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IT FDN 110 A Wi 25: Foundations Of Programming: Python

Assignment 5

Advanced Collections and Error Handling

Introduction

This week as a part of my Foundations of Programming course, I learned how to work with dictionaries, which is a new data collection. I also learned how to read, process, and write these data collections to a JSON file, and handle associated errors. Below is how I went about the assignment.

Creating the Script

After reading the acceptance criteria described in the Mod05-Assignment file, I began to work on my script using the PyCharm Community Edition IDE. I reused the header from the Assignment05-Starter.py file included in the module materials to display the necessary information.

Figure 1 - Script Header

Afterwards, I added the 'import json' statement to my code, and copied the variables from the starter file, and verified the variables were consistent with components of the script body required to complete the assignment acceptance criteria. There were some edits needed such as

recategorizing variables as dictionaries, and deleting unnecessary variables left over from Module 4.

Figure 2 - Declaring constants and variables

I then got to work on adding specific body components called out in the acceptance criteria, such as reading the 'Enrollments.json' file (renaming from the .csv in the previous module) using json

commands and saving the data to a list called 'students'. This section also included error handling of the file read for having an existing file in place before the script can proceed.

```
# When the program starts, read the file data into a list of lists (table)

# Extract the data from the file

try:

file = open(FILE_NAME, "r")

students = json.load(file)

file.close()

except FileNotFoundError as e:

print("Text file must exist before running this script!\n")

print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')

except Exception as e:

print("There was a non-specific error!\n")

print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')

finally:

if file.close()

file.close()
```

Figure 3 – JSON data ingestion and error handling

I then created a while loop to run my program infinitely until the user decides to break, and ask the user to enter student first name, last name, and registration course to register a student. The user input is then added to a dictionary and appended to the students list defined at the beginning. I included error handling for non-alphanumeric characters in the student_first_name and student_last_name fields, which displays specific error messages if an error is caught. If no error, the program displays the registered student information to the user.

```
Mod05-Lab03-WorkingWithExceptions.py.py
                                        Assignment05.py ×
                                                              {} Enrollments.json
                                                                                    A1 A2 ^
     while True:
         print(MENU)
         menu_choice = input("What would you like to do: ")
         if menu_choice == "1": # This will not work if it is an integer!
                 student_first_name = input("Enter the student's first name: ")
                 if not student_first_name.isalpha():
                     raise ValueError("The first name should not contain numbers.")
                 student_last_name = input("Enter the student's last name: ")
                 if not student_last_name.isalpha():
                 course_name = input("Please enter the name of the course: ")
                 student_data = {"FirstName": student_first_name,
                                 "LastName":student_last_name,
                                 "Course": course_name}
                 students.append(student_data)
                 print(f"You have registered {student_first_name} {student_last_name} for {cour
             except ValueError as error:
                 print(error)
                 print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
                 print(error.__doc__)
                 print(error.__str__())
               except Exception as error:
                   print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
                   print(error, error.__doc__, type(error), sep='\n')
```

Figure 4 – Option 1 in loop for user input of enrollment data.

For option 2 of the menu options, I display the dictionaries in the list as previously registered student information.

Figure 5 - Option 2 display of registered student data.

In option 3 in my loop, I write the data saved in my list to my 'Enrollments.json' file using the built-in json language commands. I included error handling here as well for ensuring the data is in a valid JSON format. I finish my loop with option 4 for closing the file and a catch-all 'else' statement for invalid menu options.

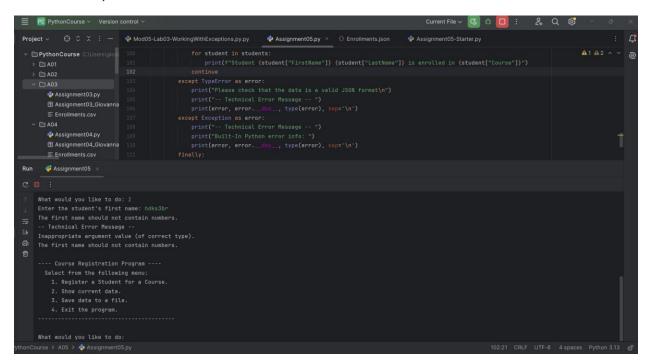
Figure 6 - Options 3 and 4 writing to JSON file and exiting the program with error handling.

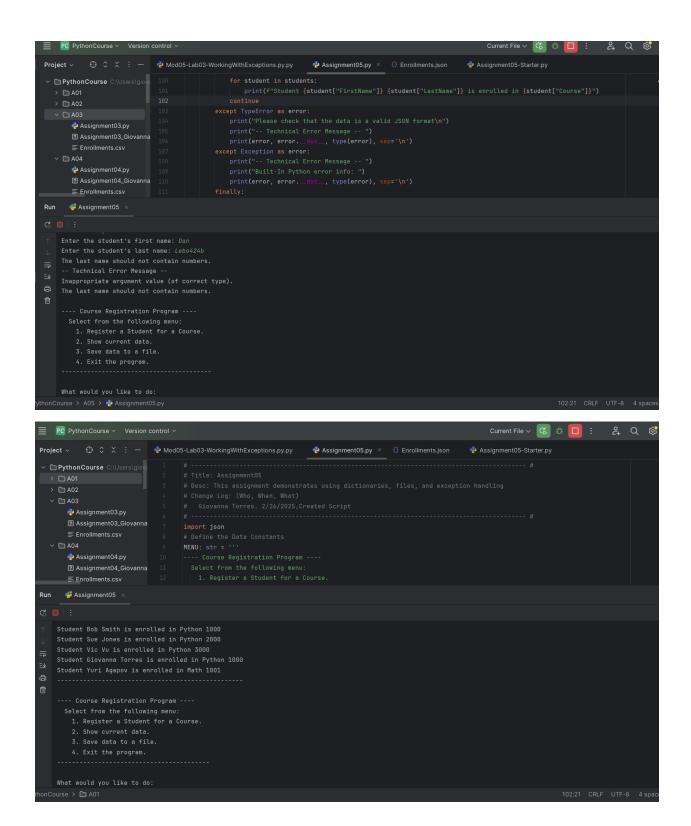
I then proceeded to test my code, discussed in the next section.

Testing the Script

After setting up my initial 'Enrollments.json' data file with data from module 4 and running the script in the IDE to ensure that the correct outputs were being displayed and created in the directory, I proceeded to run the script in the Command Prompt terminal window. I changed the directory over to my 'A05' file within my PythonCourse file and ran the script.

I tested multiple cases, including adding multiple names, and adding characters that weren't the numerical in the student name fields, and 1-4 menu option values. As I expected, the script would prompt the user to select another option if the input was invalid. It would also display multiple entries of student registrations and write them to the file as expected. The outputs were the same in either window, as seen below.





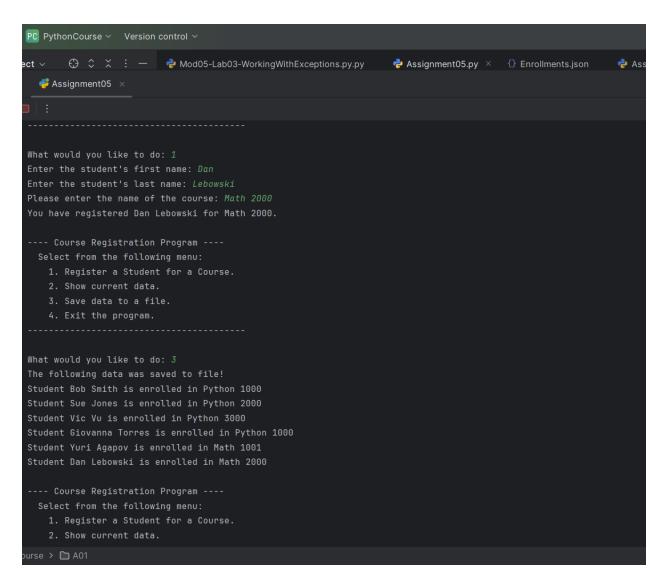


Figure 7 - Testing inputs in PyCharm IDE.

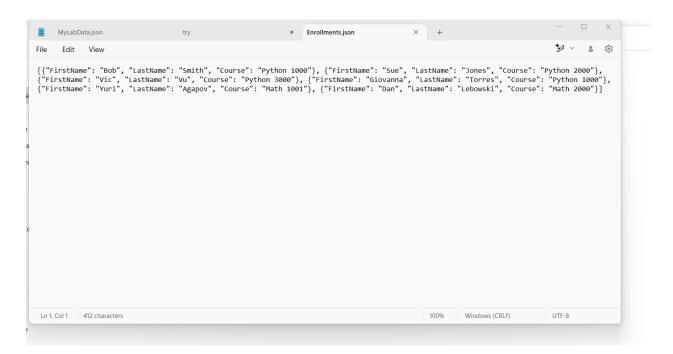
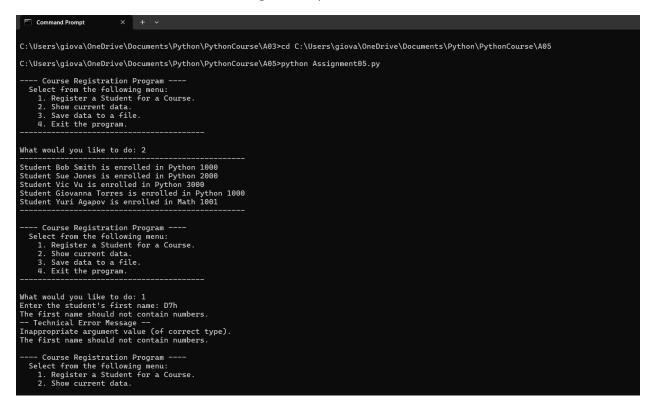


Figure 8 - Outputs in JSON file.



```
What would you like to do: 2
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 1000
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 2000
Student Vic Vu is enrolled in Python 3000
Student Giovanna Torres is enrolled in Python 1000
Student Yuri Agapov is enrolled in Math 1001
  -- Course Registration Program -
  Select from the following menu:
    1. Register a Student for a Course.
    2. Show current data.
    3. Save data to a file.
    4. Exit the program.
What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Dick
Enter the student's last name: Van 4
The last name should not contain numbers.
 - Technical Error Message
Inappropriate argument value (of correct type).
The last name should not contain numbers.
   - Course Registration Program -
 Select from the following menu:
    1. Register a Student for a Course.
    2. Show current data.
    3. Save data to a file.
    4. Exit the program.
What would you like to do: 4
Program Ended
```

Figure 9 - Testing in Command Prompt window.

Summary

During this assignment, I learned about managing lists and dictionaries, as well as manipulating JSON files and doing some basic error handling. This is very good information, but I think the biggest takeaway from this module is setting up my GitHub account, as this will be very useful in my job as a Product Manager to work with the same tools my dev team uses to push and pull code to and from repositories to make my product available. This is invaluable information for me to be able to navigate through the code base and knowing how our repos are structured, and for sharing my own repos in my resume in the future.