Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Software Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, Front - End MODULE

LEARNING DIARY

Part 1 & 2

12.5.2022

Signed up for this course to strengthen my front-end developing skills. I have already done quite a bit web developing but have been using a lot of bootstrap, so I'm not really confident with my css. Read through course information and found out that everything will be done with pure javascript, html & css, which I felt will be beneficial for me. Also excited to learn about responsive design with flex-box & grid, which is crucial at the present when we have devices with all different display sizes. Watched part 1 video and setted up a git repository for submissions. Picked Visual Studio Code as my editor because I'm most familiar with it. Everything went smoothly and made my first commit after the video.

Started to create a homepage for the website. Page html was pretty straightforward, although I found tutorial tempo to be a little too fast for me in that part and I slowed down couple of times to really think what I'm actually doing. Font awesome is used in the video for website's icons and its initialization has changed a bit from what was shown in the video - I installed a package with npm and used the link for the package in html head. Struggled a bit with the homepage background image not showing up, but resolved it by placing a img folder to correct place under the dist folder. Other than that it was mostly refreshing my memory with css and how things are getting done with sass. I also learned new things like the use of mixins and css -property transition which I think that could be used to enliven websites in many scenarios.

Part 3 & 4

16.5.2022

Worked on menu -button CSS and added a little bit of javascript to make button work as intended. Javascript was pretty simple, just query selecting elements from dom and adding & removing classes based on click of the menu button. With CSS transitions created an

effect where when the menu button gets clicked it rotates into X. I liked the effect a lot and already started to see how powerful css transitions can be. I think that these kinds of effects could catch the eye of the user compared to a solution where the menu button would just get changed to X on click.

Also added menu overlay and site responsiveness. Flexbox was used in the overlay but not really explained that well so I decided to take time off the tutorial and get to know flexbox and its properties. In css for the first time I used translate3d function for transform property to create sliding effects for the overlay. Also learned some sass related things like looping, nesting trick using &- and darken -function to make selected color darker. With use of media queries and sass mixins setted up template to apply screen size specific css which was quite a handy way to make the site look clean with different display sizes.

Part 5, 6 & 7

17.5.2022

The last parts of the tutorial focused mainly on ''display: grid'' and properties of it. Also learned few ways to deploy the website. Grid was explained quite well although I took some time to going through its properties like I did with flexbox because that was one of the main things I wanted to learn very well in this course. First I was a bit confused how the grid template areas worked on about page, but with help of chrome dev tools I understood that the 'bio' element actually stretches across two cells. Contact -page was created using flexbox and interesting thing was that it didn't need any media queries - flexbox took care of the responsiveness. I think that with help of this tutorial I'm now more confident to use my own styles and excited to work on the course project!

Project

25.5.2022

After the tutorial I took some time off from the course and worked on other stuff I had to do. Decided to stick with the portfolio theme as my course project as I haven't done anything like that and thought it could be useful in the future. Plan was to keep the same

page -structure as in the tutorial (home - about - contact - work) and add something eye-catching for every page with css. I will definitely use some parts of the example project in some way.

Searched color palette from google but in the end decided to stick with colors that were used in the tutorial and change those when everything is ready. Started to work on navigation bar, idea was to implement a regular sticky navbar to the top of the page and use media queries to make a mobile friendly one.

26.5.2022

Continued with the navigation bar. I tried first to use a grid with the navigation bar, but ended up doing it with the flexbox as it seemed to be a bit simpler. Surprised how hard the start of the project was, it took me hours to implement desktop version of the navigation bar but maybe things will speed up as I go along. Also added media queries to the navigation bar where when screen gets too small for navigation elements to fit one line, menu button appears in the corner and navigation elements are displayed top of the page. I can already feel that this project might take a while because I could see myself adding more and more stuff but maybe I'll deploy some kind of version in a course time frame and continue developing later!

6.6.2022

Wasn't really happy with how my menu looked so decided to simplify it. I had social media links & navigation in top menu so I moved social media links down to the footer and result was cleaner. I browsed through the internet to get inspiration for the home page but in the end added just portrait of mine and a little introduction text. I had a bit trouble with css attributes not being overridden as media queries applied, but sorted it out using ''!important" -tag although I have no idea if it is best practice to do so.

7.6

Worked on about -page. I planned to implement a scrolling banner of images which would contain logos of the technologies that I've been using and found a [tutorial](#) for it. I had to play a little bit with the attributes of the animation to make it responsive, but in the end got it done and I'm pretty pleased with the result.

17.6 - 19.6

Got the My Work -page done. I liked the template that was used in the example project for this section, so I decided to use that. Added possibility for the user to open a given project for a closer view in the pop up modal. For the first time I used html element ''dialog'' and utilized element attribute ''open'' to apply some animations when the modal is opened. Overall structure for the page got done, but didn't yet add project images & descriptions. Plan is to add those when I have everything else ready.

3.7

Reaching final stages of the project. Worked on HTML & CSS of the contact page, which will contain a form for sending email. I've been using grid for most of the pages so decided to give a shot for flexbox in this one. Got responsiveness sorted using "flex-wrap" property, initially elements are side by side and when space gets too small the flexbox wraps onto another line.

4.7

Got javascript for the contact page done. Implemented a little message for user to note that message has been sent. Message doesn't actually get sent anywhere at this point. I took a look for tools to send an actual email to the desired address, [EmailJS](#) looks promising and maybe I'll add it at some point. Tried to do the message pop up with dialog -html tag like in the work -page but had trouble with background being non clickable when message pops. Ended up just using div instead with the same attributes.

6.7 - 7.7

Added bio text and missing images to the project. Finding images from old projects turned out to be quite a challenge and those which I managed to find were all different sizes so scaling was worrying but in the end they didn't look that bad on the page that I imagined. After that everything major was done with the project and I ended up playing with the colors for a while. So far I had been using colors from the example project but didn't want to use those in the final version. Tried all sorts of color theme pickers from the internet but didn't really find a solution that would satisfy my eye. Ended up setting the primary color to a quite dark one mainly because I like dark schemes and picked a secondary color from there, which happened to be orangish.

As I deployed project to github pages I found out that I had set bad paths to images and a way I used font awesome didn't work in production. Luckily fixes were quite easy and I got everything working at github pages same way as locally. In the end the course was quite a good learning experience and hopefully in the future css will be less painful for me !