

CP5805 – Assessment 2C: Week 3 reflective journal

Part A

In order to discuss my previous experience with programming, I am going to expand what some might consider the traditional definition of programming and programming languages as I have a statistics/econometrics background rather than IT or computer science.

During my undergraduate and postgraduate studies, I was exposed to the statistics packages such as EViews, SPSS Statistics, Gretl and Shazam. In all these programs I started with the Graphical User Interface before moving to the Command Interface as I found it easy to track my previous steps, especially when designing statistical models to analyse data.

I later went on to use EViews in my professional career in the Australian Government to design a model to forecast the terms of trade, and taught myself a little bit of Visual Basic in order to manage a database collecting staffing information across the General Government Sector.

In about 2016 I started teaching myself to program in R as it seemed a little more accessible given my background. Since then I have used it for personal projects on data I have found interesting such as predicting the outcome of a horse that gets colic (a bad stomach ache) and in my professional career to analyse economic data and construct visualisations for government reports. Up until now, my experience with programming in Python has been virtually non-existent.

Part B

The Jupyter Notebook code for this assessment has been uploaded in a separate file: “FitzherbertNikki_Reflective journal_notebook code.ipynb”.