

Exercise 1.6: Connecting to Databases in Python

Learning Goals

- Create a MySQL database for your Recipe app

Reflection Questions

1. What are databases and what are the advantages of using them?

Databases allow you to store your data in organized collections. This has many advantages over local storage. They are able to be kept in a standardized format so you can store and access it more easily. They can be made secure using password access.

2. List 3 data types that can be used in MySQL and describe them briefly:

Data type	Definition
VARCHAR(n)	String of variable length, with n representing the maximum number of characters.
INT	This stands for standard integers
DATETIME	This stands for Datetime Values

3. In what situations would SQLite be a better choice than MySQL?

SQLite works well with very simple databases or if you want to test a database without having to set up an entire database engine. SQLite is the portable version that requires no installation or setup. You can access and modify these files directly from apps such as Python.

4. Think back to what you learned in the Immersion course. What do you think about the differences between JavaScript and Python as programming languages?

So far I've noticed that Python has more built-in libraries and it is easier to read and maintain. I feel like Python is more user friendly because it has less variables than JavaScript. However JavaScript uses multithreading whereas Python can only run one thread at a time. JavaScript does seem to be more flexible and it seems like it is used all over the place.

5. Now that you're nearly at the end of Achievement 1, consider what you know about Python so far. What would you say are the limitations of Python as a programming language?

The fact that python is interpreted and only executes one thread at a time creates limitations. It seems that Python is better suited for backend development.