Rebecca Bergh
8/21/2024
Foundations of Programming: Python
Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

This quarter has been eye-opening to see how powerful, yet stubborn, the Python language is. Overall, however, I am excited to continue my learning journey. I can see a lot of uses for it at work but will continue to run into web-related issues with how locked down my work internet is. So, I will need to mostly find local ways to implement Python into my work processes.

Looking back at my first assignments and seeing where I started in this course was jarring. Not to say I'm an expert by any means, but just to see how simple — and somewhat inefficient — the code was at the beginning is amazing.

In the beginning, I was also still using knowledge I had from knowing Tableau instead of really embracing Python for what it is. Remapping my brain's muscle memory for terms like "parameters" and "functions" will still take some more time, though.

I thought the structure of this class, iterating on the code each week, was really smart. Being able to take a very simple application and turn it into this week's multi-file program is pretty cool.

I recall several moments where I felt a light bulb go off in my brain when I finally understood a concept. It's actually kind of fun to look back at my assignments and recognize those moments just by looking at the code itself. One key moment was what to actually do with parameters and how they operate in a function.

But, one frustration I remember is wishing we could have just opened our .csv and .json files in "append" mode instead of reading them into the file, adding new lines, and then writing it back to the file.