Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Engineering Science

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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Git Repository: <https://github.com/mejaa123?tab=repositories>

Exercise url: <https://app.netlify.com/projects/resilient-sunshine-074eee/configuration/general>

Project url: <https://campervanrental.netlify.app/>

**LEARNING DIARY**

18.5.2025  
  
I began the course by reviewing the Course Overview and General Course Information pages. This helped me understand the course structure, the topics we would cover, and the key requirements. As someone with no prior experience in software development, building web pages was entirely new to me. My main goal was to learn the basics of front-end development, develop my problem-solving skills, and understand the logic behind different coding solutions.

I watched the Intro to Version Control video and followed the instructions carefully. I successfully installed Git and Visual Studio Code (VS Code), and the tutorial helped me understand how to use both programs. It gave me a solid foundation for starting the coursework.

19.5.2025  
I chose VS Code as my code editor. Initially, I struggled to understand why and how Git was used alongside VS Code for the first task. After rewatching the Intro to Version Control, I finally understood the connection between the tools and Git’s role in managing project versions. I learned to create folders and files in VS Code, which went smoothly. I also discovered Emmet, which introduced useful coding shortcuts which was completely new knowledge for me.

20.5.2025

I was able to use Git without problems, but I hit my first major challenge when trying to download image assets. The copy-paste function didn’t work as shown in the video, and I spent the entire day troubleshooting. Eventually, I solved the issue by copying the images directly into my computer’s folder instead of trying to do it through VS Code. I also learned how to build a navbar, which was another new concept for me.

21.5.2025

Continuing with the video, I learned to add fonts from Google. It was easier than expected, though I’d still need a guide to do it again. Step by step, I followed the instructions and progressed slowly to avoid getting lost. I consistently used the “git add” and “git commit” commands to save my progress locally.

22.5.2025

Following the videos, I began to understand how the website is constructed and which tools or languages are used for different elements of design and functionality. Earlier in the course, I followed instructions without understanding their purpose. Now, I feel I’ve gained a much clearer picture of the overall process.

24.5.2025

Sometimes the videos moved too fast, especially during the CSS styling of the FAQ section. I overcame this by rewatching parts until I understood the steps. This taught me both patience and persistence.

25-26.5.2025

While working on the final tasks on building the mobile menu and deploying the site, I began to see how everything fit together. I assumed the mobile menu had to be built in a separate folder, but I was surprised at how seamless the process was. Deployment to GitHub and Netlify was more challenging than expected, as the interface had changed since the video. Still, I was able to publish my site successfully after figuring out the updated layout.

28.5.2025

As I started my personal project, I struggled with using images other than the ones from the tutorial. After some consideration, I decided to stick with the same images as in the example video. With a stronger grasp of how HTML and CSS work together, I was able to follow the videos and make some customizations more confidently. It was exciting to apply my creativity, even though I know I still have much to learn.

30.5.2025

I styled the navbar using CSS and learned different ways to style text with various formats. I discovered W3Schools.com, which became a helpful resource, especially for adding button icons with HTML.

2.6.2025

I realized that trying to modify the code while watching the tutorial videos was inefficient and slowed me down, so I changed my approach. Instead, I began by copying the tutorial code and then focused on customizing it to reflect my own ideas. Following the Parallax Tutorial, I learned how to add a new Hero image and successfully created and exported my own logo into the project. I also managed to replace the provided images with a video image, which helped me develop several new skills. Although I’m not fully satisfied with the layout and colour choices, I’m proud of having taken the initiative to add original elements and push my learning further.

3.6.2025

I modified the FAQ section to fit my project and had no trouble updating the content. When working on the footer, I learned that I needed a white-font logo to contrast with the black background, since my original one blended in. I’ve learned that hands-on problem-solving is essential and that trial and error is the best way to improve. Adjusting the Hero image for mobile was particularly tricky, and although I wasn’t completely happy with the result, I settled on using the same version as in the desktop layout.

10.6.2025

I created a slideshow by searching for information in the course book and on web pages. I watched some tutorials and took advice on how to build a slideshow, and I succeeded, although I’m not satisfied with the outcome. There’s a gap between the container and the slideshow, and I tried my best to hide it, but I couldn’t find the answer.

I also made some changes to the Hero buttons and the Hero text to make the web page look more professional and learned some new skills when using Font Awesome icons. I also tried to fix the right margin in my mobile version. At first it was similar to the video, but as I made changes to my project, the page layout changed. Even though I searched for advice in the course book and on the internet, I couldn't find the error.

12.6.2025

I pushed my code to GitHub repository. I had to do it twice, because the first time my readme image was incorrect. I had to search for information on how to remove the previous remote origin from my repository to push the new one to the remote repository. Again, I learned something new about GitHub.

Overall thoughts

Overall, I’m proud of what I’ve learned. I now have some understanding of how HTML, CSS, and JavaScript work together. While I know my project isn’t perfect, especially in terms of button behavior, color mismatch, and screen layout, I also know that refining it would require many more hours of practice. Still, this course has given me a great foundation and sparked my interest in continuing to learn what front-end is and how it is built.