

Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Learning Goals

- Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
- Build your final command-line Recipe application

Reflection Questions

1. What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?
 - a. ORMs are a method of interacting with the database. They provide a stripped down CRUD API that's easy to learn compared to SQL. In their simplicity, ORMs speed up development time, which in turn saves money, while handling the logic of interacting with the databases and act as protection against SQL injection attacks.
2. By this point, you've finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What's something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what's something about your app that you would change or improve?
 - a. It went pretty good. I think I did very well with troubleshooting bugs as they came up. If I were to make the app over again, I might put more work into the user interface to make it more appealing. I could also create more varied information in the database for better recipe support.
3. Imagine you're at a job interview. You're asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.
 - a. The experience I got from this app is building with Python from the ground up, troubleshooting, and presenting a product that could be the basis for a much larger project. In creating the app I didn't just create an application, I also learned how to use several different CLI's and interfaces, and became intimately familiar with the VENV system and iPython, tools that I think will be indispensable in the future, as well as MySQL.
4. You've finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:
 - a. What went well during this Achievement?
 - i. I'm happy with the final product of my recipe app. It never felt impossible, partially due to how I'm becoming more familiar with coding the more I do it.
 - b. What's something you're proud of?
 - i. The speed at which I was able to complete this. I feel like I learned a lot and didn't waste much time.

- c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
 - i. The last two lessons in the first achievement had very large exercises that probably could have been split up into two additional exercises each. These lessons also used significantly less examples compared to my previous webdev lessons, so it was important to be able to find references and documentation online, and use the tools available to prototype and test code as I worked.
- d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?
 - i. Yes and yes. I really enjoy Python.
- e. What's something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?
 - i. Take my time, read things twice, type things out before I start coding and figure out what I need to build