

Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Learning Goals

- Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
- Build your final command-line Recipe application

Reflection Questions

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

An Object Relational Mapper (ORM) acts as a go between from your object oriented programming language and your relational database. It allows dealing with the database without having to make cumbersome SQL queries. Advantages include a really tidy code structure, and the ability to use and access databases with fairly limited SQL knowledge.

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?

I thought it all went fairly smoothly. I really enjoyed that I was able to pick up Python fairly quickly, and that the debugging process felt significantly less cumbersome.

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. I've used Python to create a command line recipe app and database. It allows users to log, store, edit, delete and search a mySQL database of recipes. Throughout the learning process, I was able to create multiple avenues into and around the app really being able to take a broad approach to learning Python's capabilities.

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?

Learning the basics of Python and the debugging process went well.

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

Diving into this new language (yet another) is feeling less daunting. I know I'm able to learn these things, and to keep expanding my knowledge base.

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

I think backend generally is not my complete favorite. Keeping all of the installs and un-seen "where things really live on my machine" pieces straight feels often guided by a "well, it isn't broken yet" kind of attitude which feels unsteady.

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

Yes, it absolutely did.

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

That I can really do this. That the knowledge I'm gaining will be a valuable asset to my job search and hopefully to my future career.

Well done—you've now completed the Learning Journal for Achievement 1. As you'll have seen, a little metacognition can go a long way!