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IT FDN 110 A, Foundations of Programming (Python)

Lessons Learned

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# Introduction

I decided to take IT FDN 110 Foundations of Programming (Python) because I wanted a refresher in programming and to get more familiar with the Python programming language for work reasons. I feel that after taking this course both of my wants from it were met. I feel after taking this course I have the ability to either write my own or take someone else’s code in Python and figure out what it is trying to achieve. This is important because a lot of the code that I will see in my jobs is already written and I will need to make changes to it to make it useful for my purposes.

# Class Organization and Modules

I really enjoyed the class organization, everything seemed in logical order and the following week always seemed to build onto the information learned in the previous week. I also thought that supplemental videos and readings assisted into learning more about the topics we were talking about in the different modules.

I felt that modules provided enough information and breadcrumbs to be able to learn the topics and complete the assignments. However much to my chagrin it made me go outside of the week’s module notes, but that’s classwork.

From this class I have learned about: different types of data and how the data is handled in Python, memory and how the data is stored whether it be in temporary storage that is not saved if the program is closed or on the hard drive, how to take user input and write said input to text files, functions and classes to help organize the code so its not so bulky, and error handling to provide users with more friendly reasons for why the code is not working as it should.

I think the biggest issue I had with this class was the use of error handling in my scripts. I understood the concept of the try/except error handling, but some of the comments on my scripts that I wrote said that the try/except error handling wasn’t the best to use because there were better more appropriate methods.

# Work Load

Overall, I thought that the work load in the class was challenging, yet doable. The end two module assignments were more involved and required a lot more work, for me at least. This class gave me flashbacks to getting my Master’s degree, where time management was very important. Starting the class, I wasn’t the best at working on the modules/assignments but as the weeks continued I recognized I needed more time to digest the material to fully understand it. This was similar to my graduate school program, it’s funny how even though you have gone through something similar it takes you a while to get back into the swing of things.

# Summary

Over the past eight weeks, the IT FDN 110 Foundations of Programming (Python) has been a great refresher of programming basics. I had experience in Python from a previous computer science class in my undergraduate work, but it was using both Python and Java. I enjoyed that this class was all in one coding language because it made me feel more confident in Python. I’m looking forward to using the skills and concepts I used in this class to help automate tasks at work.