Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

University of Turku

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

03.06.2024 – Introduction

I am originally from University of Turku and I am participating to this course via FiTech
so the first thing to learn was to get familiar with LUT's Moodle and all other necessary
tools like Duo Mobile and so on. I had little trouble with understanding how to get to this
Moodle page but finally managed to find the right one. I went through the course schedule
and learning diary template so I would be ready to fully start this course in July. I decided
to keep little break from school stuff in June because I just started my first software
engineering trainee program and thought that it would be too overwhelming to study
alongside with it.

I needed 3 study points to fulfill my studies and decided to participate in a front-end course
since I want to learn more about CSS. It was only briefly mentioned in our full stack
course and I really want to develop my front-end skills so this is suitable course for me.
My learning goals are to learn how to make visually appealing webpage and also make it
as responsive as possible. I really would like to code my own CV or portfolio, so I think
this course is useful!

05.07.2024 – Environment setup + first video

I started this course finally. Environment setup was pretty easy because I had already Git Bash installed, and VS Code is my favorite editor, so it was natural choice for me. I started to watch the first video about sass workflow which was a new term for me.

Usually, I avoid using terminal and use for example file explorer or directly VS Code but now I learned how to create and open new VS Code file from Git Bash. It wasn't so hard after all but since I don't usually use it, it had become "mörkö" for me.

I learned a lot from the first video, for example I didn't now about the *#test+tab* or *!+tab* commands which help a lot to create base for html code! In addition, the LiveServer extension was new for me, and it will become quite handy with my future projects. I also learned that it is important to edit only the .scss file and not the compiled one.

Finally, I made my first commit including all the tasks mentioned in the first video! Overall, I am very pleased that I chose this course because the videos seem really easy to understand and I love that all things are clearly explained.

06.07.2024 – Second video

I usually code my frontend with JavaScript or TypeScript and in this course, only HTML is used. Although it is simple coding language, I haven't had much experience with it so it is nice to recap the basics. One fun thing to learn was that by typing component.class, you can use tab to autofill the HTML-code!

I learned how to use nesting in sass, it was quite different that I am used to with CSS but simpler in my opinion. In addition, I learned what rem means. I have used it but I really didn't know what it means. Usually though I use only pixels but rems make sense to me now. In addition, video explained very well what unit vh is! This video totally changed my mindset about using only pixels or percents.

Transitions were maybe the most important take-away for me from this video because I have wondered what they were in some example code. Also, I didn't know that they could be included with mixin rather than copy-paste with all the wanted components!

I had some difficulties this time, for example the background image didn't work for me but then I realized that body tag didn't have any id field. Also, the fontawesome website was updated so I had to register to get the embedded script for my code. Finally, I had to do little bit of googling to learn what pseudo-elements in CSS are, but I think I got the idea!

06.07.2024 – Third video

I think that it is important that video shows the importance of Chrome's developer tools because for me, I often forgot to look elements from there. Video showed me that it is much simpler to look the element hierarchy from there than from the code editor. For example, I had never used developer tools to detect button changes.

I learned how to use querySelector and actually it turned out to be quite simple. I think that I have made my previous fullstack code way too complicated because I haven't used much of querySelector. Again, the video lecturer explained this very well and thoroughly!

I think that the trick with CSS transitions to make menu button into X was really fun. I haven't heard about the translate function and added the mentioned page about these right into my bookmarks for future projects.

07.07.2024 – Fourth video

I learned a lot from the start of the video. I added translate3d() to my bookmarks because I think that the menu effect was really cool and I want to utilize it also in one of my old projects. I also learned what align-items and justify-content really do because for now I have only tried different numbers to get styling as I've wanted.

I got a little bit confused with the different ways of writing these components. For example, I didn't know what the difference is between &. and &- so I googled it. Now I know that &. Is used to add another class and with &- you can modify the ampersand.

I learned that you can use for example if and for sentences also in scss with @. This was new information for me and will become handy in the future! For loop seemed more complex in scss than for example in javascript but I think I got the idea. In addition, I learned a lot

about responsiveness for different screen sizes. This was actually one of the things that interested me the most to learn from this course. Therefore, the screen query mixins came really handy. I have implemented some responsiveness to my fullstack project but after this video I can do it simpler and prettier.

07.07.2024 – Fifth video

I learned that if you want the function to return something, it has to indeed be a function not a mixin. This is an important thing to remember. I also started to do coding so that I save the code after every line to actually see what everything does. This helps me to keep on track of everything.

I have had some problems with sticking the footer correctly in my other projects so I think that this video helped me to understand that logic better. In addition, I haven't noticed that there is a difference in which order you import something in SCSS so that was also important take-away!

Maybe the most important thing that I learned from this video is the use of grid-template-areas because I haven't used them before and this makes everything so much simpler.

07.07.2024 – Sixth video

I had little bit of trouble with not getting the work view shrink the images. I couldn't find the bug but then after many frustrations, I noticed that my main.scss had project although in html file it was projects…

A new thing that I learned was extending sass classes. This was done with buttons, and I think that it is much easier and prettier to do it like this rather than using copy-paste to each child class.

Again, regarding the responsiveness, I learned that it is simple to use own SCSS file for implementing responsiveness. If I remember right, I have just used one CSS file before and it becomes very difficult to read and very bloated.

07.07.2024 – Final video

I learned how to use GitHub pages. Also, I hadn't done this GitHub process in this order before where commits are done locally before repository is created so I also learned how to do that! Usually, I always create the git repository first and then start to commit and push changes.

I had some problems with getting this coursework into its own folder after pushing it to GitHub. I googled but it didn't work because VS Code kept saying that I don't have the right to do that. Then after restarting VS Code, I managed to do this.

I did my final commit with coursework and hosted live this demo and also initialized folder for my own project. I am thinking that I will create my own portfolio in this course to use it to seek for jobs. It has been in my to do -list for awhile so this is a good chance to develop it.

17.07.2024 – Initializing my own project

I finally had the time to start my own project for this course. As mentioned before, I decided to create a portfolio for my own projects and information so I created folder called my_portfolio and made first steps. They included initializing folder structure, creating node_modules and gitignore and also initializing git connection. I made my first commit for this project.

I am going to utilize tutorial for basic functionalities but in addition, I want to try some other styling options. I know that I want the site to have paths at least to GitHub and LinkedIn. I am going to select theme colors with help of Coolors.co which I found when I wrote my bachelor's thesis about web accessibility.

18.07.2024 – Home page and color palette

I finished my home page and chose my color palette. I wanted to go with violet, pink, dark blue theme and actually used similar colors that my VS Code theme uses. I had this vision of home page that my profile picture would be there with my name and title and all of them

would be in the middle of the page. I also added links to my LinkedIn and GitHub pages and tested that they actually lead to the right places.

I had to Google how to get all the text to the middle because it didn't do that with align-times. I tried to use position absolute but it didn't work like I wanted and then finally Google helped and I got it right.

I also consulted my friends with opinions of home page design and got green light, so I think I am going to leave it like that. I made my second commit about this.

04.08.2024 – Navigation menu

Today I styled the navigation menu. I decided to add responsiveness later and made only the top navigation menu bar for now. I wanted to keep the design simple and minimalistic and do something different than hamburger menu. I am going to add responsiveness so that when the screen width becomes smaller, the menu will change to a hamburger menu.

I think that since my home page is already quite visually appealing, animated and complex navigation menu would make page a little bit too much. Also, I don't want to cover my image and background behind menu screen so I am happy with my vision of top menu bar.

I had really busy summer at work and personal life, so I had to seek extra completion time for the course. Fortunately, I got time until the end of August, so I am able to finish the course!

14.08.2024 – About me page

Today's agenda included updating "About me" page. I wanted to do something different from the tutorial and decided to use accordions for work experiences. However, I have only my current work experience from IT field, so I added that and also my bachelor's thesis. I used grid for the overall layout of container and added Flexbox for alignment within the accordion elements.

I made good progress but also encountered some problems that need to be addressed later. Now when I open accordions, the background doesn't continue like I would like it to and there is gap between footer and body. Also, I am not sure if I want to keep the layout like it is so that still needs some thinking.

17.08.2024 – Responsiveness

Today's agenda was to add responsiveness to the app. I started by watching a YouTube video about responsive navigation menu because I wanted to create hamburger menu when using phone or tablet. I learned from the video that you can use developer tools in browser to see the screen like it is shown from different devices. That was very convenient, and I also got the right pixels for screen widths for my mixins.

I had some difficulties getting the background opacity and footer to cooperate. There was this annoying gap between them when I adjusted the screen but finally, I found out that it was due to some margins and managed to fix this. This same problem was present in "About me" page but that I fixed with setting background mixin's position to relative.

I added responsiveness for all the screen sizes and now the home and about me pages are completely done! I want to add also a third page for contact information so that is going to be added tomorrow. I am thrilled that the website looks so nice, and the project is almost done!

I ended up developing this even more later today by adding theme fonts to config file. I think that it is much easier to use them rather than setting the font-family from the list to everywhere.

18.08.2024 – Contact page and publishing the project

Today I developed the "Contact me" page. I wanted to keep it simple because I don't want to include too much of my personal information. Due to this, I decided to add only my email, telegram and links to GitHub page and LinkedIn. It was difficult to think design for this page since there is not much of a content so I decided to add only circle and the information inside it. However, I like the minimalistic style and it also goes well with the rest of the page.

After adding some responsiveness also for the last page, the website was ready to be published. I had some difficulties to get this folder into the same repository where coursework was so I had to create a new one. Git wanted me to create a submodule but it didn't work so this was the easiest way to push the changes.

GitHub pages were easy to deploy. First I wondered why the page couldn't be found but it was due to the main branch being behind other branch so after rebasing, everything worked fine.

This website is going to be developed further over time because I want to add my projects there but at the moment I have only one project published. My plan is to update the page after I have finished my other project so I can create "My projects" page that contains more than one work.

Overall, I am very happy with the final result and page looks like me. I like minimalistic and modern styles so I feel like my personality is shown on the page. This course was very helpful and I learned a lot about CSS and responsive design!