Dear future CP212 students,

If you’re like me, you’ve probably used Excel before, you may have even coded before. If that’s the case then you will enjoy this course. It is not designed to be hard it is designed for you to learn real world skills. I wish I knew that before I took this course. I wish from assignment 1 onward I didn’t just stop when I’d checked all the boxes to get 5/5 but continued to explore all of the features of excel to build something cool! The sheer number of things you can do in Excel are mindboggling, not even close to all of it is covered in this course but that doesn’t mean you can’t learn it. Excel has been around for so long there are 10-year-old forums that are still helpful.

While creating my final project I spent about 4 hours one day researching encryption algorithms and how I could implement them into my project. An important thing to remember is that when you’re making applications, it’s helpful if they can run on every computer (or at least every computer running the same operating system). This makes your application a lot more portable and allows it to be enjoyed by more people. The first hashing algorithm I implemented was a SHA-256 one that required the installation of an older .NET framework into windows. Not only was that confusing for me, but it would also definitely be confusing for someone less technically inclined and having to install a random framework every time someone wants to use your application doesn’t make any sense.

Another thing I wish I did more was plan my applications before I started building them. The further I progressed into writing my final project the better code I wrote. If you have a solid plan it allows you to be more consistent with the quality of your work.

In essence, learn more than the minimum, remember that you are not the end user, and plan out your applications as much as possible before jumping in. Happy spreadsheeting.

\*Cue non copyright guitar music\*