

Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

**Martin Dahlström-Heuser**

**LEARNING DIARY,**

**CT70A9110 Software Development Skills: Front-End**

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I have read the general information on the course and familiarised myself with the way the projects should be accomplished. I decided for the Atom code editor since I already had it installed on my macbook air laptop. I checked that Git was already installed. I installed Bitbucket and learned the basics. I then installed Sourcetree, set it up with Bitbucket and tested how to clone files from one to the other.

After setting up the programming environment and without learning it fully, I went on to the next task, namely "Introduction to workflow and sass." From the YouTube video, I was surprised to see that there is a format called "scss" instead of the old "css." I was even more surprised after seeing that "sass" is something else. I'm sure I'll get the hang of it with some practice. I can see that "scss" files ultimately are compiled into simple "css" files for deployment. I installed VS Code and Node JS to make it easier to follow the instructions from in the video, in addition to extensions in VS Code. All tasks from the video were completed and everything worked fine on my computer.

1 Nov 2023

Today I started part 2 of the video lessons "Homepage and Core Sass/CSS". After so many days, I am having difficulty getting Visual Code to refresh my example webpage automatically. I am also puzzled by how to get the css file to affect the html one. Going back to the first video I was finally able to run npm to compile the sass file into the main css one.

3 Nov 2023

I have finished Video 2 and implemented all the changes. I've had problems with adding a background image to "home" but after analysing the html code I found that I was missing the part that connected the html tag to bg-XXXXXX in the SCSS file. I happy to learn that the SCSS code can be broken down into sections, added to a different starting with "\_" and imported into the main scss with @import.

6 Nov.

Started video 3 and added a menu button. Got used to using the command "npm run sass" on terminal every time scss to css doesn't work. I have spent quite some time trying to understand the @import and @mixin commands and the reason for the use of partials, that is, sass files with names starting with an underscore ("\_").

11 Nov

I have finished editing the menu button and added rotation to it so it becomes an X when clicked. Started video 4, and worked on the overlay and finished it. The Menu is not really sliding in from the right and I was unable to identify any error in the code. Also, I had to use different sizes in pixels, and I can only imagine that is because of the smaller size of my screen compared to the one in the examples.

Another problem that makes me concerned is that my browser window is not changing sizes to small, it gets stuck at some size that is bigger than smartphones. I finished the video and will get back to these problems further on.

20 Nov 2023

Video 5 was pretty straightforward and useful in the sense of organising content through grids. The details shown in the video are some of the most visible on the final product.

24 Nov 2023

Today I watched video 6 and added new pages for Contact and Work to the website, with different forms of responsiveness according to screen sizes and so finished the entire example website. I had never seen examples of how to use "span" before and was very pleased at what an easy solution it is. I had a tiny problem with the menu link going back to home, which was not working on some pages, but that was easily fixed by adding "index.html" to the hyperlinks on each page. Next I will watch the last video on how to deploy the website and think about my own personalised project to finish the course.

Also, thinking about the Javascript code, I haven't really understood why it had to be added. So I'll go back to it to understand the logic behind it.

4 Dec 2023

Getting github to work with VS code and terminal was really difficult. I had to learn how to create a public key and install it and then my remote repository was wrong so I had learn how to change it. After a few hours of trial and error, and many tutorials I finally managed to get everything to work.

7 Dec 2023

To develop my project, I copied all the files from the coursework to a new folder. I imagine that when I complete it, I will upload one folder to Github with the two projects and necessary files. I'll commit the entire main folder with all files and publish only my personal project as a webpage. I hope it is OK to just modify the existing code instead of recreating everything from scratch. I will try to make sure to keep the code clean and delete all parts that are not in use.

For my project, I will folow these criteria:

- White background
- Menu on the top left on normal screens and on the bottom right for smartphones.
- Smaller fonts and more discreet aspect overall.
- More subtle motion effects.
- A dark-mode toggle.

8 Dec 2023

I copied code from a tutorial w3schools for the dark mode but I cannot change the background. The font colour is changing, though. I analysed the code but still cannot find what is wrong.

9 Dec 2023

The solution to the background problem was simple. I deleted the background image (which is not something I really liked). So now the only thing I need to solve in relation to that is a few color changes, like the icons and the menu link. I am aware that anytime I move to different pages, they will have a white background again, and I am not sure I'll be able to store that choice across pages.

12 Dec 2023

I found a different solution for dark mode that I am going to try today. It uses local storage to maintain dark mode across different pages. It is working fine and I even managed to add a transition which only works when toggling dark mode but not vice-versa. I simplified the menu and removed the left side with the picture. This is more the style of website that I like. I decided to remove the transition to dark mode because while changing pages, there was a flashing of white. So now the change is immediate. I chose 50% grey for many elements of the website so that they work on both light and dark modes.

I will deploy the website again and soon submit it for grading.