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CS 4395.001

CS 4395: Assignment 1 Overview

What the program does
This program reads in a file containing employee records (full name, phone, and employee id). It processes the text in the file and converts it to a standardized format, then pickles it, unpickles it, and displays the formatted data for each person. It has a method to read and process the initial text and a Person class with a display method.

How to run the program
The program requires a data.csv file containing the employee records to be run. The path to the .csv file must be provided in a sysarg. If it is provided, the program runs through each line of employee records. Should it run into an invalid ID or phone number, the user is prompted to enter a valid input. At the end, the user will see the properly formatted employee records.

Strengths/weaknesses of python for text processing
Python's biggest strength for text processing is that it has a lot of built in methods that allow for easy alterations to and analysis of text. It also has very useful data structures, such as dictionaries and lists, that are easily iterated through to process text with minimal lines of code. Compared to other languages, Python seems the best suited for text processing, but it comes with the weaknesses of being slower and having more exceptions.

Learned/reviewed from this assignment
This was the first program I have written in Python, so it was a great exercise in getting used to the syntax. I learned more about the different ways for loops can be written, as well as how to deal with the file path cross-platform compatibility. We learned quite a bit about data structures in class, so I was able to review how to use and access dicts.