Python Learning Journal

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About Myself

I'm just a normal Guy. I'm 32 years old, I live in Texas, I love Jesus, and my wife, and good coffee. I took a coding class in college (back in 2017) and it has piqued my interest ever since. Though, only in the last year have I gotten serious about software.

I enjoy the basic full-stack, and I'm a web-content creator for Texas Tech University, but making websites is simple stuff. Diving into packages, frameworks, backends, APIs, and more complex languages is equal parts fun and headache inducing.

Exercise 1.1

Okay, starting off my Python journal here. Day one saw me installing Python with the Windows x64 installer. I'm running out of disk space on my laptop. The installer does it's thing, I open a command prompt and initiate python's built in REPL (Read Execute Print Loop) (is that pronounced "repple"?), then type in ```print("Hello World!")``` and just like that, I've mastered Python!

I learned about "environments" which are directories of particular Python packages and files to separate dependencies.

Another critical thing I learned was the *import* keyword, to utilize Python's built-in package management system, e.g., ```import math``` will bring in a package with mathematical functionality.

Similar to *import* is the keyword *pip* which installs packages from the Python Package Inventory. So, ```pip intall xyz``` will install the xyz package in the current directory location from the terminal.

Python is dynamically typed, meaning that a variable can be assigned a string value, then reassigned as an integer value, with no qualms (like JavaScript).

Python lines do not have semicolons…

Exercise 1.2: Data Types in Python

Learning Goals

- Explain variables and data types in Python
- Summarize the use of objects in Python
- Create a data structure for your Recipe app

Python data types are more fun than riding a jet ski. We all know that Python has data types of string, integer, boolean, tuple, list, dictionary, and noneType (and there are probably others).

It was good to practice the syntax of built-in functions and methods on different data types. How to “slice” properly, sort(), min(), max(), count(), pop(), extend(), append(), copy(), and more.

Apparently, objects in Python are called “dictionaries” allowing for an entity of key/value pairs of different data types.

For the basic data structures of the Achievement’s recipe app, I’ve chosen to store all recipes as a list of dictionaries (each recipe is a “dictionary”). This allows for standardized key/value pairs for all recipes.