Reflection

# Introduction

This assignment presented many unexpected difficulties, and it was not easy to complete. This reflection covers 3 challenges I encountered and how I dealt with them. The challenges were my underestimation of the difficulty of the assignment, the uncertainty I had when reading the brief and my unfamiliarity with python.

# Underestimation of difficulty

The topic of the assignment honestly seemed quite simple when I first heard it. Creating a simple hangman game couldn’t be hard, right? That was my initial line of thought. Due to this, I had decided to push the psec assignment to the end of the holidays, thinking it would be a simple task that wouldn’t take long to complete. However, I was quite wrong. The assignment wasn’t nearly as easy as it looked at first glance. I didn’t realise my weakness in python as well as the struggles I would have understanding certain parts of the brief. While I did manage to complete the program, this has taught me to allocate my time better and not underestimate the difficulty of tasks without fully understanding them.

# Uncertainty of the brief

At many points of reading the brief, I was uncertain of some specifications of the assignment. This made it difficult to program as I couldn’t be certain that what I was doing was correct. After a while I just decided to ask my other friends, and we discussed the brief together. This allowed us to have a clearer understanding of the brief and hence be able to program more confidently knowing that others were agreeing with our interpretations of the brief.

# Unfamiliarity with python

When I first started on the assignment, I still was not very familiar with python, or programming in general. This made it difficult to even begin the assignment as the whole task seemed very daunting. However, I managed to force myself to just try and start on something, so I started on admin.py. As expected, I had to completely scrap and redo my code from scratch multiple times because I was still struggling to find my footing in python. Whilst it was frustrating at times, this constant redoing made me slowly grow much more familiar with python. After a while, writing lines of code became much more natural. When I moved on to hangman.py, it felt like a much smoother process as I had gathered a lot of practice from admin.py. I was more confident in my programming and knew what I had to write certain repeated concepts such as input validation.

# Conclusion

Overall, this assignment did strengthen my understanding of python and made me much more comfortable with programming as a whole. I did enjoy the experience of creating a proper program as this was much more in-depth than the previous JavaScript program we created in semester 1. The use of file systems was also good practice as we never had the practice of file systems in the previous assignment.