

September 4th, 2024

IT FDN 110B: Foundations of Programming: Python

Assignment 06

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Creating a Python Script for Menu-Driven User Choices using Classes and Functions

Introduction

The goal of Assignment 06 was to create a Python program using PyCharm that presents the user with a menu from which he/she can choose to enter the student's data, present the current data, read from and save the data to a file, or exit the program. The assignment builds on the concepts learned in Assignment 05, incorporating classes and functions to read from a file and write to a file as well as process the inputs from the user. It also implemented error handling on reading input files and checks for unallowed characters for students' first name, last name, and course. This document outlines the steps taken to complete the assignment.

Preparation

To prepare for this assignment, I read the Module 06 notes on classes and functions. The notes extended the module 05 learnings on working with files, as well as how to feed data from files into the code and vice versa, but now utilizing functions and classes to perform the tasks. The notes samples on working with classes and functions were particularly useful in preparation for the coding assignment.

Writing and executing Module 06 Python script

After finishing reading module 06, I watched the module 06 YouTube videos from Professor Arya Ref [1] (see Figure 1), and having tried out the example Python code in the folders "Demos" and "LabAnswers," (see Figure 2), I felt prepared to start the programming assignment.

I used the provided Assignment06-Starter.py file, but I soon realized that most of the structure of the code had to be changed to be used in the two classes and the multiple functions required for the assignment. The readings and videos made writing the script (Figure 3) much easier, especially the Modul06-Lab03. The steps I followed can be described as:

1. *Update the header:* with my name and current date
2. *Define constants:* set the constant for the menu options ('MENU') and the file name ('FILE_NAME') where the data will be stored and/or read from.
3. *Define variables:* initialized variables for storing user input such as menu_choice, students (list of student dictionaries), student_first_name, student_last_name, and course_name..
4. *Check for existing data:* Implemented file handling by reading from the file (Enrollments.json) using the FileProcessor.read_data_from_file() method. If the file exists, the data is loaded into the students list. Handled errors if the file doesn't exist.
5. *Display the menu:* Use a while True loop to continuously display the menu and prompt the user to select an option (register a student, show current data, save data to a file, or exit the program).
6. *Handle user choices:* Based on the user's selection, perform the following:
 - Register a student: Prompts the user to enter student details (first name, last name, and course name), which are appended to the students list. Error handling is added to ensure that only valid alphabetic names are entered, raising ValueError for invalid input.
 - Show current data: Displays all registered students and their enrolled courses.
 - Save data to a file: Saves the current student data to the Enrollments.json file using FileProcessor.write_data_to_file() method.
7. *Test the Program:* run the program in PyCharm (Figure 4) and from the console (Figure 5) to ensure it worked as expected. Verified that the output was saved correctly in the Enrollments.json file (Figure 6).

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Mod06 Videos

Module	Titles	Link
6	Demo01 - Using Functions	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tZdqlArsbc
6	Demo02 - Using Arguments	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6dmUlaNB00
6	Demo02 - Using Returns	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITPdCTUsDb8
6	Demo03 - Using Classes	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAD_BczOI0
6	Demo04- Separation Of Concerns	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpiBLmoigpA
6	Mod06-Lab01-Review	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pPN3pM-Kaw
6	Mod06-Lab02-Review	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fapZdUP-vdw
6	Mod06-Lab03-Review	

Figure 1 Module 06 Videos (screenshot from video's list in Canvas)

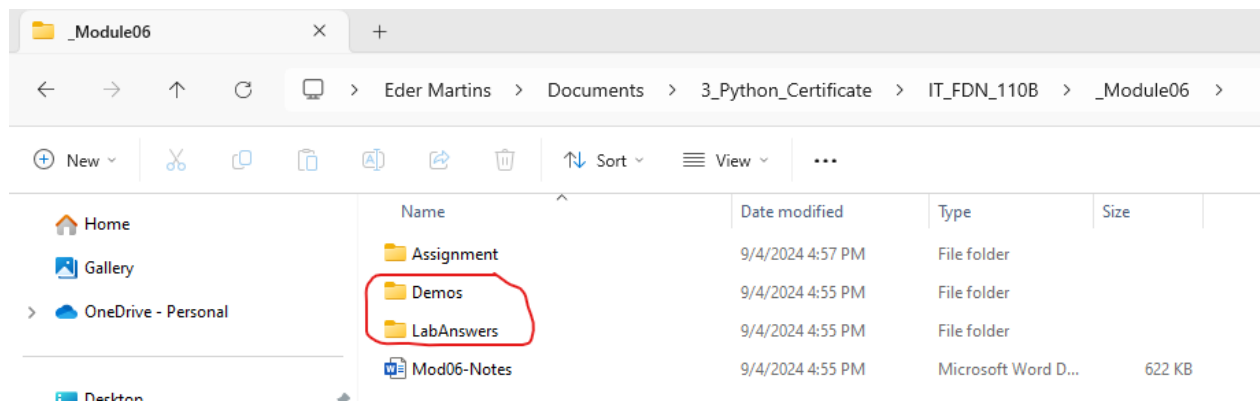


Figure 2 Module 06 subfolders "Demos" and "LabAnswers" highlighted



Figure 3 Python Script in PyCharm using Classes and Functions

```
assignment_06.py x
76
77     Args:
78         file_name (str): The name of the file to write to.
79         student_data (list): The list of data to be written.
80
81     Returns:
82         None
83     """
84     try:
85         file = open(file_name, "w")
86         json.dump(student_data, file)
87         file.close()
88     except Exception as e:
89         message = "Error: There was a problem with writing to the file.\n"
90         message += "Please check that the file is not open by another program."
91         IO.output_error_messages(message, e)
92     finally:
93         if file.closed is False:
94             file.close()
95
96
97     5 usages
98     class IO:
99         """
100         Class to handle input and output operations.
101
102         This class provides static methods for interacting with the user,
103         including displaying messages, collecting user input, and printing student data.
104         It also handles error messaging for improved user feedback.
105
106         Methods:
107             output_error_messages(message: str, error: Exception = None):
108                 Outputs error messages and optional technical error details.
109
110             output_menu(menu: str):
111                 Displays the menu of available options.
112
113             input_menu_choice():
114                 Gets the user's choice from the menu.
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123     4 usages
124     @staticmethod
125     def output_error_messages(message: str, error: Exception = None):
126         """
127         Outputs error messages and optional technical error details.
128
129         Args:
130             message (str): The error message to display.
131             error (Exception, optional): The exception to display additional details for.
132
133         Returns:
134             None
135         """
136         print(message)
137         if error:
138             print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
139             print(error.__doc__)
140             print(error.__str__())
141
142
143     1 usage
144     @staticmethod
145     def output_menu(menu: str):
146         """
147         Displays the menu of choices to the user.
148
149         Args:
150             menu (str): The menu string to display.
151
152         Returns:
153             None
154         """
```

Figure 3 Python Script in PyCharm using Classes and Functions (contnd)

```

assignment_06.py
151     print(menu)
152
153     1 usage
154     @staticmethod
155     def input_menu_choice():
156         """
157         Gets the user's menu choice.
158
159         Returns:
160             str: The user's choice as a string.
161         """
162         return input("What would you like to do: ")
163
164     1 usage
165     @staticmethod
166     def input_student_data(student_data: list):
167         """
168         Prompts the user to enter student data and stores it in a list.
169
170         Args:
171             student_data (list): The list to append the new student's data to.
172
173         Returns:
174             None
175         """
176         try:
177             student_first_name = input("Enter the student's first name: ")
178             if not student_first_name.isalpha():
179                 raise ValueError("The first name should only contain alphabetic characters.")
180             student_last_name = input("Enter the student's last name: ")
181             if not student_last_name.isalpha():
182                 raise ValueError("The last name should only contain alphabetic characters.")
183             course_name = input("Please enter the name of the course: ")
184             student = {"FirstName": student_first_name, "LastName": student_last_name, "CourseName": course_name}
185             student_data.append(student)
186             print(f"You have registered {student_first_name} {student_last_name} for {course_name}")
187         except ValueError as e:
188             IO.output_error_messages(e.__str__(), e)
189         except Exception as e:
190             IO.output_error_messages(message="Error: There was a problem with your entered data.", e)
191
192     2 usages
193     @staticmethod
194     def output_student_courses(student_data: list):
195         """
196         Displays all student data in a formatted manner.
197
198         Args:
199             student_data (list): The list of students' data to display.
200
201         Returns:
202             None
203         """
204         print("-" * 50)
205         for student in student_data:
206             print(f"Student {student['FirstName']} ' '
207                   f'{student['LastName']} is enrolled in {student['CourseName']}')
208         print("-" * 50)
209
210 # Main Body of the Program
211 FileProcessor = FileProcessor() # Instantiate the FileProcessor class
212 IO = IO() # Instantiate the IO class
213
214 # When the program starts, read the file data into a list of lists (table)
215 FileProcessor.read_data_from_file(file_name, students)
216
217 while True:
218     IO.output_menu(MENU)
219     menu_choice = IO.input_menu_choice()
220
221     if menu_choice == "1":
222         IO.input_student_data(students)
223     elif menu_choice == "2":
224         IO.output_student_courses(students)
225     elif menu_choice == "3":
226         FileProcessor.write_data_to_file(file_name, students)
227         print("The data below has been saved to the file.")
228         FileProcessor.read_data_from_file(file_name, students) # Read the saved data back into mem
229         IO.output_student_courses(students) # Display the saved data
230     elif menu_choice == "4":
231         print("Program Ended")
232         break
233     else:
234         print("Please choose a valid option from the menu (1-4).")

```

Figure 3 Python Script in PyCharm using Classes and Functions (contnd)

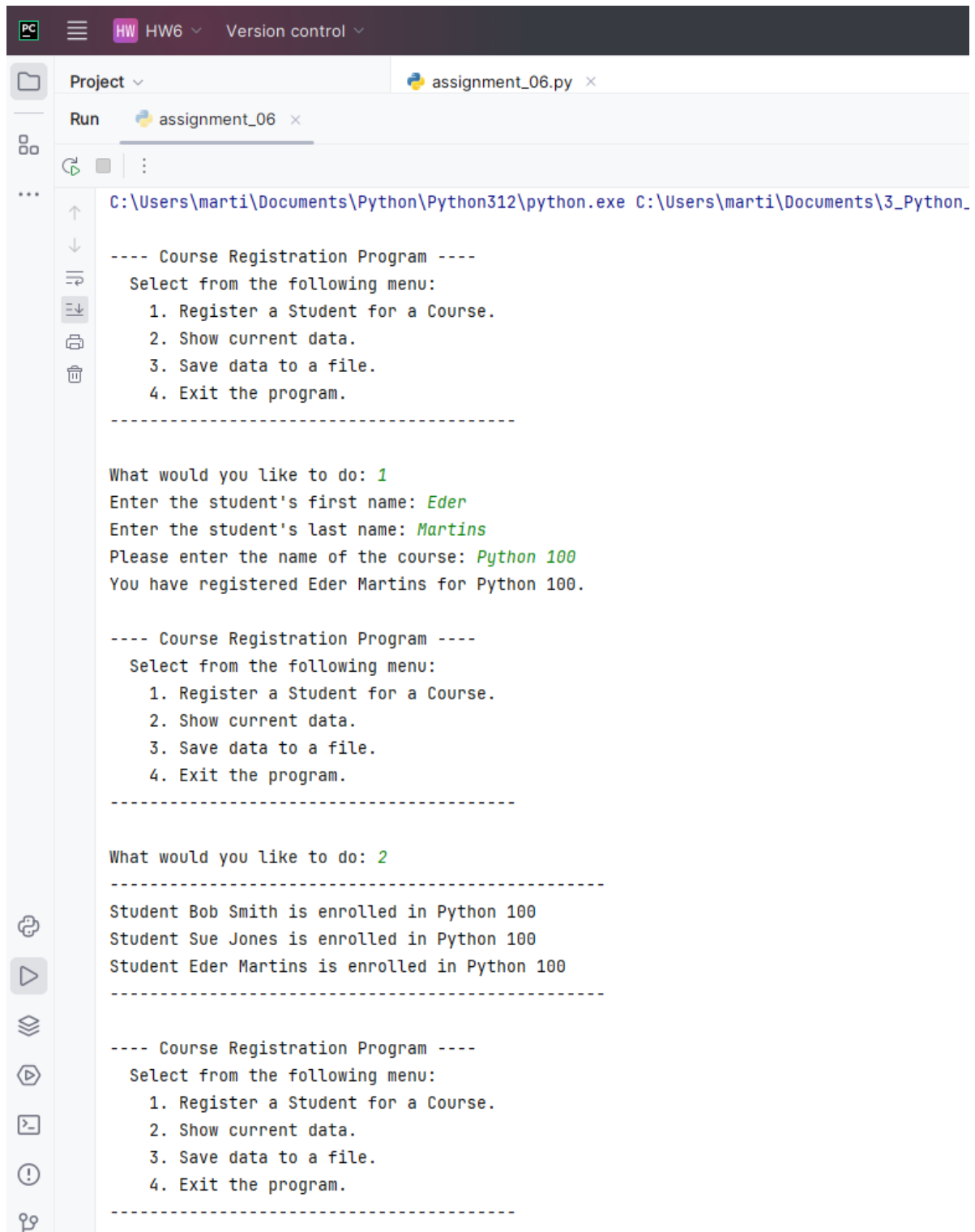


Figure 4 Executing Python Script in PyCharm


```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\marti\Documents\3_Python_Certificate\IT_FDN_110B\HW6>Python assignment_06.py

---- 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: Eder
Enter the student's last name: Martins
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100
You have registered Eder Martins for Python 100.

---- 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: 2
-----
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Student Eder Martins is enrolled in Python 100
-----

---- 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: John
Enter the student's last name: Smith
Please enter the name of the course: Math 101
You have registered John Smith for Math 101.
```

Figure 5 Executing Python Script in the Command Prompt

```

---- 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: 2
-----
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Student Eder Martins is enrolled in Python 100
Student John Smith is enrolled in Math 101
-----

---- 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: 3
The data below has been saved to the file.
-----
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Student Eder Martins is enrolled in Python 100
Student John Smith is enrolled in Math 101
-----

---- 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

C:\Users\marti\Documents\3_Python_Certificate\IT_FDN_110B\HW6>

```

Figure 5 Executing Python Script in the Command Prompt (contnd)

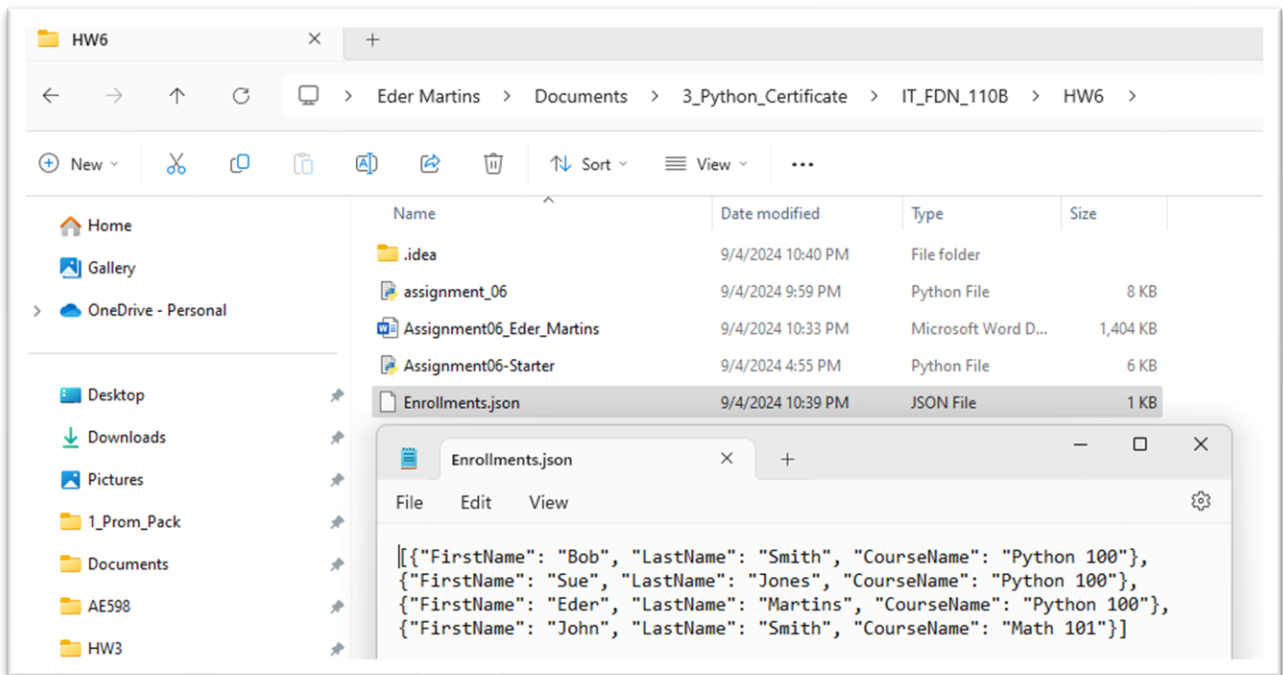
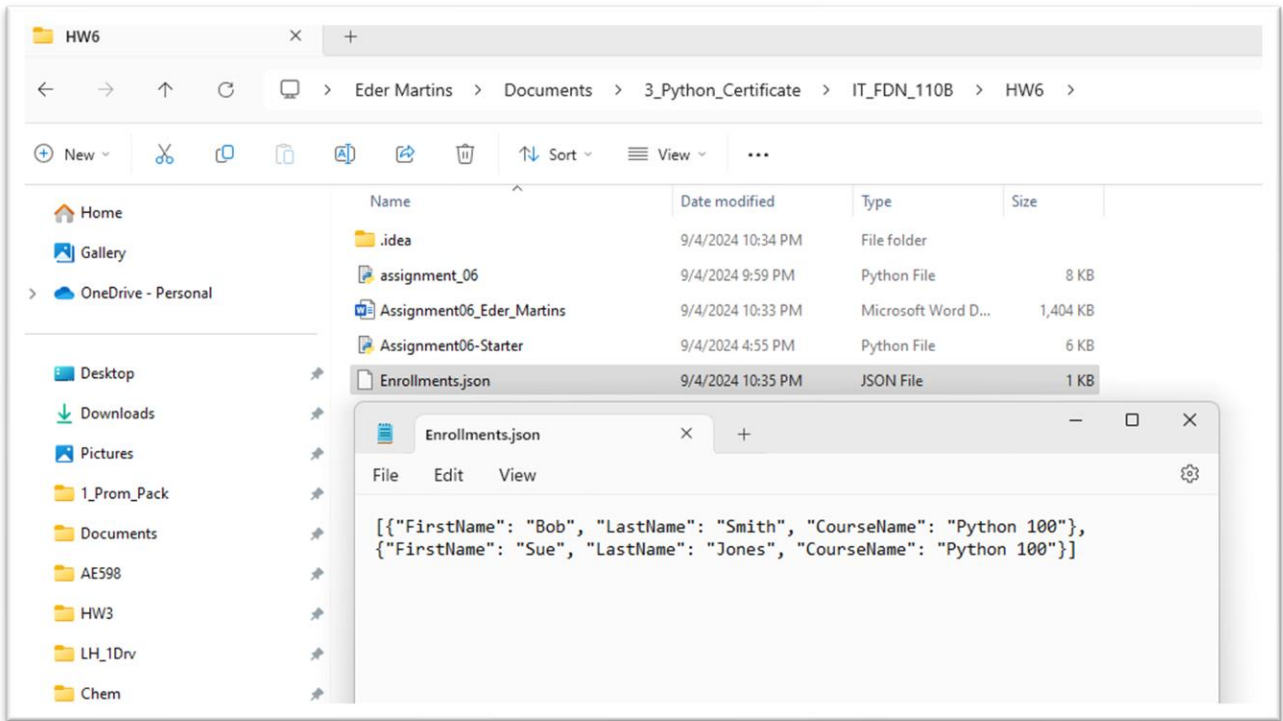


Figure 6 Enrollments.json file content before and after running the script

Summary

To complete Assignment 06, I followed a structured approach that integrated new and previously learned concepts. The primary focus was on leveraging functions, classes, and the separation of concerns pattern to improve the organization and efficiency of the program. I learned how to define and use constants, variables, functions, and classes to manage data collection and processing. Key new concepts included organizing code with functions and classes, validating user input, and implementing structured error handling to ensure the program operated smoothly. Additionally, I applied earlier concepts such as conditional logic, loops, and comparison operators to build a functional program. Through careful reading of the module materials, watching tutorial videos, and experimenting with code samples, I developed the skills necessary to create a Python program that met all the assignment's requirements. The final program displayed a menu with options to register students, show current data, save data to a file, and exit the program. It ensured data integrity by validating user inputs and utilized dictionaries to store student records. The program also effectively managed data persistence by saving and retrieving records using JSON files. By successfully integrating these programming techniques, I was able to create a user-friendly course registration system that demonstrates how to organize, validate, and store data efficiently. This assignment enhanced my understanding of how to use functions and classes in Python to write cleaner, more modular code.

GitHub Repository: <https://github.com/martins-eder/IntroToProg-Python-Mod06>

Reference

- [1] Arya, Anubhaw, *Module 06 Videos*. Available at YouTube: www.youtube.com/@arya0-uw