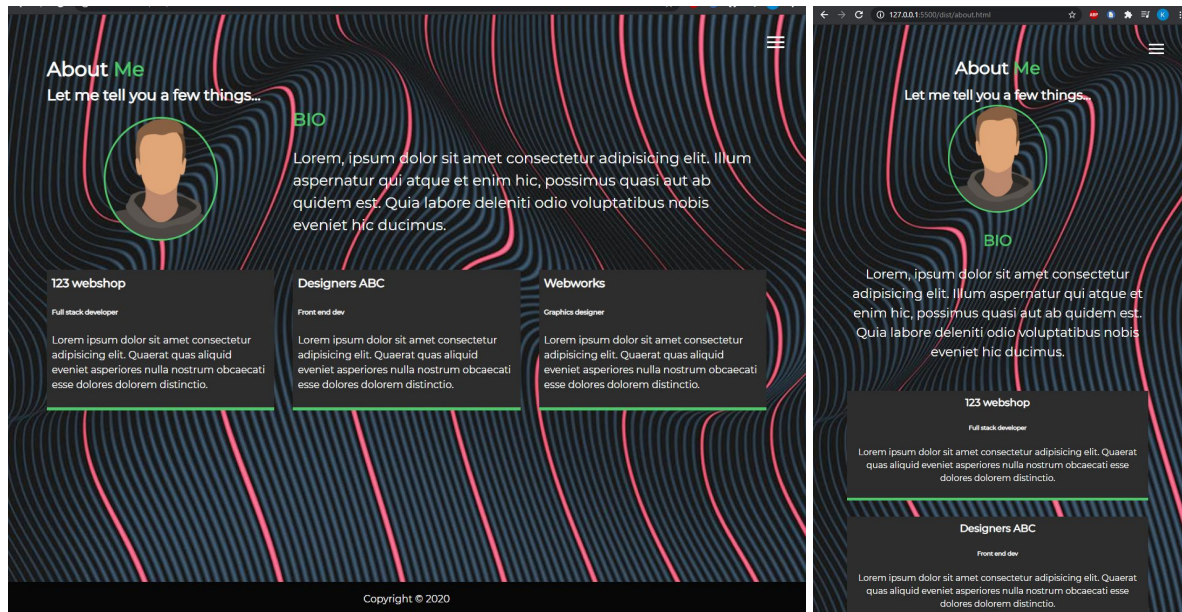
The big deal in this chapter was the responsiveness. I had to build the page in a way that it would change the layout of the whole page, when the window size gets too narrow. I thought that would be quite a lot of work to create something like that. I was wrong. With some help from scss, it was basically just a few classes I had to give properties for, and the whole thing was working. It seems so clever and smart now. I probably have to practise it a little bit more now, because it's pretty complicated overall and I really want to be able to understand this particular topic very well.



part 5: Page with CSS grid

7.12.2020

After the menu as a whole was created, I learned to create a second page with a CSS grid layout. If the window was wide enough, the page would have the elements displayed next to each other. Otherwise they would be stacked on top of each other. The process was pretty straightforward in my opinion. I didn't have too many problems this time.



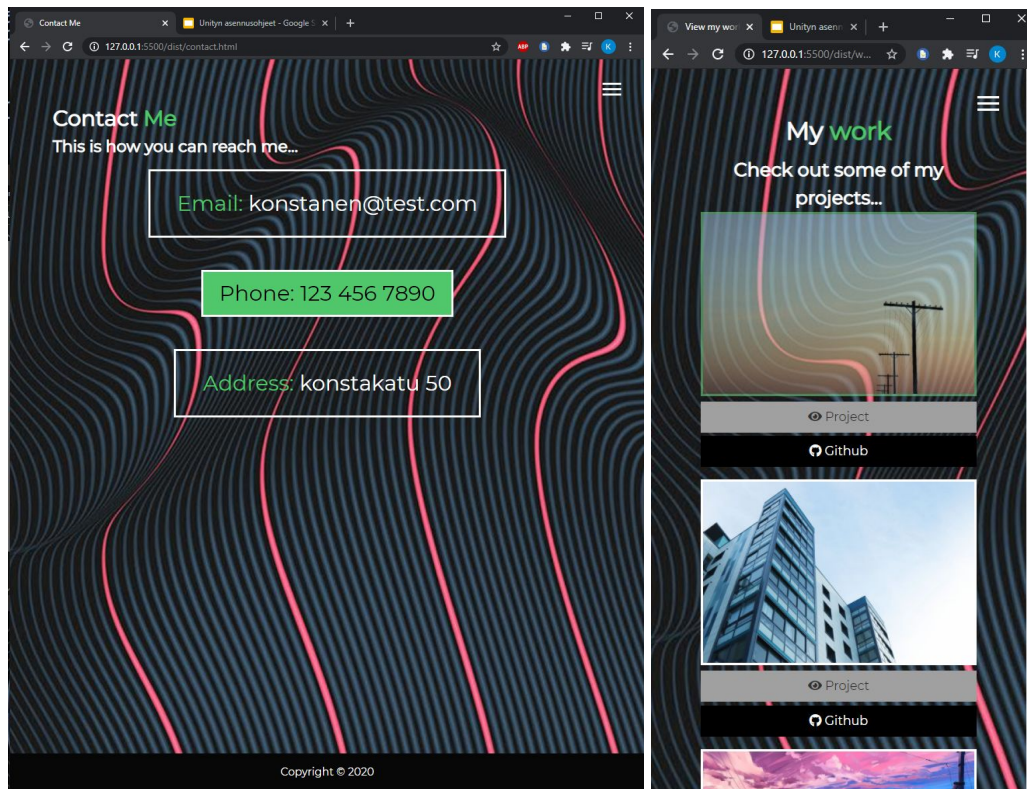
part 6: Work and Contact Pages

7.12.2020

In this chapter I created two more pages. The work page works in a way if the window is wide enough, the page would have the elements displayed next to each other. Otherwise they would be stacked on top of each other.

On the contact page, I created a “contact me” section, where there were three elements displaying email, phone, and address. The hover effect I created was super ugly and horrible, but I hey, it’s not my design. I was just following the tutorial.

Overall, the process was pretty straightforward again.



Planning my own project a bit

8.12.2020

I had some ideas for my personal project. I thought I would make a cool landing page with some dynamic scrolling animations. The animated part will be tricky to get working while still having a responsive page, but I think I can probably figure it out somehow. There would be some styled info boxes too on the bottom of the page, that would obviously be responsive and be stacked on top of each other when the window is too narrow.

The menu will probably be somewhat similar to what I have already created using the tutorial. I won't be going for a full-screen menu though, because I find it somewhat unconventional.

There will also be separate pages for more content. I'm not entirely sure what content I will put there, but it shouldn't matter that much, basically the looks and style and responsiveness is what needs to be good.

part 7: Work and Contact Pages

8.12.2020

I continued to the last chapter, which seemed pretty easy, since the video was less than 10 minutes long. I had never used github repositories, so I just followed everything shown in the video very precisely. Despite all my efforts, I had some massive problems. On the first try, I used my old github account. I wasn't able to even open "konstanen.github.io/...", because my browser for some reason would automatically redirect me to my own site, "konstanen.me", because I had gotten the domain via github's student pack.

Then I tried to create another github account and make a brand new repository. That didn't work, because the terminal I was using remembered every command I had just done, so basically there was data saved in somewhere that was now just

an obstacle for me. I had to learn some new commands from forums to remove unnecessary things, which was a hassle.

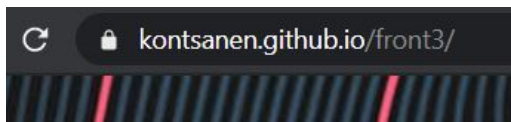
Moving on, now when I tried to push the data on to the new repository, Windows would now remember the credentials to my old github account. Again I used half an hour just to get rid of those. After that there was still some unsuccessful attempts. Finally, maybe 5th or 6th time after following the whole tutorial, I was able to publish the page.

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for a user named 'kontsanen'. The repository is on the 'main' branch, has 2 branches, and 0 tags. The commit hash is 29e7ba8, made 17 minutes ago, with 11 commits in total. The file list includes:

File	Commit	Time
dist	'finishedsite'	23 hours ago
scss	'finishedsite'	23 hours ago
.gitignore	'Index'	5 days ago
README.md	first commit	21 minutes ago
package-lock.json	first commit	21 minutes ago
package.json	'initialcommit'	17 minutes ago

The README.md file content is visible, showing a list of topics: "# front-end_course_contents", "# front-end-course", "# front-end-course", and "# frontend".

On the right side, the 'About' section is empty. The 'Releases' section shows 'No releases published' with a link to 'Create a new release'. The 'Packages' section shows 'No packages published' with a link to 'Publish your first package'. The 'Environments' section shows 'github-pages' as 'Active'. The 'Languages' section shows a bar chart with 'SCSS' at 100.0%.



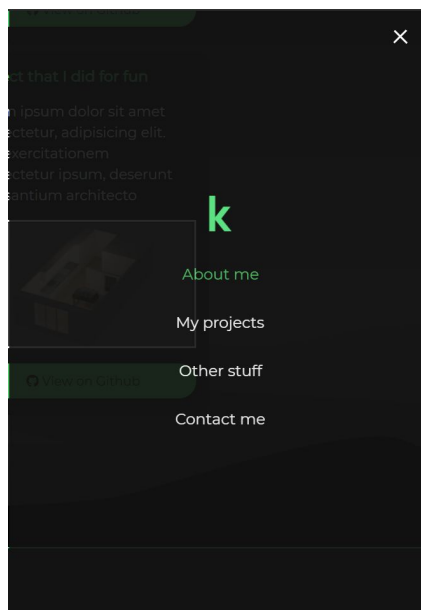
The project

9.12.2020

I sketched all the pages I was planning to create on paper. I planned to create a main landing page with a dynamic scroll animation on it. Then I would have 3-4 pages that would be pretty basic and simpler.

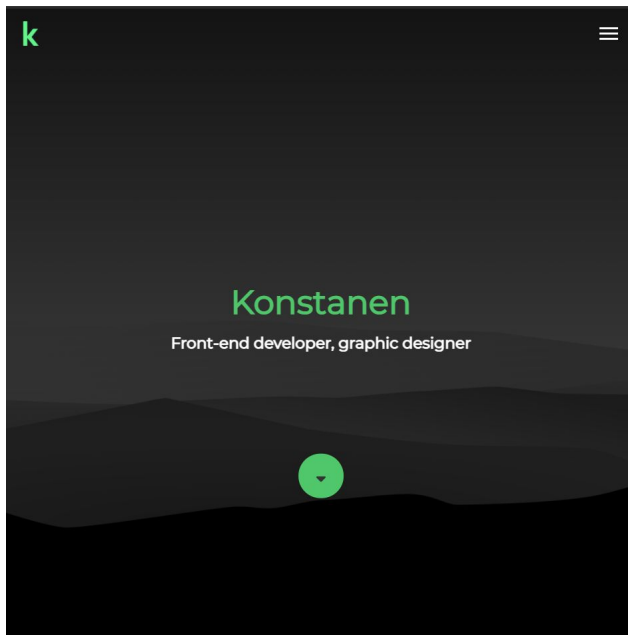
10.12.2020

I started with the menu, which was going to be identical between all the pages. It would slide from right on wide screens and from the top on narrower screens. I mostly used methods explained in the course material videos' menu chapters. The x is pretty much similar but I made it smaller. For that reason I had to play around with the transform values for a while.



I started with the main landing page. It will have 3 main elements. Elements 1 and 2 are exactly 100vh high. Element 3 will be as high as needed, so that it fits everything. Element 1 is fixed into place, and it contains the scrolling animation.

Element 2 is the main view that the browser lands on when the page is loaded. When scrolled, the element 2 goes upwards and it reveals the fixed element 1, and the scroll animation effect “plays”.



Element2, which is the initial view

The effect works by transforming the values of the elements by keeping track of the amount pixels scrolled and applying a new value every time. When the end of the animation is reached, the fixed element 1 changes its position-value to “absolute”, which makes it scrollable with the page.

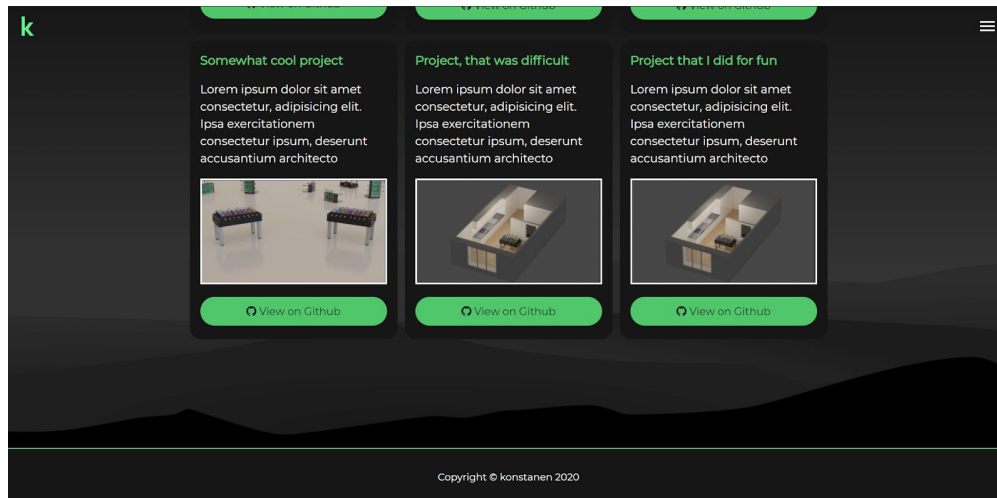
Scrolling more reveals the element 3, which contains everything else.

11.12.2020

I finished and polished the scrolling animation and the landing view. I also created the element 3, which now contains some info about me and a picture. Below those are boxes with info and buttons. The boxes will be placed next to or on top of each other, depending on the screen size. I used grid-template-areas for this.

12.12.2020

I continued with the projects-page, that will have containers with info about my projects. The boxes will be placed next to or on top of each other, depending on the screen size. I used grid-template-columns for this. I included the navigation system for this page too.



13.12.2020

I created the layout for pages “about”, “others”, and “contact”. Everything still needs some optimization and polishing. Overall the site looks pretty good already. Next I will have to find good pictures and add some text for my content sections.

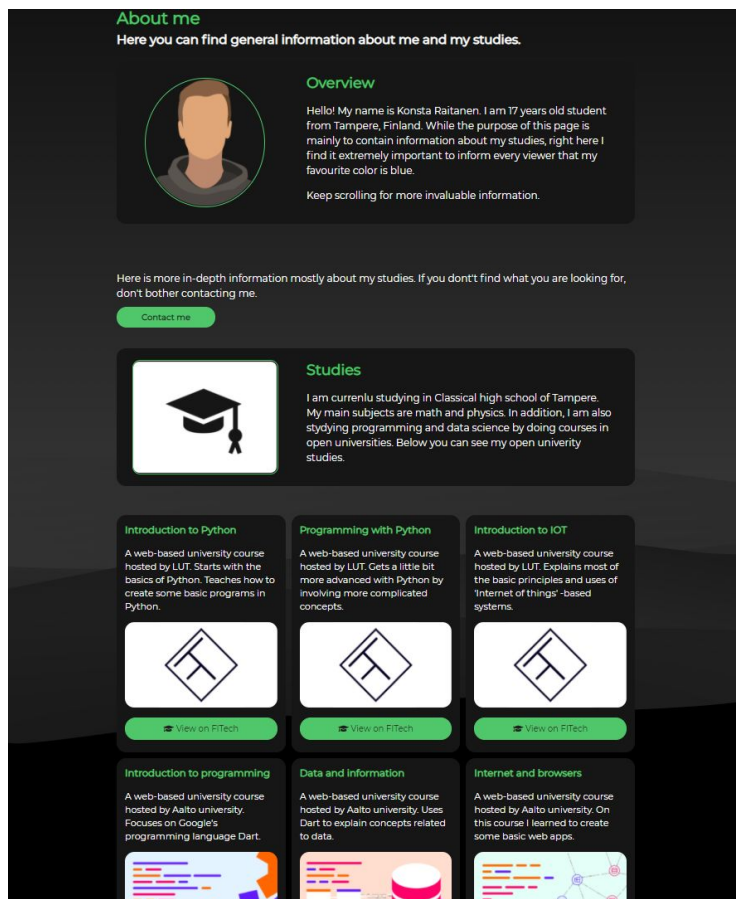
On the contact page I created this styled contact form:

A screenshot of a contact form titled 'Contact me' with the subtitle 'Here is a contact form to contact me'. The form is contained within a dark, rounded rectangle. It includes a 'Contact form' heading, a prompt to 'Submit for quickest response.', and input fields for 'Name', 'Email', 'Phone', 'Organization', and 'Message'. A green 'Submit' button is located at the bottom of the form.

14.12.2020

I polished all the pages with finished pictures and styles. I also redesigned the about-page which now has a bit better layout. I rewrote my js a little and made some fine modifications to the scss.

New layout displayed here:



15.12.2020

I checked everything and yet again fixed some little things in the code. I made a new repository and uploaded my files. I had some problems with this again but I managed to successfully deploy my site. I shared the link among my friends and asked them to playtest the site and check if they would encounter any bugs or other problems with their devices and browsers.

View on my mobile device looked just fine.

