

Question 1: What are 3 things you are most proud of?

1. **First Time Making an App:** Creating the Weekly Top Books app was a significant milestone for me. It was my first experience developing an entire application from scratch. This process helped me understand the end-to-end development cycle, from initial concept to deployment. I learned how to structure a project, manage dependencies, and implement features using Python and Flask, which has broadened my skill set and boosted my confidence in my programming abilities.
2. **First Time Using GitHub:** Utilizing GitHub for version control was another achievement I'm proud of. Before this course, I had no experience with GitHub, but now I can confidently create repositories, commit changes, and manage branches. This experience has underscored the importance of version control in collaborative projects and has prepared me for future team-based development work.
3. **Can Interpret the Code:** I've developed a strong ability to read and understand Python code, which is crucial for debugging and enhancing the app. I can now look at a piece of code and discern its purpose and functionality, identify potential issues, and suggest improvements. This skill will be invaluable as I continue to work on more complex projects and collaborate with other developers.

Question 2: What were the 3 biggest "fails" you encountered?

1. **Having to Downgrade My Initial Plan:** Initially, I had grand plans for my app, including complex features and high-quality imagery. However, as I progressed, I realized that my initial goals were too ambitious given my current skill level and time constraints. This taught me the importance of setting realistic objectives and being flexible enough to adapt my plans as needed.
2. **Lack of Confidence in Python:** Despite my progress, I still feel unsure about my Python skills. There were moments when I struggled to implement certain features or debug issues, which sometimes made me question my abilities. This experience highlighted areas where I need further practice and learning, and I am determined to continue improving my proficiency in Python.
3. **Inability to Add Desired Imagery:** One of my goals was to include book cover images in the app, but I encountered technical challenges that I couldn't overcome within the course timeframe. This was disappointing, but it also provided a valuable lesson in managing expectations and recognizing the limits of my current capabilities.

Question 3: Considering the degree of Python expertise you started this course with, what were the 3 most important things you learned?

1. **Understanding a Programmer's Perspective:** This course has given me insights into how programmers think and approach problem-solving. I've learned to break down complex problems into manageable tasks and to think logically about the steps needed to implement a solution. This perspective is crucial for effective programming and collaboration with technical teams.
2. **GitHub Interaction:** Learning how to use GitHub effectively was a major takeaway. I now understand how to use GitHub for version control, collaboration, and project management. This skill is essential for any development work and will be highly beneficial in future projects.
3. **Developer Documentation and Project Spec:** Creating comprehensive developer documentation and project specifications was a new and valuable experience. I now appreciate the importance of clear documentation in ensuring that projects are understandable and maintainable by others, which is critical for collaborative work.

Question 4: Was there a particular Python package(s) or APIs that turned out to be instrumental for your work?

The New York Times Books API was instrumental in my project. It provided the data needed to populate the app with current best-selling books. Using this API taught me how to interact with external data sources, handle API requests, and process JSON responses. This experience was crucial in building the core functionality of my app and understanding how to integrate external services into a project.

Question 5: What other concepts/systems (e.g., git) that you encountered in this class can you see using in the future (maybe in a different context?)

I will definitely use the concept of project specifications in the future, particularly in product design and collaboration with developers and product managers. Writing detailed project specs helps ensure that everyone involved in a project has a clear understanding of the goals, requirements, and expectations. This practice can greatly enhance communication and alignment within a team, leading to more efficient and successful project outcomes.

Question 6: What impact (if any) might your project (or this course in general) have on your professional development?

This course has significantly impacted my professional development by deepening my understanding of backend technologies. As a UX designer, having a better grasp of the technical side of projects will improve my ability to communicate and collaborate with developers. It also opens up new opportunities for me to contribute more effectively to the design and development process, potentially leading to more innovative and user-friendly products.