Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

FiTech

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, CT70A9110 MODULE

Date : 8.2.2024

Activity : Course start, setup and first two video lectures

Learning outcome: I had not heard about Sass before, it will definitely change how I work with CSS in the future

Date : 10.2.2024

Activity : Video lectures 3 and 4, began project work

Learning outcome: Learned to properly do nesting with HTML and Sass. Transformations and responsive site design using CSS or Sass was also something new to me.

Date: 11.2.2024

Activity: Video lecture 5, working on my project

Learning outcome: Learned to use CSS grid

Date: 13.2.2024

Activity: Final two video lectures, more project work

Learning outcome: Learned more about CSS and Flexbox

Date: 15.4.2024

Activity: Project work

Learning outcome: Sass nesting, and why using a calendar is a good idea

Date: 16.4.2024

Activity: Finishing project

Learning outcome: HTML/CSS/JavaScript debugging, and how to use Github Pages

**LEARNING DIARY**

8.2.2024  
  
First, I set up my development environment for the course, which was a quick task of just checking my used plugins in Neovim, and starting a new local repository for the course. After that, I made an Atlassian account to use BitBucket, and started this very diary. After these tasks, I studied the first two lecture videos.

The first lecture was pretty simple, I learned that Sass is a thing. Will definitely use it in future projects, before I have not enjoyed using pure CSS too much, so this can be quite a game changer for me.

The second lesson was a bit more challenging, but at the same time more interesting. One major problem with the lesson is its age, so to get the same icons working I had to do some digging around. Also, the node-sass used in the lessons is pretty much deprecated, but the pure JavaScript implementation Sass-package (also available on npm) gets the same job done. I completed the home page HTML and main Sass, committed my work, and began looking forward to lesson number three.

10.2.2024

Watched lectures 3 and 4 back to back. Lecture 3 presented me with many concepts I had not used before, like building pure CSS/Sass menu button with minimal JavaScript and CSS transitions, gave me some new ideas that I need to try out in other projects. Also wrote the JavaScript code used in the class project in a bit more compact way, I’m not sure if this was not possible when the lessons were released.

Between the two lessons, I fixed some bugs I had managed to leave in my exercise project. Hunting the one misplaced closing HTML-tag that messes up the entire DOM is always a pleasure.

Lesson 4 centered around the menu overlay. The things I learned was the smart usage of nesting and Sass mixins. Getting the mixins to work was not as easy as in the video, due to the different Sass package I personally use. With the power of trial and error, I managed to get the\_mobile.scss file to compile correctly. The class project does not import the \_mobile.scss separately as it uses the node-sass which watches the entire folder; the Sass package I have in use watches only the main.scss, so the correct imports are important.

I began coming up with ideas for my own project, and also did some basic setup for it. The requirements for it are quite easy in my opinion, but I still want to do something fun and learn in the process.

11.2.2024

Took the time to complete lecture 5 today. The biggest gripe that I usually have with building front-end stuff is how the different elements are arranged nicely and how this arrangement can be made responsive. Previously, I never did it using pure CSS, and opted to use something like React or Angular to make it seem easier for me. However, after today’s lecture I realized that my problem was not with the tools, it had more to do with the fact that I didn’t know how to properly use CSS. The CSS’s grid system and is way more powerful than I had thought. A shame I had not picked them up earlier.

After the lecture, I spent around an hour with Bitbucket’s ridiculous SSH authentication problems. Managed to finally get my local repo pushed to remote, makes it easier to present the course work by quite a lot.

The project is beginning to take shape, or the HTML “skeleton” is at least. I decided to do an info-page about one of my favorite artists. This would give many opportunities for using images, and it would be something a bit different compared to the usual projects I’ve done on courses like this.

13.2.2024

Completed the final two lectures today. Element placement and alignment is something I’ve always struggled with previously, but I guess it just comes down to how good you are with the tools that you are using. Sass definitely helps out massively with styles, and it's a shame I haven’t picked it up earlier. But I completed the exercises, and did a little playing around with the exercise project, trying to see how my own project would benefit from today’s learning outcome.

The project is coming along nicely, the HTML is pretty much done for it, and now is the time to start styling them properly. I’ve defined classes and IDs for the elements, of course, but my Sass stylesheet is pretty much filled with experiments and nothing actually usable. But it is fun to experiment, and I might get some new ideas while doing that.

15.4.2024

Been awhile, my day job has kept my so busy that I’ve completely forgotten about this project. But well, just in time, two days before my deadline, I remembered.

The project needs just finishing, and testing, and that’s pretty much it. My Bitbucket started acting up again, so I moved everything to my personal Github; makes it easier to host the project as well. And I know how to use it better, so win-win I guess.

My major accomplishment for today was improving nesting with Sass. The project now begins to look the way intended, and it is responsive. The grid and flexbox I built earlier were easy to make responsive by correcting the nesting. The biggest issue now is the way how the footer and HTML-main element overlap sometimes; in addition, the backgrounds are a bit wonky also. Instead of fixing these things, I made an improved menu for the front page, with a title that follows the cursor (might never have the chance to do that again). A fun little detail, and I like the overlay menu it comes with.

There are still the few problems I need to address before submitting the project, hopefully in time.

16.4.2024

The day before deadline, and lots to do still. Luckily, it was all just debugging and making sure the responsiveness actually works as intended. After fixing a few things here and there, it seems to be working as it should.

Deployment to Github Pages was not as painless as I would have hoped. The images kept causing issues. It took me a few hours to get it all figured out and the page running the way I wanted. Now all that is left is to record my video for proof, share it, writing the readme, reporting my submission, and notifying the teachers via email.

Thank you for the course!