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Assignment 08 – Write and Post a Report

This is the final reflection report for the certificate course IT FDN 110A or Foundations of Programming: Python.

One of the more surprising aspects of this course was the learning that I accomplished from documenting my work and working through the labs. A few of the assignments got out prioritized by life and a career, and I realized that by not going through and reading the notes as thoroughly as I did at the beginning of the course, by not going through the labs as thoroughly, and by jumping straight to the assignment that it was reflected when I wrote the paper. While I was writing the paper, that was an opportunity to hear myself speak about a topic, and that was where the gaps in my knowledge started to show. “What did I do in this piece of code?” “I did what the labs told me to do and adapted it.” “Why?” “Unsure.” I did not fully believe that the writing and the self-reflection would assist in my learning, but now understand that if I want to learn coding, sitting back and reflecting on what I have written in the code, maybe explain it to myself on camera or in writing will help me in the future.

The coding itself was not too significantly different from my intro to C# certificate that I took through UW as well. I enjoyed how versatile python is, how user friendly PyCharm was, and that it was freely available for students to use. I am looking forward to making applications where I can do more interfacing with the user, such as the creation of graphs, and more in-depth applications that can access databases, make decisions, and display the results for real world problems.

Another aspect of the class that I enjoyed was watching the TAs explain some of the tools that were used to make their jobs easier in terms of formatting. This course offered a wealth of knowledge from all of the people participating including the teacher, the TAs, and the pupils.

Finally, seeing everybody’s code on GitHub taught me a little as well. Some of the student’s code were mashups of what we saw in the lab with different formatting styles (‘ vs “) throughout, while some spent considerable effort to make an easy to read, cohesive code. As I stated before there were times where I rushed the assignments and did produce a mashup of script to satisfy the requirements, but I learned a lot from the people who are more detail oriented and added code to make the script read easier. The mashed-up scripts were sometimes hard to follow where the person who’s code I checked most frequently always wrote a code that was easy to follow and intuitive. Seeing the different ways to accomplish the same objective was another useful tool that I will take away from this certificate course. This course was a good intro to python, writing script, troubleshooting the script, and for learning.