

Id finder

Project description:

1. This program enables the user to navigate through a Json file containing data describing the characteristics of planets and star systems in a video game. Using user input and prompting loops, the user can select the characteristics they are looking for within the data, and at the end the IDs for those planets are printed.
2. The Json data contains a hierarchical dictionary describing star systems within the game and their characteristics. The main part of that dictionary I will be using is the “planets” list of dictionaries which each describe a planet and its characteristics.

Json provided by a friend who scraped the data from the game.

3. The program is built around 2 main classes
 - Node, holds user choices.
 - LinkedList, arranges the user choices and enables an undoing/redoing functionality.

Beyond the classes, the structure of the program is built around 2 main prompting loops. An outer loop for choosing an action (find(), load_star_data(), show_data(), show_config(), end_program()). While the 2nd loop within the find() function iterates until the user is done choosing planet characteristics.

4. I used a couple of functions and variables from one of my own libraries and another project I worked on a year ago.

Functions pulled from other sources:

[starfinder_visuals.py] library

- color_input(), pulled from custom visual library which just colors the default input() function
- Clear_console(), pulled from custom visual library which resets cursor to top left
- Various text variables, (red, green, blue, yellow, violet, white/reset, dim(text), bold(text))

[starfinder_config.py] pulled from another project and slightly altered to fit the data

- Config class, handles the json data (updates, loading, ensuring it exists)
- find_config_path(), finds the running program path and returns where config.json should be

[other libraries]

- os, for interacting with the operating system (file handling)
- json, for handling Json files
- Msvcrt, for windows, for reading individual characters in the console (used in color_input())
- Tty, termios, for Linux, for reading individual characters in the console (used in color_input())

5. Data structures:

- Dictionaries, used extensively for managing function calls and the Json data
- Lists, used for storing output information such as the ID list printed after searching
- Tuples, used for storing information which requires interpreting part of the tuple. For example, the parameter entries ("category", value)
- Linked lists and nodes, used for the undo/redo functionality of the program

6. [Test case 1]

User input:

1
air
jovian_a
done

Results:

[Search Results]

=====

37-6
174-5
355-6
563-5
634-5
655-4
671-5
773-8
965-4

[Test case 2]

User input:

1
continental
no_life
undo
life
methane
done

Results:

[Search Results]

=====

347-4
791-3

884-5

[Test case 3]

User input:

1

martian

dunes

undo

redo

life

done

Results:

[Search Results]

=====

120-2

574-3

7. I think the program runs well, but there are some things to work on.
For example within the find() prompting loop the 'done' and 'exit' choices do the same thing at the moment. Also, there are probably a couple of ways to break the program with strange user inputs.