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IT FDN 110 A

Assignment 08

Lessons Learned

How is it that I've never learned Python before? I've used Python scripts before, altered them, even written them wholesale—-but never *learned the language*. Over these past two months, I've felt intrigued, engaged, and chagrined. Python is the language that everyone promised it would be, and I feel foolish for having taken this long to actually study it.

That's what it comes down to, of course. Coding has always made sense to me. The engineering principles and problem solving skills essential to programming are the same basic tools that I navigate much of my life with. So every time I've interfaced with Python before this class, I've gotten frustrated by what felt like minutiae, peculiarities of implementation holding me back from just getting it to do what I want it to do. This class has helped me appreciate those minutiae for what they really are: the basics. And to be clear, even during this class it's been difficult not to bang my head into a wall at times. Every assignment left me with the feeling that with just a little work, my program could be a whole lot better. But now that I look back, it's easy to see the pattern of scope creep and tech debt that can so easily overwhelm a novice programmer.

So here I am, having studied Python. It was exactly as easy and wonderful as I was told it would be. But it wasn't simple, or instant, or free. I had to work to get standards into my head, to understand not just *what* I wanted to do, but *how* and *where* too. And now it's a lot easier! I'm going to keep coding for fun, and hopefully soon I'll be able to code for money, too. Honestly, this class has left me really intrigued by all the stuff that Python does under the hood to save us all time and effort. And hopefully, when I'm learning some other language, I won't be as reluctant to buckle down and study.