

Python for Web Developers Learning Journal

Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Learning Goals

- Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
- Build your final command-line Recipe application

Reflection Questions

1. What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?

An object-relational mapper facilitates moving from one DBMS to another. It converts a database's structure into classes and objects which you can build on directly without SQL syntax that allows for easy manipulation and interaction with data.

2. By this point, you've finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What's something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what's something about your app that you would change or improve?

I enjoyed working with Python since it was easy to learn and pick up on. If I were to start over, I would add additional user input validation to avoid the app from crashing.

3. Imagine you're at a job interview. You're asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.

I recently developed a Recipe app using Python which involved creating a user friendly menu for entering and searching recipes and ingredients that were stored in a relational database using SQLAlchemy. The project allowed me to apply object-oriented programming concepts and "monkey" testing to handle any user input or nonsensical inputs.

4. You've finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:

- a. What went well during this Achievement?
- I've learned fundamental concepts in Python such as OOP and data structures.
- b. What's something you're proud of?
- I was able to troubleshoot most of my issues using ChatGPT or Stack Overflow.
- c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
- The most challenging aspect of this Achievement was setting up SQLAlchemy and learning and implementing all the different methods to validate user input.
- d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?
- Yes, this achievement gave me the fundamental knowledge of core concepts in OOP. It gave me confidence to build new projects with Python to gain a deeper understanding now.
- e. What's something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?
- The best thing I will keep in mind is that when I'm overwhelmed with learning a new framework or programming language is that consistency, practice, and research helps me become more confident.