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 converts the contents and structure of a database into classes and objects that can be interacted with directly. They allow a developer to not have to worry about SQL syntax which can save time because a developer can focus on other elements of the application, like figuring out how your application can logically work for the end-user.

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 felt that overall the Recipe app went well. I liked the way the achievement was formatted. By continually re-factoring/updating the same app it helped certain Python techniques and syntax to be reinforced. I feel like I did a good job with validation and error handling in the final app. I felt myself really starting to understand how for loops, while loops, and if-else if- else statements can be leveraged to achieve desired functionality. If I were to start over I would want to look at different ways to add/update ingredients. From a user standpoint I think that can be cleaner and easier.

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 spent an entire Achievement working with Python and really enjoyed it compared to other languages I learned during my bootcamp. Python came pretty naturally and I loved its straightforward approach. During this achievement, I built a command line recipe app using an ORM. It allows users to create recipes which are then stored into a local SQL database. After recipes have been created, the user is able to view all the recipes, search recipes by specific ingredients, edit the name, cooking time and ingredients of each recipe, and delete a recipe. Each action is then committed to the database and stored for future use.

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?

I think a thing that went well with this Achievement was me getting more and more comfortable using Python. The more time I spent with the language the more natural it became for me to code in it.

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

I am proud of the finished product, its aesthetic in the command line, and its functionality. Specifically in the project I am proud of my validation and error handling.

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

The most challenging aspect of this Achievement was getting comfortable with a certain approach to writing the app, and then shifting to something else. With each exercise, I would get used to the approach and then it would take a little while to shift my head space to incorporate the ORM for example when moving on to the following exercise.

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

Yes, this Achievement actually exceeded my expectations and definitely gave me the confidence to start working on future projects in Python.

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

I want to continue to remind myself how I felt during the beginning of Achievement 1 (and at the start of this bootcamp). If I feel overwhelmed or unsure, I want to take a moment to remind myself how far I've come, how many times I have felt that way before, and how much I was able to learn each time I felt that way by continuing to push forward.