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March 10, 2019

Foundations of Programming: Python

Assignment 10

The Lessons I learned….

It has finally come, the end of class. Our last assignment is a reflection on what we have learned in the last few weeks. In particular, what I learned about programming, the learning process, and programming specifically. My journey to this point had a lot of ups and downs, starting with my time at a coding bootcamp, to self-education without any real direction. It is funny how things come together in life to bring you ***clarity*** and to give you ***direction***, and this class was the main reason for that.

Programming can be very simple and very complex. It’s like cooking, which can have very simple dishes like eggs and complex like a *Coq au Vin*. The process of getting to cooking eggs and *Coq au Vin* are the exact same way to programming…. lots of practice! There is only so much reading that you can do to try and understand programming, but to do hands on training- coding, problem solving, and research, all need to be applied when you are learning programming. When I was learning to program at the bootcamp, I watched my cohort research and apply what he read on stackoverflow and I asked him,” How are you doing that?” His reply was simple, “Just do it. Start typing and try to code, don’t just copy/paste. Code when you can.” I have been doing it ever since and applied that philosophy to this class, and it has helped me a lot. Looking at code and trying to understand what it does, and typing the code, helps me comprehend what it does.

There can be a time difference in comprehension though, and I have found no matter how hard it is to do, walk away and try and relax. At times you need fresh eyes and clear mind to figure things out, sometimes to sleep on it. I have done a variety of things, even just staring at my screen for a half hour, to try and come up with a solution or understand what it does. The most productive way I found was to relax and walk away from it, your computer that is, and think about it when you are rested. A solution will come, or your understanding of the code will happen…trust me!

Time, is the main component to all of what I have learned. You must put in the time to understand programming. I know it is hard to find time, but if you want to have a better understanding you need that time to try to understand. There was a moment where I took two weeks off from studying on my own, before the foundation course, and forgot what I had learned. I had to spend a couple days of refreshing what I did before the time off to get back to where I was. From then on, I made sure that I didn’t go more than a day to where I didn’t code or read/study about programming.

This class gave me great direction and understanding of what programming takes. The videos and assignments gave a lot of information and practice to understand what we were doing in class. What I have learned from my previous experience I applied here during the course and it helped me immensely. Having the resources from this course gives me the knowledge that I can apply to my future course and career in programming.