Python for Web Developers 

Learning Journal

Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

Learning Goals

* Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

Reflection Questions

* Why is file storage important when you’re using Python? What would happen if you didn’t store local files?

File storage in Python is crucial for saving data persistently, facilitating data sharing, and enabling offline functionality. Without it, data wouldn't persist between sessions, hindering data analysis, application functionality, and collaboration.

* In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the **pickle.dump()** method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?

Pickles in Python refer to serialized objects stored in binary format using the pickle module. Pickles are handy for saving complex data structures like dictionaries, lists, or custom objects to disk. They're useful in situations where you need to store and retrieve Python objects efficiently, such as caching, data persistence, or inter-process communication, due to their compact size and fast serialization/deserialization process.

* In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you’re currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?

To find out the current directory, you can use the os.getcwd() function. If you want to change the current working directory, you can use os.chdir().

* Imagine you’re working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?

To prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error in a specific block of code, you can use a try-except block. Wrap the potentially problematic code within the try block, and handle any exceptions in the except block, allowing the script to continue execution without halting entirely.

* You’re now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What’s something you’re proud of so far? Is there something you’re struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.

The course is going really well so far. I'm especially proud of my thorough understanding of the python bits I've learned so far. Particularly, I can say I'm struggling with creating pieces of code on my own, but I try not to stress too much since I'm only at the begging and I can't learn everything perfectly overnight. I could definitely practice complex functions more.