DEMO: How to Stay Motivated While Learning to Code

As we approachs the end of the course, I've been thinking about "how do I take the skills that I have obtained from this course and continue to develop them?" One thing I noticed last week was that even though it was nice to have a break from numerous coding heavy DataCamp lessons and assignments/projects, I found it hard to get back to working on material that involves coding for this week. This made me worry about what this would mean for my coding skill development outside this course and made me search up resources that talked about motivation and coding.

I found lots of acticles that basically talked about the typical "how to build a habit" steps just in the context of coding (e.g. make coding part of your daily routine) and didn't find anything too insightful until I stumbled on this podcast.

Podcast: How to Stay Motivated as You Learn to Code (S5E4)

https://learntocodewith.me/podcast/stay-motivated/

This podcast also talks about the typical how to build a habit" steps but along side that talks about why people might lose motivation to learn to code which piqued my interest.

The podcast interviews Claudia Virlanuta, who is former data scientist and the CEO of Edlitera (a platform that offers programming/data science courses) where she goes on to explain why people possibly lose motivation and how to develop motivation for coding.

Virlanuta explains what the main reasons why people lose motivation;

1. They believe they don't have the time
2. They assume coding will be easy and give up once they realize that coding is difficult
3. Learning the basics can be fairly straight forward but soon afterwards things become much more complex and less easily approachable
4. Coding langauges are broad and can cover a lot which can make it overwhelming to think about how much there is to know/learn
5. Resources for intermediate coding become more difficult to find compared to beginner resources.

Out of the above list, the point that I believe provide the  most insight into how to fix one's motivation problem was that of "coding languages are broad". Virlanuta explains how programming languages can have numeous uses ( evident by just looking at the extensive list of DataCamp lessons related to Python) and how people can become overwhelmed about the amount of knowledge/learning that is related to that language. Virlanuta suggests you figure out "your why" for learning a specific coding language and pick a specific area to focus your learning.

That piece of advice is my main take away from the podcast and what I plan to do after this course is finished.

To accompany this podcast, I found an article that list the how to build a habit" steps but also mentions this concept of picking one thing to focus on.

Article: How to Stay Motivated to Keep Learning to Code
By: Adrian Twarog

https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/how-to-stay-motivated-to-keep-learning-to-code/

This concept of picking one thing to work on makes sense after seeing how broad the language of Python and all the different ways it can be using within data science. Throughout this course I've been trying to figure out how to try absorb as much of the information that is being presented and how not to lose it much like what happens after finishing other courses.

Being exposed to DataCamp has allowed me to skratch the surface of machine learning and is a topic I could see being useful to learn more about in relation my peronal future career goals. I plan to focus my learning towards the topic of machine learning after this course which I hope allows me to retain my new found coding skills and continue to move forward in my learning -to-code journey.