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June 18, 2025

IT FDN 110 A

Class Reflection

# Lessons Learned in IT FDN 110 A

When I signed up for this course, I was at a point in my professional career where I wanted a challenge beyond those that I experienced through my day-to-day work responsibilities. I remembered that I had a minor interest in coding through high school and college, and that I did not pursue that interest in favor of focusing on my chosen degree path. However, I continued to find myself in a position in my personal and professional life of being referred to as "the in-house computer guy" when more knowledgeable family or IT team members weren't available, respectively. This pushed me to actualize the interest in computers and coding into learning, prompting me to take on the challenge of learning coding as a skill.

During the time in this course, I've learned about the deceptively easy to understand concepts of Python coding as well as its more complex intricacies. I had general knowledge of computers and their operation from hobbies and general schooling, but the most interesting part about the introduction to Python was how easy it was to pick up but difficult to master. For example, an observation I made at the beginning of the course was how specific and direct Python is with its language, even down to the naming conventions of its functions. The "print()" function essentially tells a first-time user exactly what the script will produce once the function runs just by looking at the phrase itself. However, as was practiced later in the course, the function is also multipurpose in the way a programmer can callback to objects that are affected by user input that's also chained to a specific format that is defined earlier in the script. Simple concepts presented in Python allowed for opening a vast array of possibilities in the code even from the more basic and common functions.

I also learned to respect the learning process that this course presented. I appreciated how the coding course pushed me to immediately apply the concepts presented in the module through the labs and provided video references. This helped me with each assignment and stepping up to the next module with the confidence that I knew I was building directly on top of what I applied from a previous lesson.

Finally, much of this course allowed me to explore a potential skill that I didn't think I could gain a grasp of. Through the excellent instruction and helpful guidance with every script, I'm thankful that I pushed my self to put my foot in the door in learning how to code as I believe that I can go even further into this field if I so choose.