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IT FDN 110 B: Introduction to Programming Python

Assignment 09

- Overview

The last week of programming we dip our toes into the totally relaxed and not at all rushed sea of multi program modules and coordinating 3D data sets working with inconsistent item depths. The Module notes are optional this time and I will be dropping some of the formalities to better express my experience.

- Error Message my Old Friend

While error codes are completely normal in python, I had little experience spending over an hour on wild goose chases with a reference sheet to find what went wrong. When creating the track class, I wasn't used to utilizing `@property` and `@setter` to tell python how to use the same call function for different variable inputs to get different results. Now understanding what these are, I can see how they are marvelous tools but at my current level of experience they added some confusion. But the biggest hurdle in the first half of the test class was the wild goose chase that was saving the inventory.

The error report was pointing towards my naming conventions citing no Global Name, I initially thought that this was due to my defining the local target integers in try functions. Testing quickly found emulating the cheat sheet didn't fix my issue, so I started adding print statements and modifying the error messages to try and suss out the information. This led to only more confusion as my `print(names)` worked fine but I still got error messages for names not being defined. My edits to the error report also weren't showing up, which I mistakenly took to be due to default error messages based on google searches. Eventually, I tried converting my script to comment, pasting in the cheat sheet, and even that didn't work.

At this point I'd spent hours throwing different formats and possibilities at the `save_inventory` function, but nothing was preventing the error code. Slept on it, next day, I realized the issue was never with `save_inventory`, despite the error referencing line 39, it was line 40 and the `load_inventory` (that I hadn't scripted yet) that was causing the crash. After fixing this, I felt a lot better about my prospects finishing the assignment.

- Testharness Finally running Right

After the fiasco with the IOclasses module, the rest of the test harness wasn't too difficult to get running. I quickly found myself with a test harness output matching the Lab example. I did have a spot of confusion when I tried to use the menu like the actual inventory menu and reading over the files it took me a bit to realize why this wouldn't work without overhauling the testharness.

I chose not to add myself to the edit logs for the testharness, as while I actively used it through this point, I did not directly modify it, looking back I should have added myself with a change log noting work done on called modules.

- Inventory to Go

Lastly, getting the inventory working. I was happy to find that after writing my script for the track compatibility, it was fairly close to the cheat sheet before referencing it, although I did find an interesting error when testing as trying to pull the tracks from a cd with none causes a crash, so I used a try: clause to explain the error and return to the main menu.

- Summary

The last few weeks have been a dozy, and it did not help the I was physically unwell over the weekend. I don't like how often I had to use the cheat sheet as a reference, but figuring out how it did things and why it worked did help me learn as I went and the final product was a lot of work on my part.

- Appendix

Yeah no I'm using a github link instead of the conventional appendix to keep the page count more reasonable: https://github.com/Dr-Mittens/Assignment_09