

PROJECT: Budget Tracker (Python Only)

Step-by-Step Build Checklist

1. Create the project folder and file:

- Make a folder "budget_tracker"
- Create "tracker.py" inside it

2. Add a short project description at the top of the file.

3. Define the data structure:

- Each transaction is a dictionary
- All transactions stored in a single list during program run

4. Create the BudgetTracker class:

- Initialize an empty list of transactions

5. Implement add_income:

- Create a dictionary for income
- Append it to the transactions list

6. Implement add_expense:

- Create a dictionary for expense
- Append it to the transactions list

7. Implement summary calculations:

- total income
- total expenses
- net balance
- print a summary

8. Implement category spending:

- Calculate and display total spending for a given category

9. Implement save function:

- Write each transaction (one per line) into "data.txt"

10. Implement load function:

- Read each line in "data.txt"
- Convert each line back into a dictionary
- Append each dictionary to the transactions list
- If the file does not exist, start with an empty list

11. Create the main menu loop:

- Load existing data from file
- Repeatedly show menu options:
 1. Add income
 2. Add expense
 3. View summary
 4. View category spending
 5. Save and quit
- Perform the correct action based on user choice

12. Connect menu options to class methods:

- Ask the user for necessary inputs
- Call the relevant method

13. Implement the "Save and Quit" option:

- Save all transactions to file
- Exit the program

14. Test the program:

- Test adding income
- Test adding expenses
- Test summary output
- Test category spending
- Test saving and loading on multiple runs

15. Add small improvements:

- Input validation
- Clear formatting
- Helpful comments