Navigating Assignments using Codio

This course uses an external tool to administer and grade assignments, called **Codio.**

What is Codio?

Codio is a tool that allows students to work in a fully cloud-hosted virtual machine. You may be wondering - what is a virtual machine? As defined by VMWare, a virtual machine is a software computer that, like a physical computer, runs an operating system and applications. In this case, you are viewing a full Linux operating system that is running on a 'host' machine in the cloud.

Why do we use Codio?

- **Standardized environment**
  Using Codio allows us to make sure that all students have the exact same software installed to avoid any sort of weird, machine-specific dependency issues. It also removes the need for students to install any additional software on their computer so that they can focus on the actual coding instead of getting the development environment setup.

- **Real-time assistance**
  When you have your work in Codio, course staff can easily jump into your workspace if you're having an issue. They see what you see, so that they can troubleshoot your assignment in real-time without the need for you to upload your code for them to see. This lets us find the issue quicker and make sure that we're looking at the most current version of your code.

How to complete your assignment

- **Structure**
  Make sure that your code is in the **submit** folder before you test it. Also, make sure that your files are named exactly as they were in the starter code.
  (Please note : You can develop your code directly in codio or use a local IDE to develop your code and then upload it to Coursera. This course teaches you how to use IDLE as an IDE for Python.**)

- **Pre-submission testing**
  You may test your assignment as many times as you'd like until you are satisfied with the grade that you are going to receive. To do this, simply click the *'Test Submission'* button on the right-hand side of the toolbar along the top of your screen. This will run the exact same tests that the final submission will so that you'll know what grade you

are going to receive before you submit.

- **Reading test output**
  The autograder will show you what grade you will receive if you were to submit right now. Don't worry - you can check as many times as you need to! The autograder also contains more detailed error information, simply scroll up in your terminal to see the full stack trace of where your tests failed. This will help you identify bugs in your code.

Submitting your assignment

Make sure you've tested your assignment with the pre-submission testing before you mark it complete. **Once you mark your submission complete, you won't be able to change anything.** After the grader checks your code, the grade will automatically be transferred back to Coursera.

**If you wish to, you may instead use Visual Studio Code as a Code Editor, which has features that help make the editor accessible like zoom and high contrast colors, keyboard-only navigation, and screen-reader optimization.