LUT University Software Development Skills Front-End Online Course

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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**Starting the Course & Initial Goals**

Today marks the start of my journey into this course. I come with a background in front-end development from previous courses like the Introduction to Web-Programming at LUT University and FreeCodeCamp’s Front-End Development Libraries course. While I feel somewhat prepared, I’m eager to expand my knowledge, particularly in areas I haven’t fully mastered.

One of my primary objectives is to strengthen my understanding and application of Sass, which I’ve touched on before but never fully integrated into my workflow. I see this course as a perfect opportunity to solidify those skills and ensure I can apply them effectively in future projects, whether personal or professional.

**Video 1 – Introduction to Workflow and Sass**

With my goals set, I dived into the first video, which covers the essential tools and workflow setup for the course. I opted for Visual Studio Code as my editor, a familiar choice for me. Most of the tools mentioned, like Git and Node.js, are already part of my development environment. The video offered a refresher on how Sass works, particularly how it compiles into .css files. Revisiting this concept reminded me of the potential Sass has in streamlining my CSS workflow, something I hadn’t fully grasped before.

**Video 2 – Homepage Design and Sass Basics**

Following the setup, I proceeded to the second video, which introduced the initial homepage design using Sass. The structured approach Sass offers, like variables and nesting, stood out to me. These features not only enhance the clarity of the code but also make the styling process more efficient. It was an eye-opener, showing how much I had overlooked these advantages after my initial exposure to Sass in the past.

As I worked through the example, I found myself increasingly convinced of the benefits of Sass over regular CSS. It’s amazing how quickly the knowledge resurfaced and how immediately applicable it felt. I’m looking forward to exploring more complex Sass features in the upcoming lessons.

**Date: 24. June 2024**  
**Video 3 – Implementing a Rotating Menu Button**

Today’s focus was on creating a rotating menu button, guided by the third video in the series. One of the key takeaways was a reminder that even seasoned developers encounter bugs and glitches, which can be frustrating but are part of the learning process. This video deepened my understanding of Sass, particularly the

selector, which is a powerful tool for targeting elements in a sequence.

This video reinforced my growing preference for Sass. Its capabilities go far beyond what I’ve been doing with plain CSS, and I’m starting to see how I can use it to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of my projects.

**Video 4 – Menu Overlay & Responsive Design**

The fourth video delved into making the site more dynamic and responsive. I learned about the translate3d property, which adds smooth transitions to elements, making the page feel more interactive. The video also covered responsive design techniques, an area I’ve always wanted to improve upon. I ran into a small issue with the navigation item transitions, which I traced back to a typo in my JavaScript file—a quick fix but a valuable lesson in attention to detail.

This session highlighted how crucial responsiveness is in modern web design, and I’m determined to apply these techniques in my future projects to ensure they look great on any device.

**Date: 27. June 2024**  
**Video 5 – Structuring Pages with CSS Grid**

Today’s lesson focused on using Sass to implement CSS Grid, a feature I’ve been eager to master. The video also emphasized the importance of ensuring that designs are adaptable to different screen sizes, something I’ve been guilty of neglecting in the past. This lesson made me rethink my approach to front-end design, particularly the need to plan for responsiveness from the start.

**Video 6 – Developing Work and Contact Pages**

The sixth video was about building out the work and contact pages of the site. While much of the content was a continuation of previous lessons, it reinforced the importance of maintaining a consistent and clean design. I took a closer look at the compiled CSS from my Sass code and found that I much prefer working directly in Sass due to its cleaner syntax and more efficient workflow.

**Post-video Personalization**

After completing the coding videos, I spent some time customizing the project to better reflect my personal style. Here’s what I changed:

* Adjusted the color scheme to a darker palette with deep red accents.
* Added a new page featuring a slideshow, inspired by the techniques covered in the course.
* Replaced placeholder text with my own information for a more personalized touch.
* Added a JavaScript function to dynamically update the copyright year.
* Opted for a different font that I feel better suits the overall aesthetic.

**Video 7 – Deployment**

Finally, I tackled the deployment process. Initially, I encountered an issue with the way I had set up my links, which didn’t work well in the deployment environment. After some troubleshooting, I realized the root of the problem and made the necessary adjustments.

Deploying with gh-pages was straightforward, and I appreciated how it streamlined the process by creating a separate branch in my GitHub repository. Having used GitHub Pages before, I was familiar with the process, but it was still rewarding to see the final product live online.

**Conclusion**

Overall, this course has been incredibly valuable, reinforcing and expanding upon my existing knowledge. While much of the material was familiar, the deep dive into Sass has been particularly enlightening. I now feel more confident in my front-end development skills and am excited to continue using Sass in my projects, appreciating the efficiency and structure it brings to my workflow.