This week, I started with the readings and trying to better understand the concepts that are different from Python. One of the main differences was the existence of do while loops in Java. These kinds of loops don’t exist in Python so understanding how they worked was very important for understanding the output for the code that I needed to write for the post. The most interesting part of the do while loop was that it will always run at least once. This is unique when compared to while and for loops.

When I was writing and testing the programs for my discussion post, I didn’t realize how exactly the do while loop differed from the other types of loops until I ran the program with a semantic error. In all my loops for a particular program I used the same variable for the condition in all three loops, in one of my tests I forgot to reset the variable to 0, so the first loop ran, and then the do while loop ran once, and the output was above the maximum value. The conditional for all three loops was <5 so when the while loop stopped at 4, but the do while loop output 5, it warranted further investigation. This is when I really understood what happens in a do while loop and why it’s unique compared to the other type of loops.

The other interesting thing that happened this week was when I was writing the program for the assignment. I thought about using a switch statement for the menu selections, but because I wasn’t sure if a switch statement could handle String data type, and I wasn’t quite sure how to handle the invalid input scenario I opted to use the more familiar if statements to build the program.

The challenges I have encountered this week were when it came time to decide what type of loop would work best for my assignment. I did decide on the while loop because it is the type of loop, I am most familiar with. I realized that with how I had to structure my program to work, that a do while loop would have been just as easy to implement.

I am really starting to recognize that especially with programming that I can read about a concept and gain a high level understanding of the concept; but for me to really be able to implement and use the concept I need to work with it myself, see how it works and if I get unintended outputs break down the code to see why the code is working the way it does, so I can understand how the code works.