

Exercise 1.6: Connecting to Databases in Python

Reflection Questions

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

Databases are the places where you hold your data. You can typically read and write data to and from the DB. Databases are often scalable, so that as your app grows, it can handle large amounts of data.

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

Data type	Definition
INT	Integer
VARCHAR	A variable length string
DATE	Date in the format YYYY-MM-DD

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

It's implied in the name, SQLite is for when you are just prototyping, or making some kind of small project with a few users and/or not a lot of data to store.

MySQL is better for a large-scale enterprise application, or an app with a few users but massive data storage needs.

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?

JavaScript has way more extra necessary syntax, whereas Python is much cleaner to read and write.

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 is notoriously slow, so if high performance is needed, either another language or a solution like Cython is needed.