Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

Tampereen Yliopisto, tietojenkäsittelytiede

FinTech

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONTENDS MODULE

13.5
Activity: Reading trough course information and setup (20min):

I started by reading the course instructions and read the moodle page throughout.
I planned on recording the amount of time used for each part of the course.
I set up a git repository for the project and exercises.

I'm very impressed with the course so far. I'm used to doing courses that have bad instructions, having a lot of time downloading different software and trying to understand the given assessments and mission statements. This time I had no trouble reading the instructions and the setup was easy to do.

Activity: Part1, video lecture (1h,15min):

I started by watching the Part1 video. I'm choosing vscode as my code editor.
I found the video easy to follow. However, I had some trouble with cmd terminal and commands due to differences of a newly updated windows version, but it didn't distract the process much.
I really liked the way the creator of the video explained the vscode shortcuts that he used.

Activity: Part2, video lecture (1h,10min):

Today I learned to setup a sass project. I also learned new shortcuts that are very useful for the course project as well as other vscode projects. Creating a template html is way faster with the shortcuts.

14.5
Activity: Part3, video lecture (35min)
This wasn't a very interesting part. However, the translate method is probably very useful for my own project. I got some transition ideas for the project, the closing down button

could be useful. Sass seems to handle transitions very well compared to plain js and css. I learned to use the translate method.

15.5

Part4, video lecture (1h, 40min):

Had some trouble with the list view. The contents of the navbar list are not shown as they were in the video. I had to watch the video again to fix this.
I resolved this issue by watching the 2nd part again. I noticed that I had created a new ul-list for each menu item. This was wrong and I edited the program accordingly.
There were other complications, since I named the list-items to 'list-items' instead of 'list-item'. I noticed this as I watched the previous parts again.
This part was harder to do, since I had trouble with the previous parts. I managed to fix them, but there's a slight problem in the animations/translations.

This part showed that it is important to name functions and variables accurately. I wanted to name some variables and functions different than in the video, which is better practice for the sake of good programming principles. However, following the instructions was harder. I planned on using the same variables and function names than in the lectures from now on.

Part5, video lecture (40min):

Created function for setting text color. This ensures that the page switches colors accordingly, when set for a darker/lighter color.
I noticed that I have bad pictures for this project. The pictures are not scaling very well. I'm going to make sure that my pictures are on point in my own project.
Otherwise, this part was easy, and I learned to use css grid layout and the use of template areas. This is something that I have struggled with, so the video was a good reminder of the css I have learned in the past.

Part6, video lecture (40min):

I noticed that navigation between pages does not work. This probably happened because I run the page locally. After spending a bit of time, I managed to get the navigation working and noticed that it does not matter whether I'm running the program locally or not.
Using different layout tools helps to figure out in which they are useful. Grid might be a better solution for cases where the children must be in an exact position.

Part7, video lecture (1h, 7min):
Github pages setup didn't work as expected. I noticed that I haven't set up the repository accordingly. I had to watch multiple youtube videos to find out the problem.
Finally, I found the answer by trying to find the 'dist' folder.
Github pages has updated since the video was posted for the first time, therefore, it didn't work as in the video lecture.

Despite the problems, I learned that Github pages is a very useful for hosting web apps and I'm going to use to display my own projects. I also learned that searching for answers from multiple sources is needed when the main source is not updated to recent changes.

16.5
Activity: Editing learning diary, setting up a new repository (40min):

Next, I'm going to start my own project.
I start the document by doing a new index.html file.
Had trouble with git. I did a new repository for the course and added the exercise code (parts 1-7) there. I had to create a new repository. This is very bad since I did the commits locally, and I have no idea how to get them to a new repository. Since this took a lot of time to do, I finally planned to just focus on the project and ensure the commits are pushed accordingly to github every time I do something worth committing.

Activity: First design + Coding (3h):
I decided to do a similar home page as in the exercises, but with a different design.
I set up a new project and downloaded sass etc. I did the same structure as in the exercises (parts 1-7).
Firstly, I did navigation between pages. I committed and pushed the sample navigation.

Next, I tried to add styling to the navigation. I googled for a font and downloaded it. However, the font didn't show up on the page. I resolved the issue by finding an url for an api, rather than downloading and adding the font directly to the project. I also learned that the api does not work without internet connection, so running locally without internet does not work.
Next, I'm going to implement a parallax image to the site.

17.5

Activity: Adding a parallax image to project (30min):
I watched the parallax image instruction video which was linked on the course page.
It wasn't very hard to create a parallax image using the instructions. I spent a little time finding out a good image for the project.

Activity: designing the site and blog cards (30min):

The next part is to figure out what to do with the site. Since I currently have no idea what to do with the site, other than the home page, I searched for ideas from the web.
After a while I planned to do a movie and series reviewing page template, which has a home page, a movie ranking page, a series ranking page and a blog page.

I started out by designing the blog page first. I found a good blog card template, which I copied to the project. I didn't like some parts of the design, so I altered it a little.
At this stage, I'm going to commit. The site now has navigation, a home page and a blog page with cards.

Activity: Adding more pages to the site + footer + navigation fix (2h):

Next, I'm going to do a movies/series ranking list pages. Ranking top 10 movies and series. I did an animated list which appears from right to left when the user switches to the page.

I noticed that the navigation page does not show the current clicked page.
I resolved the issue by creating hover effects to the nav bar, so the user would know in which part of the page they are on.

I wanted to implement the footer next. The idea was to create a sticky footer on the bottom of the page, that does not move when scrolling.

I fixed blog card sizes a little and added them to grid. Grid layout makes the design look cleaner and adding new cards is easy. I tested how the page would look if there were a lot of blog cards, resulting in a clean look.

19.5
Activity: Adding animation and fixing nav bar (2h, 30min):

The nav bar is not showing when scrolling down. This is the next thing I'm working on improving. I also fixed the header to stick on top, even when scrolling down.

Adding animation to the text is harder than expected. Having problems with animating the lists and texts. Trying to find info from the web and the parts 1-7.

I wanted to do a cool hover effect for the nav bar. I tried to find an example from the web. Reaktor's site has an underlining effect for the nav bar. I wanted to copy this idea. However, when trying out effects, I noticed that the "after" effects are not working for some kind of reason. I'm not going to look for the answer any longer, since I have spent over an hour trying to figure out the problem. I'm going to skip the underlining effect for now.
Back to the text animations. I want to slide the lists from right to left when clicked into site. After 30 minutes of searching for information, I noticed that my problem was in js DOM. After giving each list item the class of 'appear', the animation suddenly works. I'm very happy with the result and wanted to add animation for all the pages.

Next I'm going to implement animation to the blog page. I want the blog pages to appear one in a time from the bottom to top. This was very easy to do after the texts.
I also changed the header slightly lower, since the elements were too close together.

30.5

Activity: Reading notes and fixing problems in the page (1h)
I started by reading my notes from couple previous days, since I haven't worked for over a week. My plan is to improve some of the transitions and create animation for the home page also.

I started by adding animation to the front page. I really liked the way the blog page appears from the bottom of the screen to the top. I'm going to try the same for the home page. I tested out both, transforming from bottom to top and from right to left. The animation looked better when transforming from right to left.

I had to watch the part4 video again to find out how to adjust to different screen sizes.

Problem:
Footer moving on top of other text when scrolling down.
Fix: Adding 'relative' keyword so the footer will not collide with other elements

Problem: The code has very little comments and the text is pretty much only template
Fix: Commenting code and adding better text to the site.

Problem: Current selected nav bar item not showing visually to the user.
Fix: Adding response to nav bar items and coloring the selected button differently from others

Problem: Home page animation looks a bit weird when loaded in
Fix: Changed the animation to appear slower to the screen

After finding these problems and fixes, it is time to commit and push the changes.

6.7
Activity: Editing the learning diary (1h 30min)
There has been a lot of time since I did the project last time. The deadline is due to next week therefore, I'm not going to make big changes to the project unless they are needed. Today I'm going to focus on the learning diary.

Activity: Transitions and blog page updating (1h)

I think the home page still misses some transitions. For example, the h1 title does not have any animation. An ease-out effect could make the page more alive. After spending around 30 minutes figuring out which js selector I should use, I finally managed to add an appear class to all the headings. Now the titles are also animated on screen when first loading to the site and while navigating between the pages.

The blog page needs updating. The footer is not sticking in the bottom of the page and the blog cards are too apart from each other in big screen sizes. In addition, the blog cards are showing on top of the nav bar, which is not intentional.

10.7
Activity: Fixing footer + positioning the blog cards (30min)
Start by fixing footer to stick on bottom. This was rather easy after a few minutes of googling.
Next, I want to continue by fixing the blog cards showing on top of nav bar.
Having trouble with positioning the blog cards. I forgot to put grid template areas.
No fixes to the problem yet.

11.7
Activity: Blog page cards layout + fixing elements colliding with each other (2h)

Trying to find an example of a blog page from the web. I noticed that I had forgot to put z-index for the header. Now it stays fixed on top of everything.

Now I'm testing out whether all the elements are scalable.
The blog page looks odd when screen size is wide. The cards are too wide apart from each other. This should be fixed. The fix was to set more blog cards on the same row when using a wider screen and 1 column for mobile size for example.
I'm going to add variations for different screen sizes.
Mobile screens are now working correctly with the blog page. All the cards are placed in one column. However, there seems to be a problem where the animations mess up with the screen size resulting an option for scrolling sideways. This fixed itself when changed the animation appearing from right to left from outside of screen. This is fine for now.

12.7:
Activity: Adding a slideshow page (2h)

I want to add more pictures with the parallax effect.
I settled on doing an image slideshow.
I had problems with the animations. Trying to use sass for the image slideshow, the example video in the course page is pure css. The pure css doesn't work properly since the pictures are animating in top of each other.
The animation starts correctly sliding through each picture. After the last one it is supposed start from picture 1. It plays correctly but on top of it there is another sliding picture going from left to right in top of the image.
The problem was in the animation timings. And the picture didn't disappear. Now it does.
I deleted some unnecessary code from the navbar. With the images page ready, I'm going to commit my changes before moving onto the next problem.

Activity: Navbar sizing (3h)

I noticed that the navbar needs some gap between buttons on smaller screen sizes.
Responding to different screen sizes.
The blog page is now responsive. It shows 1-4 blog cards in the same row depending on the screen size. The navbar is still showing buttons on top of each other in small screen sizes. The font size is adjusted for tablets and smartphone screen sizes. The font is now a bit bigger.
1hour of trying to fix the nav bar sizing. The responsive navbar is creating a lot of problems. Maybe it shouldn't be flex on smaller screen sizes. I decided to add a hamburger menu for mobile screen size and have the menu appear on top of everything when open. This is basically the same kind of menu than in the exercises, so I'm going to copy a lot of code from there.
I'm trying to figure out how make the hamburger hidden when the screen size is big. This problem could be fixed with enabling the menu only if the screen size is smaller than set number of pixels.

Had problems with the current active item not shown. I realized that in mobile there is no need for hover effects.

18.7
Activity: Editing diary (30min)
After being dropped out from the course area and nearly giving up on the course completely, it is time to do minor fixes and then submit the project.

Activity: Commenting code + finding image (40min)
Adding more comments to js files and scss file. Had to find a new picture for the parallax image. Added more height to it and removed borders for a better scrolling effect. Added author names visible for copyright reasons.
Adjusted slideshow image sizes a little thinner, since the padding of the main makes the page scrollable sideways. Now the images look better.

Activity: Navigating between pages and ensuring everything works (15min)

Navigation works accordingly. Switching to different screen sizes scales the elements well. It seems to be the time for committing and pushing.

Activity: Setting up github pages for the project (10min):
GitHub pages works. However, the font seems to not be working, resulting in an issue.

19.7

Activity: Returning the course work (1.5h)

Having problems with recording. OBS needs a new driver to work. Recording in Teams results in a bad quality video.
Recorded with OBS studio and posted on YouTube.