T1A3 TERMINAL APPLICATION

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Introduction

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Firstly let's discuss the main user interface. Upon initiating the program the terminal screen will clear. This is achieved through the user is operating system (Windows or other) and executes the appropriate command ('cls' for Windows and 'clear' for other systems) to clear the terminal screen accordingly.

After the terminal is cleared the welcome_greeting function is initiated where a 'TURNING ON' message is printed on screen and then after 1 second an ascii banner saying 'COFFEE TIME' appears. After 2 seconds the terminal screen again clears and the user_menu appears with the 5 options the user can select.

The user can select 1 of 5 options as shown in the terminal output box. Depending on their selection the terminal screen will change to run various function which will be discussed. Note that a match case statement is utilised here to match the user's input to the various options.

The sleep function has been achieved by importing the time library. The number within the time.sleep() function indicates how many seconds the screen should hold before changing. The colour that is shown in the terminal window is achieved through importing the colorama package. I utilised this because the application becomes more engaging with colour added.

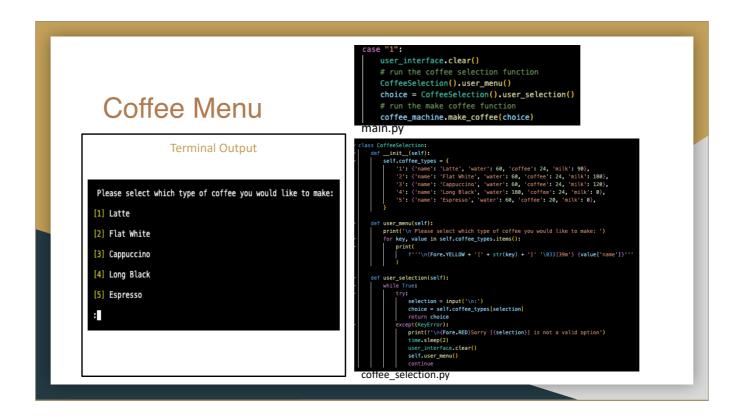


A feature which occurs behind the scene of the terminal application upon initiating is the check_date function. The purpose of this function is to compare the date that the user is accessing the application to the date the application was last accessed it will initiated the cleaning_cycle function within the Coffee Machine class. This feature will be discussed later.

The purpose of this feature is to mimic how modern day coffee machines will initiate a self cleaning function if the machine hasn't been used within a certain amount of time.

The check_date function works alongside two other functions. Firstly the accessed_date function will run the cleaning cycle. The date is stored within the txt file through the execution of the date_today function. This function will open the txt file and write in the current date. This date_today function is run in a later stage and will be discussed later.

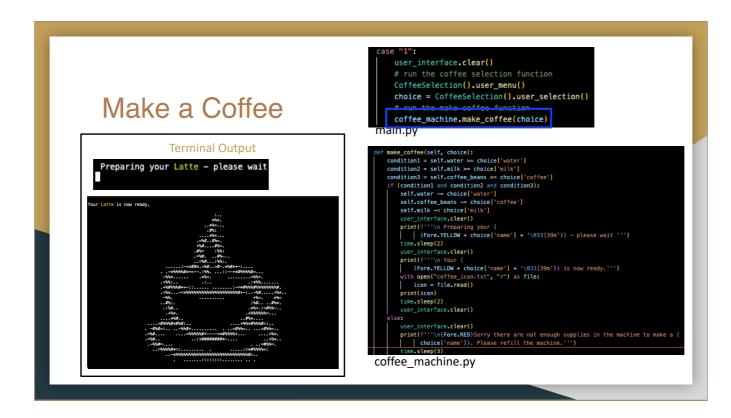
The datetime library was imported to access the functions relating to dates.



If the user selects 1 from the main menu it will clear the terminal screen and then display the output as seen in the terminal output box. This menu is prompting the user of two main features. The CoffeeSelection class is created with the constructor containing a dictionary called coffee_types, which holds the name, water, coffee and milk requirements for each type of coffee. The keys in the dictionary are the numbers 1 through 5 stored as strings. The user_menu function uses a for loop to display the keys (number) and their corresponding name value.

Following the user_menu function being run the user_selection function is then run. The function allows the user to input their choice of coffee. The user must enter a number between 1 and 5 and the user_selection function checks whether the imputed value matched a key within the coffee_types dictionary. If the key is matched then the function will store the corresponding value (name, water, coffee, milk) in the variable of choice which is to be accessed by a future function within the CoffeeMachine class.

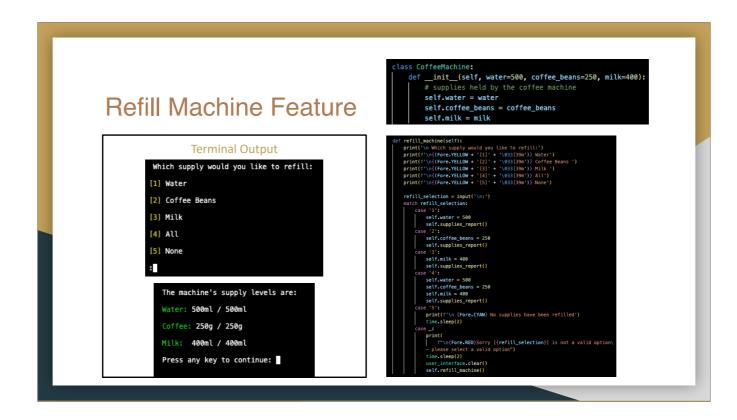
Error handling has been used in the user_selection function to ensure that if the user inputs any value other than the numbers between 1 & 5 then an error message will be displayed and they will be prompted to try again.



Continuing on from the coffee menu, if the user selects 1 from the main menu a third and final function is run. This is the make_coffee function within the CoffeeMachine class. As mentioned in the previous slide the user's selection of coffee has been used to store the corresponding value dictionary as the variable choice. So within this dictionary is the name, amount of water, milk and coffee required to make the coffee selection.

The make_coffee function begins by utilising an if statement to comparing each of the water, coffee and milk supplies. If any of the coffee's requirements are higher than any of the machine's supply levels then the if statement is triggered notifying the user that there are insufficient supplies and returns them to the main menu. However, if the supply levels are sufficient then the if statement proceeds to minus the amount of supplies needed to fufill the requirements from the machine's supplies and then processed to print out the view as seen within the terminal output box. The coffee cup art is displayed for 2 seconds before the terminal screen is cleared and the user is returned to the main menu.

Note that the coffee cup art is stored with the coffee_icon text file and is read and printed with the if statement.



If the user selects 2 from the main menu the refill_machine function within the CoffeeMachine class will be executed. This feature allows the user select which supply they would like to refill. They can choose individual supplies or refill all at once. The user also has the ability to select none which will return them to the main menu.

This feature works through the use of a match case statement. Where follow the printing of the user's options the user is prompted to select an option. Depending on the user's input the corresponding supply will be refilled to the amount as set in the class's constructor. Each case between 1 and 4 will also trigger the supplies_report function which will be discussed next. But in summary this report just shows the machine's current supply levels.

If the user's input doesn't match any case then through the use of error handling an error statement is displayed and the user is prompted to select a valid option.

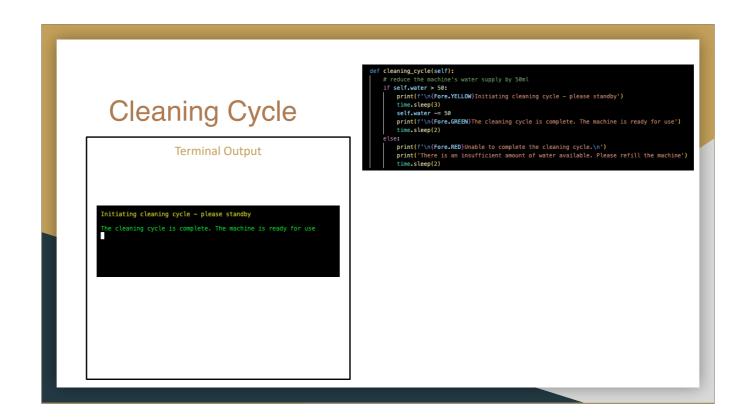
Supply Report

Terminal Output

The machine's supply levels are:
Water: 20ml / 500ml
Coffee: 114g / 250g
Milk: 400ml / 400ml
Press any key to continue:

If the user selects 3 from the main menu or they match options 1-4 in the refill function then the supply_report function within the CoffeeMachine class will be executed. The purpose of this feature is to allow the user to see the level of each of the machine's supplies. I utilised the colorama package to indicate the supply is reaching a lower state of full and green means the supply is reaching a lower state of full and green means the supply is close to full. I also added a 'press any key to continue' input to prompt the user that if they have finished looking at the report to press any key and it will take them back to the main menu. I added this prompt instead of a sleep timer because it was hard to judge at what speed a user will read this report.

If time had permitted I would have liked to have added the ability to export this report into a txt file.



As previously mentioned the application allows the user to run a cleaning cycle. If the user selects 4 from the main menu or the check_date function finds that the current date is different from the date the application was last accessed, then the cleaning_cycle function within the CoffeeMachine class will be executed.

The cleaning cycle feature utilises an if/else statement and determines that if the machine's water supply is greater than 50 then an error message is displayed to the user and returns them to the main menu. If the cleaning cycle does proceed then an initiating cleaning cycle message is printed on the terminal screen followed by a cleaning cycle does proceed then the water supply is reduced by 50.



Finally the application features a turning off function. From the main menu if the user enters 5 the while statement nesting the match case statement will break, thus exiting the program. Prior to the break occurring the terminal screen is cleared and two functions are run. Firstly the date_today function is executed. As previously mentioned this function will open the date_last_accessed.txt file and write in the current date that the program is being accessed. This date is then utilised in the check_date function if the application is then accessed at a later date. And finally the goodbye_message function is executed. An ascii banner saying 'GOODBYE' appears for 2 seconds after reading the quit_banner.txt file, and then a red 'TURNING OFF' message is displayed for 1 second prior to the program exiting.



There are plenty of examples of error handling within the terminal application code. I have provided an examples on the screen as well as the output which occurs if the function encounters an error. I utilised a try-except block within the coffee_selection module. Within this function if the user enters a value which does not match a key within the dictionary then a KeyError is raised and the function handles it by printing an appropriate error message.

Challenges

- Creating two test functions
- Issues with importing packages
- Time constraints

Positives

- Utilising Trello as a project management platform
- Feedback from others
- Final application

One of the main challenges I faced during the development of the application was during the creation of the two test functions. I used PYTEST to complete the unit testing and it's importance. The second issue I had was importing packages. There were a lot of packages I installed from PyPi that didn't seem be recognised when I attempted to import them. So I found myself doing a lot of research into packages other people where using for certain python features and using more recently updated packages. I am still unsure if it was something to do with my virtual environment or not but the packages I did utilised ended up being sufficient for the project. Lastly, a final challenge I faced was time constraints. Some functions took a greater amount of time that anticipated, so some features I wish I could add a feature that allows setting of the cost of each type of coffee and a sale price, then on demand, have the app show a balance sheet where it shows how many sales of each there were, and calculates the total profit for each. This would have been a great feature but unfortunately time did not permit, but it is ok because I feel like the app still works as intended.

A few positives from the project was getting to use a project management platform for the first time. I utilised Trello to create a project board and I found it extremely helpful for time management. Also I allowed some friends to test out the application and their feedback was great, it was very rewarding to see how far I have come for only having started to learn python a few weeks ago.

