

Exercise 1.6: Connecting to Databases in Python

Learning Goals

- Create a MySQL database for your Recipe app

Reflection Questions

1. What are databases and what are the advantages of using them?

Databases are an organized and structured set of data that can be stored, accessed and managed efficiently.

Advantages of using a database are high levels of structure, accessibility, data integrity and consistency and security for your data.

2. List 3 data types that can be used in MySQL and describe them briefly:

Data type	Definition
INT	Integers
VARCHAR(n)	Strings of varying lengths, n being the max number of characters
DATETIME	Date/Time values

3. In what situations would SQLite be a better choice than MySQL?

SQLite might be a better option if the database being constructed and accessed is fairly small and being used for a small application.

4. Think back to what you learned in the Immersion course. What do you think about the differences between JavaScript and Python as programming languages?

I do think the readability of Python has made it easier to pick up more quickly. There also, by and large, seem to be fewer small nitpicky syntax nuances that inevitably cause bugs to pop up. I think I've been able to wind up with a cleaner and more organized code. I do, however, think that JavaScript has more advantages in its frontend capabilities giving it a more broadly applicable scope.

5. Now that you're nearly at the end of Achievement 1, consider what you know about Python so far. What would you say are the limitations of Python as a programming language?

Python's limitations – when directly looking at it v. JavaScript would be its backend focus. It also seems to execute a bit slower. I may be wrong, but I don't believe Python is able to be used to develop mobile apps at the moment and that could be a pretty significant drawback.