

Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Learning Goals

- Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
- Build your final command-line Recipe application

Reflection Questions

1. *What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?*

An Object-Relational Mapper (ORM) is a tool that helps developers work with databases using the concepts of object-oriented programming. It simplifies database access and makes it easier to write and maintain code. An ORM also allows you to switch between different databases without rewriting your code.

2. *By this point, you've finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What's something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what's something about your app that you would change or improve?*

Creating the Recipe app was a good experience. The app makes it easy for users to enter their ingredients and find matching recipes. It's simple, saving users time and effort. If I could start over, I would add more features like personalized recipe recommendations and include more details about each recipe.

3. *Imagine you're at a job interview. You're asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.*

I have experience building a Python app, specifically a recipe management application. Users could create and modify recipes with details like ingredients, cooking time, and difficulty level. The app handled errors well and provided clear error messages. It connected to a local MySQL database for efficient data storage.

4. *You've finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:*

a. *What went well during this Achievement?*

I'm pleased because I discovered Python, a program I enjoy using. It has sparked my interest and made me eager to learn more.

b. *What's something you're proud of?*

I'm proud of successfully building the app with all the desired features. I created a user-friendly interface for adding and modifying recipes. This created new skills for me to use Python in the future.

c. *What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?*

One of the most challenging parts of this Achievement was learning to use SQLAlchemy, a powerful Python library for managing databases. Understanding how to work with it effectively required extra time and effort. I had some problems installing this, but this is probably because I'm using a Mac, which is also new.

d. *Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?*

Yes, this Achievement met my expectations. It helped me gain practical experience in Python programming by building a real-world app. As a result, I am confident in my Python skills and ready to take on more projects.

e. *What's something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?*

To do well in Achievement 2, I'll remember the importance of planning and organization. I'll set clear goals, break tasks into smaller steps, and allocate enough time for each. Daily practice, I think, is the most important.

Well done—you've now completed the Learning Journal for Achievement 1. As you'll have seen, a little metacognition can go a long way!