

Journal

SDV602

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Milestone 1

Topics

Basic Python

PySimpleGUI

Lessons Learned

Learned some basic python. It can be hard to grasp when you are learning 3 other languages at the same time and remembering the format and the different naming conventions can confuse me at times. The way python is set up is very interesting and is quite easy to use once you get stuck in.

I had a look at some other python GUI. There are a lot of other GUIs that are available for anyone to use. I stuck with PySimpleGUI as it was the one, we were learning in class. I thought about giving Custom Tkinter a go as it has more of a modern feel to it. Visually it looks impressive. I saw some reviews that say Tkinter can be tricky to use. Understanding what properties, you can give something was kind of annoying to sort out. Read a few things that say to use “align” for example and it is not a keyword within the PysimpleGUI library.

I am pretty happy with how things turned out in milestone 1. The application is working as intended even with a somewhat navigation bar. Pages all link together with an updated title on each screen. Need to add more functionality though which is next.

Things To Improve

Currently, I have not yet added the use of dictionaries to my application, and this will be my next step in order to make things run more smoothly.

The document that we were given and the requirements that we were told have been difficult for me to understand. The document asks for at least 4 different screens when I personally do not think that 4 of them are even necessary and I may be able to fit everything on one screen if necessary.

Since each milestone requires more functionality, I will have to revise my design as we move forward in order to meet the new requirements.

Milestone 2

Topics

MVC

Matplotlib

CSV

Lessons Learned

The process of converting a single file program into a fully MVC program was a bit challenging. There were several iterations before I decided to go back to a single file. It will be necessary for me to figure out a way to convert this into an MVC application.

After receiving the tutor's review, I completely changed the UI again, due to the fact that it was pretty much required that I do so. As a result of scraping most of the options, I have settled on a cleaner approach. In my attempt to reduce the number of options, I reduced it to "New Window", "Exit", a combo box that allows you to select what you want to do with the driver, a plot that allows you to draw the data, and chat boxes that allow users to talk with each other. The options I have available are more than enough for me, and I do not think that I need any more.

Things To Improve

It is necessary for me to understand MVC a little better, but I do not mean MVC as a whole, but how some code works within MVC. It is important to realize that there are a few things that need to be taken into account and changed when adapting to an MVC workflow. If you simply copy and paste code from one place to another, it may not translate well for everything. Despite this, I really like the fact that the code can be reused.

Milestone 3

Topics

Connecting to a JSON database

Log in System

Chat System

Lessons Learned

Finally, I am starting to get my head around MVC now that I am able to understand where various blocks of code and modules can be found. Having had another day to work on this application, I would have been able to add so much more to it if I had the time.

Make notes regarding how to use other people's systems. It was difficult for me to recall how to use the JsonDrop server that the tutor had created. I was able to figure it out, but a few notes would have saved me a lot of time.

Things To Improve

It is important to take things one step at a time. I have a tendency to overwhelm myself by jumping from one section to another. The most important thing for me is to stay focused on implementing one thing at a time. The ability to manage time is crucial to the success of any project. When many projects are taking place at the same time, it is difficult to focus on some of them. Due to the fact that this was my last assessment, this one was set aside.

Conclusion

It has been a pleasure to play around with Python, which was always on my list of programming languages to learn. Knowing how useful it can be, I am certain that I will use it again in the future. The time clashes I have experienced this semester have had a significant impact on my learning. As there were many tutorials, it was difficult to determine which class I should attend. However, this class has suffered compared to my other classes such as networking, for which I must be present for the majority of the class period.