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INFO I101

Onesti/Paul

Final Reflection

Though I am a Finance major, I was inspired by my introduction to computer science class in high school to take a class that touched on coding and technology in college. This I-101 has been a perfect stepping stone and has more than achieved that goal. In high school, I became familiar with object-oriented programming through Java – so it was no surprise to me that my favorite lab topic this semester was Python because it was so similar to what I experienced in high school. The lectures certainly exposed me more to emerging technology and how we can use technology to improve businesses, governments, and life in general. My favorite lecture this semester was probably the technoethics lecture because we touched on memes and ethical hacking. This paper is going to be about my two favorite topics this semester, Python and Technoethics, and about some of my takeaways from the class as a whole.

**Course in General:** The beginning of the course certainly posed a challenge for me. I have never worked with HTML or CSS to design a website, and it certainly showed in the lab check which I got a C on. But, having the opportunity to put together a midterm website and final website certainly polished my skills and I am more than ready to design websites. In the future, I am going to design a website for my garden tilling business and for my snow blowing business. This class is helping me to make money! I will touch on Python below. JavaScript and Database were a bit of a challenge with having to do the course online, so I did not get an entire breadth of knowledge there. When it came to lecture, the topics were always very interesting, and the ICE sheets always kept me engaged. Some of my favorite lectures were when we learned how to turn binary numbers into actual numbers, technoethics, and the Internet of things. Below I will go into more detail about my two favorite topics, Python and technoethics.

**Python:** In our first Python lab, we got to do one of the things most programmers do their first-time programming. We got to write a program that said, “Hello World’ (Onesti). Even though I already did this in my high school Java programming class, it is still fun! Though the syntax was different for Python, I feel like it was just a review of a subject I already loved: Java. Moreover, it seemed like Python was a simplified version of Java without all the nitpicky things like semi-colons and brackets. In the next couple of labs, we got to talk about loops, number functions, lists, strings, and other things related to Python (Onesti). I was engaged the entire time and it showed on the lab check. I ended up getting a 74 out of 75.

Upon doing more research on Python and its uses, I found that a majority of financial tech runs on Python. This is especially relevant to me because I am currently a finance Major in Kelley. According to an article on skillcrush.com, “Financial tech recruiters will tell you that Python is the fastest growing language in finance in general” (Warchol). Moreover, the article said “Want a job at Venmo? Python is probably the way to go. Even big banks like Bank of America have worked hard to transform their tech stack from legacy code to Python.” So, Python in the financial tech industry is in high demand. I have both an interest in finance and technology so this might be a career path I might want to follow. I loved learning about Python, making a career in Financial technology even more enticing!

I enjoyed Python so much that I went to codecademy.com to learn more about Python. Over spring break, I completed several modules on Codecademy that sharpened my Python skills (Learn). I got to put my coding skills to the test by designing real-world applications in the Codecademy modules. For example, I got to design a tip calculator after learning about the unit of lists and numbers. I hope to learn Python more throughout the summer and put my skills farther to the test. Maybe it can help my snow blowing and garden tilling businesses grow alongside the help of HTML and CSS. Maybe I can even start a new business!

**Technoethics:** In our technoethics lab we talked all about ethics – “a set of concepts and principals that guides us in determining what behaviors helps or harms sentient creatures” – should guide technology in the future (Onesti). We debated whether people’s likeness should be allowed to be posted without their consent. I argued that people should be able to force anyone to take content down about them unless they hold elected office. There are complications to this subject, but when friends post embarrassing things of you, they should be forced to take your likeness down in my opinion. We talked about how memes have been created without people’s consent and how it could be harmful to the person the meme is about. The people who often make these memes, trolls were also discussed in class. We debated whether being anonymous online is okay. I thought, “Yes, it is okay to be anonymous online.” Somethings are private in life and should not be easily accessible to everyone on the internet. If the government really needs to track someone down on the internet, they can just find them via IP address.

Towards the end of the lecture, we talked about cookies, clickbait, and my favorite topic, ethical hacking. Ethical hacking piques my interest because hacking is normally associated with malicious hacking: ransomware, data hacking, information stealing. But, with ethical hacking, the hackers are trying to expose a government or business for their wrongdoing. Perhaps the most controversial is Wikileaks. According to Wikipedia, Wikileaks is an “international non-profit organization that publishes news leaks and classified media provided by anonymous sources” (Wikileaks). Wikileaks and its leader Julian Assange have become famous for exposing governments for wrongdoing across the world. But, they have leaked classified information that has put people in danger raising the question: Is WikiLeaks ethical? That is why technoethics is so interesting to me. Technology companies are going to have to walk the line of PR disasters when they break into something that is not “technically-ethical.” Technoethics are going to shape the realm of technology and help governments decide how to make their laws governing technology for years to come. I have not really explored this topic outside of class, but I plan to watch technoethics in the future using the website reillytop10.com about ethics in technology (2020 Top 10).

**Conclusion:** This class has certainly reshaped my thinking in regards to how technology is created and used. I now believe that we have an obligation to technology to make it ethical and put it to use to help governments, businesses, and people in general. Every time I open an app or a website now, I think about the back-end work that was put in to create that website or app. When I encounter a problem in the future, one of my first thoughts is going to be how can technology solve it. This class has also helped me make money in the future by teaching me how to make a website for my snow blowing and garden tilling businesses. In the future, I am going to be looking to improve my Python skills by using codecademy.com and will hopefully stay up to date on some issues in technoethics. We have an election coming up so we will no doubt start hearing about Russian hacking and I will be thinking about technoethics the entire time!

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