

Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

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

An ORM allows easier interaction with relational databases. Rather than running SQL-specific commands in your applications, as was done in exercise 1.6, an ORM provides more universal/intuitive commands to use in applications. This process is automated and allows for easier to read, and condensed 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 this app went pretty well. Getting acclimated with SQL commands did take some practice, but introducing an ORM made my code much easier to read and work with. If I started over I would ensure that I included more detailed comments in the earlier exercises. This will make it easier to keep up with the evolution of my code throughout this achievement.

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.*

Using Python I've built a simple recipe app. The app allows users to take a few key actions:

1. Create recipes, which are stored in a relational database
2. Search for recipes by ingredient
3. Updated existing recipes
4. Delete recipes
5. View a list of all recipes

The final application uses SQLAlchemy as the ORM, creating easy to follow interactions between the app and the relational database on the backend.

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?

Python is proving to be far easier to pick up than the work I've done in previous Achievements.

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

I'm proud of the fact that I can clearly see how I can use what I'm learning in this achievement in my personal projects.

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

The most challenging part of the achievement is making sure my code is clear and concise - less is definitely more. There are a few times I've found myself using far too many lines of code when I could've thought out the logic a bit more and cut down the code significantly.

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

This Achievement definitely met my expectations. I was very excited to get started on this Achievement because I have had some experience with Python in the past. However, these exercises have helped to build a stronger foundation that I've been able to lay in the past.

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

I want to better think through the logic of the application before starting to write lines of code. I think this will give me better direction moving forward.