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IT FDN 110 A

Lessons Learned Document

1) Slow progression incurs consistent learning. On weeks where I had the discipline and time to study a little bit every day, I found myself writing my assignments and documentation with much more ease where I put in the same amount of study time over the course of one or two days. I find that I remember these concepts with much more ease and less reference to my notes.

2) Writing documentation is a secret problem-solving tool. When I began my documentation, my code was not always in the best shape. Sometimes I knew this, and writing my comprehension thus far helped me "explain my way" into my solutions. Sometimes, I didn't know that my code had a problem until I described it in my documentation. I was especially grateful for those moments.

3) When in doubt, (re)write it out: On Module 7, I was completely stuck. I was concerned I wouldn't even have a working document to send in by the due date. However, I decided to start my code from scratch, using the starter file as a mere reference while writing every statement on my own. Not only did I understand the code much better, but I wound up with far fewer bugs than I had before while trying to modify the starter. I wouldn't favor this approach for every time I get stuck, but it came in handy then.

4) Comments and TODO help jog my memory – Sometimes, I would arrive back at my computer and have forgotten where I was in the process of writing code, which sometimes caused me to backtrack or make mistakes I had made before. Now, I comment my code wherever I leave off, with a set of instructions highlighted in the TODO comment format to get myself back up to speed. My favorite comment so far has been #TODO: Don't touch this! I don't know why it works yet, but don't touch it or else everything breaks!