

## Hands-On Activity #7:

# Cultivating the Course Garden

### Objective:

To apply software maintenance and improvement techniques directly to the course repository. This activity will help you practice diagnosing “code and documentation decay” in a real-world codebase that you and your peers use regularly. You’ll learn how to identify areas needing attention to make it more sustainable for current and future students.

### Instructions:

#### 1. Observe

- **Identify issues:** Look for any code, configuration files, documentation, or other course materials (e.g., presentations, delivery, etc.) that might have become “stale” or could benefit from updates (e.g., obsolete functions, outdated resources, unclear documentation). If you have difficulty here, consider:
  - What could be enhanced about the course to make it better than it is now?
  - What “bugs” are there in the code which misdirect or break anything?
- **Log observations as GitHub Issues:** Open issues for sections that could use attention. Consider providing a user story if applicable to help describe what needs to be done (e.g. “As a <type of user> I need <x> so I can <y>.”).
- **Add labels to the issue:** Add a label to the issue to help classify how the issue falls into a specific grouping. For example, would this be an **enhancement** or is it a **bug**?
- **Provide feedback on other issues:** look for other issues your colleagues have posted and provide feedback of some kind as a comment to help foster the discussion.

### Deliverables:

- Open at least one issue documenting course improvements.

### Resources:

- [About GitHub issues](#)

### Tips:

- Consider how your issue might be read by someone else, potentially a long time after you submit your issue (what information might someone need in order to address the challenges or needs?).
- Keep in mind with communications: is it true, is it kind, is it necessary, is it helpful?