Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Reflection Questions

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

An Object Relational Mapper (ORM) is an abstraction on vanilla mySQL. It's a package that allows programmers to write less verbose code for interacting with an SQL server.

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?

It went great! The fact that most inputs are wrapped in while loops allows for multiple attempts at user input, rather than kicking them all the way back to the main menu.

If I could improve something I would add a couple more features to the main menu, or a back button/back command.

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 would explain that so far I have experience with a Python App that can read and write local files, as well as connect to an SQL db. I am excited to get some experience with async calls/web sockets, as that is how I intend to use Python with an API.

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?
   b. What's something you're proud of?
   c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
   d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?
   e. What's something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?

a. Learning the syntax went well, Python lived up to its reputation of being more pleasant to work with.
b. I'm proud of how user friendly the recipe app is to work with, I spent some extra time formatting to make it look as nice as possible.
c. The most challenging aspect was some of the new keywords, specifically continue, break, and an empty return to end a function.
d. Yes this did, I have a much better understanding of the Python basics.
e. That I still have a lot to learn, so to expect some minor setbacks so I'm not as discouraged by them.

Pre-Work: Before You Start Achievement 2

In the final part of the learning journal for Achievement 1, you were asked if there's anything—on reflection—that you'd keep in mind and do similarly or differently during Achievement 2. Think about these questions again:

- Was your study routine effective during Achievement 1? If not, what will you do differently during Achievement 2?
- Reflect on your learning and project work for Achievement 1. What were you most proud of? How will you repeat or build on this in Achievement 2?
- What difficulties did you encounter in the last Achievement? How did you deal with them? How could this experience prepare you for difficulties in Achievement 2?

Note down your answers and discuss them with your mentor in a call if you like.

Remember that can always refer to Exercise 1.4 of the Orientation course if you're not sure whom to reach out to for help and support.

Yes, my study routine was effective. The biggest thing that disrupts my study routine is extra work hours that I have to put in. Luckily we have some time coming up at work so I should be able to have a better routine for the 2nd half of the course.

Most proud of being able to make a working crud program.

Difficulties like with any new language upon learning some of the nuances of the language. The experience of learning the basics will make it more rewarding to put something more extensive together in the next lesson.