LUT-yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Sofware Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FULL STACK MODULE

LEARNING DIARY

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I started working on the course by reading the general information -section and installing needed software. I have had some experience with GIT previously with github so I chose to utilize github as my version-control tool. I chose VScode as my code editor since I'm most familiar with it. I took some time to install Node.js, npm, and npx on my laptop.

Next, I started working on the module tasks. I first read a little bit about MEAN-stack and Angular since I hadn't heard of them. I have used other elements of the MEAN-stack (MongoDB, Express.js, and Node.js) and I assume I will learn to use Angular during this course, which I'm looking forward to.

The first Node.js exercises didn't really contain any new information for me, but it was a nice refresher. Using Heroku was new to me and it was a nice exercise of using GIT with something other than github.

15.11.

It took some time for me to learn how to commit folder structures into GitHub. Previously I have just pushed a single application into a repo, so this was new for me.

16.11

I watched the MongoDB crash course video while also trying the commands presented on my own computer. I have used Mongo previously within Node.js web applications so it wasn't new for me, although I haven't used Mongo in the shell much so it was a nice exercise of the basic commands of mongo and usage of them.

I also added the commands used in the video as a text file to my coursework folder in my GitHub repo so that I can refresh my memory later if I forget some of the commands.

22.11.

I started working on the ExpressJS task module. The subjects of this module were mostly familiar to me. I had not used handlebars as a view engine and it seemed to be pretty handy. I did learn some new ways to write html (like that writing .container gives you <div class="container">). Using routers and creating APIs was nothing new to me but all together the crash course was a nice refresher.

I added the codes I wrote while watching the course to my Github repo. That process was now much easier than on the first time, since I already knew how to do it.

8.12.

I started working on the Angular module. Angular is completely new to me, but so far it seems to have atleast some similarities to REACT which I do know. Since Angular is completely new to me I took some time to read the Getting started with Angular -guide.

At first I was worried about the use of Typescript in Angular, but the tutorial seems to be very detailed so that was no problem at all. So far it seems like Angular has many things that function differently from REACT, although they accomplish the same functionality. Atleast the idea of components is similiar to REACT so it was easy to comprehend for me. Sharing data between components was also somewhat similar to REACT.

I managed to complete the first four sections of the tutorial today and will continue it later.

9.12.

I continued working on the Angular module. So far it seems like Angular accomplishes everything REACT does but adds a bit more complication into each step (just for example

in picture 1 getting url parameters in Angular is like something straight out of Java [not good]).

Picture 1. Getting url parameters in Angular components.

I understand that someone might prefer Angular over REACT but it's not my cup of tea so far. Anyways, I completed the Angular module. The tutorial was very detailed and easy to follow, although Angular itself was not the easiest thing to learn (atleast some parts).

I added the Angular exercises to my github repo. I hope I will get to know Angular better in the following exercise.

10.12.

I started to work on the MEAN-stack module. Right away there was something new that I learned, since I hadn't previously put functions into the mongodb model/schema file. I don't know if that makes it any easier but it was something I had not done before. The structure of the queries remains very similar in the users.js file so it really makes no difference.

It was very frustrating to get the authentication working. I had to have passport version 0.4.1 (not the newest version) installed for it to work as instructed in the tutorial.

Also I didn't get the frontend working unless I changed the Typescript dependency to the most recent version. This tutorial seems to have a lot of problems…

11.12.

I finished the MEAN-stack module. If you disregard the problems I think the module was good. I had some problems with the AuthService module, however it turned out to be my

own mistake since I had a typo in the loggedIn() function (it was capitalized ie. 'LoggedIn()').

By following the tutorial it was easier to understand how to work with Angular in practice. After completing the tutorial I think I'm beginning to like Angular more than after completing the Angular module. I especially liked the routing. It seemed maybe even easier than routing in REACT.

I added the codes to my repo and also copied them into a separate project folder. I will be building some sort of mockup social-media site on top of the MEAN-stack application as my project. With this great framework I hope to complete the project next week.

13.12.

I started working on my project. So far I'm really liking ngModel it seems really intuitive. Setting up new services and components is really beginning to be pretty easy after both of the Angular tutorials.

I'm already currently making a React based app which is a code posting site -mockup, so I will be using it as a basis for my project. It is a nice challenge to implement the frontend with Angular. So far it has been manageable.

I had some problems with refreshing the template after posting new content. It turned out that ChangeDetectorRef.detectChanges() was the thing I needed. With that I can have the posts tefresh when user posts a new post.

16.12.

I added some code highlighting with highlight.js. I think I'm now done with the project. I'm going to record a clip of it working to youtube and make the final commit.

In hindsight I'm just going to say that at first Angular seemed very intimidating, but it turned out to be pretty logical and intuitive, once you get to know the basics. Other modules were already pretty familiar to me, although the MongoDB model left me with a nice commands cheatsheet that is most likely going to be useful sometime in the future.