Dominic 404

ChatGPT helped to guide and streamline the learning process for the web scraping library beautiful soup 4. At first, I was struggling to read the lackluster documentation on the Beautiful Soup website. Many things were left unexplained as it already assumed I was familiar with html. However, ChatGPT gave code snippets and examples of when to use which function which was very helpful and allowed me to eventually figure out how to scrape the information I wanted.

At first, I thought I could use ChatGPT for concrete problem solving. However, without a strong understanding of html, I realized ChatGPT was not as powerful as I first believed. After some consultation with my more knowledgeable parents, I took the time to experiment and used some of the techniques from CS4132 to complete the task.

Thankfully, I did not encounter many frustrations while using Beautiful Soup (The same cannot be said about scrapy). If I had to say, ChatGPT made me feel more relaxed while doing the research task, as it felt like it could explain anything too complicated for me to understand.

As for my metacognitive strategies, I used the dummy website books.toscrape.com to monitor my learning progress. As I progressed through the task, I took it step by step and learned how to use the correct function for the specific purpose. Analyzing the data after every change also helped me to learn what certain functions do and what functions to use next. Next, for the case study, I used what I learnt previously to optimize web scraping for a completely different website.

In conclusion, I would say that non-excessive use of ChatGPT is extremely helpful in making the learning enjoyable and educational.