Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

LAB University of Applied Sciences (School of Business and Management)

Software Development Skills Front-End, Online course

Muhammad Zain Naeem, 2300869

LEARNING DIARY, FRONT-END MODULE

LEARNING DIARY

15.12.2023

I studied the course general information page on Moodle and understood what the requirements of the course are and what I should be expecting from this course.

18.12.2023

I watched the version control and environment setup video and began to get my computer ready for the project. Since I had used Git before, it was not hard to configure, but the video was a good guideline and refresher, since I missed a few small things here and there. I chose Visual Studio Code as my code editor since I was familiar with it and had used it in the past.

19.12.2023

After that, I started following the first video from the example project, titled 'Introduction to Workflow and sass'. I learned a lot of new things from this video, especially setting up Node and Node-sass, the package.json file and installing the required packages. All of this was new to me, since I had not worked with Sass, Javascript or Node in the past.

19.12.2023

Writing the HTML was not new for me, hence I was not troubled with that too much. As for the scss, it was nice learning the difference between regular css and sass, for example learning about how you can 'nest' the properties for classes and IDs rather than having to do them separately. Another thing I learned here was the use of icons from Font Awesome, and I followed the video and setup my account on Font Awesome to begin using icons and cool fonts in my projects.

Continuing from the same video, I learned how to create Mixins and adding transitions on a webpage. I was not familiar with creating a Mixin, but I did already know that it was possible to use transitions and animations in CSS.

20.12.2023

The next video had a tutorial on how to get functionality for the menu button using Javascript, and this was all new knowledge for me since, as I mentioned before, I had not worked with Javascript prior to this. Some of the terminologies and the way things were being done were very confusing. In that case, I had to Google a lot of the things and one resource that really came in handy was w3schools. It cleared up a lot of confusions, and therefore I was able to proceed with this part of the tutorial.

For creating the menu button, I found it very clever to make the second line disappear and then tilt the first and the last line. This is a good trick that I will remember for projects down the line as well.

21.12.2023

Part 4 of the tutorial series focused mostly on the responsiveness of the website. I had studied about this concept in an online Web Development course that I did on Udemy, so I knew about the importance of making the website responsive for all types of devices. The video was a very good refresher of how to get the perfect output and make the website responsive. However, a good trick that I learned here was to keep all of the 'responsiveness settings' in a partial file named as _mobile.css, so that the code in the main.css does not get too messy and it is easy to change stuff if something goes wrong.

22.12.2023

I had a little experience with using Gridbox and Flex, thanks to the Udemy course that I mentioned before. Hence, when it came to the About page and other pages and I had to use Grid and Flex, I did not get confused and was able to follow through the example code and understand what was being done.

23.12.2023

I followed the 6th part of the tutorial series videos and continued working on the other pages for my website. It consisted of going back and forth between the html and the scss, and I was keenly watching the tutorials. I was trying to understand the 'why' behind everything that was being done in the code, and I am happy to say that I gained a great amount of knowledge from all these videos, especially the 'how' and 'why' of the code.

24.12.2023

There was something missing from my website, and I wanted to add a page that would allow me to learn something new, outside from the boundaries of the tutorial series. Upon much thinking, I came to the idea of adding a page about My Interests, where I would include a slideshow of some of the pictures that I took. I tried to follow the CSS and HTMl tutorial of the responsive slideshow which was given in the course, but I failed to make it work. I searched for more tutorials on the web, but either they were too confusing or the CSS simply did not work. Then, I asked a friend for their help and they suggested that I try to learn and do the slideshow in Javascript. I decided that since Javascript was new for me, and I really wanted to do something that was a new learning experience, I decided to go forward with it. I searched for Javascript code to run a slideshow with a fade-in transition. I ended up on w3schools again (https://www.w3schools.com/w3css/w3css_slideshow.asp) and did a good amount of research to understand how that code was going to work. Once I understood it, I implemented it into my code and did a few tweaks and voila, I had the slideshow on my webpage like I wanted to.

25.12.2023

After checking that everything was working, and the code was clean and there were no errors in my work, I deployed my finalised website and wrote a readme on GitHub. I would like to thank the teacher for putting together this course. It really motivated me to push further in my web development journey, and there were so many small tips and tricks that I learned. I believe this project is the first of many where I will learn so much, since I focus on understanding the 'how' and the 'why' of the code, and whatever is displayed in front of me.

Note: The pictures used for the background image and on the second and third project on the My Work page have been taken from Pexels.com and are free to use. All other pictures (such as the portrait, the My Interests page and the first project on the My Work page) are mine.

Note 2: The two projects on the My Work page are imaginary projects, just to fulfill the page. The first project, the Sterapy website, was created by me.