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<u>A Great First Term…. With Some Struggle</u>
A Reflection on the Knowledge and Understanding that We Gained in CART 253

I came into programming knowing nothing about it. When I was in highschool I was only able to take the basic courses required to get into any field; Sciences, Arts, Maths, and Languages. Thus, I did not do programming courses before university. When I came into the CART 253 course, I was relieved that I needed no prior experience in any sort of programming because I still was interested in learning how I would be as a programmer. I started out the class feeling very insecure and self conscious about my progression in programming considering the rest of my classmates had had more experience with programming. While that still has not changed now that I am finished with this course, I now know that no matter how much knowledge someone may have in a subject, they will always still need to reach out for help and have a second pair of eyes. I feel like that mentality has really helped me feel a little bit better when it comes to asking questions in class and reaching out to professors and classmates. My favourite aspects of programming have definitely been the understanding of how to make shapes move either by using the keys or mouse, or even just movement that can be defined by a certain type of code. I also liked the lesson where we learned how to make states. States have helped me a lot with storytelling and it was a lesson that was easier to understand and reuse for future programs. The most challenging elements I have encountered have just been remembering and understanding how to write code on my own without the constant guidance of someone else. Since each lesson the format of the code became more differently segmented, I struggled a lot with using the same types of code that I had learned with these new formats. The exercise that I am the most proud of in this course is Juggle Garden because I decided to mold both the activity and one of the experiments together to create an interesting program where in order to pollinate flowers, bees had to bounce off a paddle to reach them, I liked the concept as well as the amount of effort in the code I put into it. My thoughts on the future of my programming practice is that I am far from confident in programming but I am also a very very very determined woman and I know that once I start something, I want to finish it or become confident in it. So for programming, I believe I will be taking more classes where I learn how to use JavaScript so that I can finally feel good about my ability to code and feel content with what I have been able to produce. I would definitely like to have a few of my programs good enough to put in my portfolio. I truly did like this class and all the help I was able to get.