Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto
School of Business and Management

Software Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FRONTEND MODULE

LEARNING DIARY

19.11.2018

I looked over the moodle page for the course to get an understanding of what the course is all about and what I actually need to do during this course. I didn't choose any of the modules yet but the ones I find most interesting are frontend, backend and fullstack.

24.11.2018

I decided to choose frontend as my module for this course. I chose it because I wanted to get better at creating responsive and userfriendly websites. I often get frustrated while browsing the web because of poor design choices for web sites. I set up my environment today. I chose to use Windows 10 as my operating system, so I downloaded VS Code, node.js and git. I watched the first video in the frontend module which gave me some recommended extensions for VS Code. I started the Responsive portfolio website project and started learning about Sass, which seems to be a useful extension to CSS.

25.11.2018

I watched the second video and followed the instructions on using sass to make a website look better. I also did my first git commit for the project. I was already familiar with many of the things mentioned in the video, except for sass, so I mostly learned more about how useful and flexible sass can be, for example the use of mixins. The website homepage is starting to look quite good as I've added many visual elements such as pictures, transitions, lists and more, all using html/Sass/SCSS.

26.11.2018

During the third video I was mostly refreshing my memory about DOM manipulation using javascript as it was used to add and remove classes to html elements based on user

interaction. I also did some animation using Sass/SCSS, which is a good way to make websites look nicer and more responsive.

Today I also watched the fourth video which taught me how to use Sass/SCSS to make the website more responsive, so how to make it scale to different size screens. Now I can make a website look good for desktops, laptops, tablets and smartphones. I also added functionality to the menu button on the homepage, now it brings up the menu overlay, and it can also be used to close the overlay. This was done using javascript and css.

27.11.2018

I learned how to make use of Sass functions. An example function in the fifth video was a function that sets a color based on the lightness of the color passed on to the function, so that text is always readable against the background. The main thing I learned from the video was the use of CSS Grid. I used it to make a bunch of "text boxes" align on the page in the way that I wanted. I also made the grid responsive by using css to align the grid based on the size of the screen.

In the sixth video I learned how to use Flexbox to align boxes the way I want to and to be responsive without the need to make css rules for different size screens. Now I've added everything to the website so it's complete, but I haven't yet deployed it.

I also watched the last video which was quite short as just showed how to deploy a website using Github Pages. So now I've learned how to make a responsive, nice looking website using Sass,css and a little javascript and I also now know how to deploy it. Now I can begin planning the website for my course project.

5.12.2018

Today I started my frontend module project. I plan to use everything I learned from the coursework and videos to create a responsive and nice-looking website. So, I need to use Sass/SCSS, a little javascript and of course html. The hardest part for me when starting the

project was coming up with a good idea for a website. It needs to have multiple pages and since I need to use flexbox and CSS Grid it should contain elements that make use of these container techniques. So, at first, I started working on the basic structure of the website and styling each element using SCSS. To help me remember SCSS syntax and different CSS elements I used the following site to check how to do what I wanted: *https://sass-lang.com/guide* and *https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/default.asp*.

I decided to make a menu overlay that has a menu/navigation bar that comes in from the left when you click the menu button. After some trying, I learnt how to get the navigation bar cover part of the left side of the screen but still have most of the screen show the website on the right.

7.12.2018

I decided to use slider on the homepage to go through different background images. I watched the youtube video linked in the frontend moodle page and learned the basics of using CSS to make slideshows. I had some problems adding opacity to the slides. First it didn't appear at all which I noticed was caused by the z-index and then next problem appeared which was that since I was calling a mixin that added a background and opacity to each slide, the opacity was stacking and it the pictures became too dark.

I also wanted to make a parallax web page, so I decided to change my product category page so that you can scroll through the categories and each category has a parallax image behind it. The video on basic parallax websites linked on the moodle page was really helpful and I think it allows you to create really nice looking websites.

13.12.2018

During the rest of the project I was just using what I learned during the course to make a decent looking website and the project really helped me go through everything and make sure I learned what I needed to. When I was deploying the website to GitHub Pages I kept getting a 404 error message which was a little frustrating but then I noticed that I was using

the wrong branch as a source and was able to fix the problem. So I guess in the future I'll know what to do if I get the same error.