

EXERCISE 1.4: FILE HANDLING IN PYTHON

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. WHY IS FILE STORAGE IMPORTANT WHEN YOU'RE USING PYTHON? WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU DIDN'T STORE LOCAL FILES?
 - IF A FILE WAS NOT STORED LOCALLY THE MACHINE INSTANTLY FORGETS/ERASES ALL MEMORY OF THE INPUT THE MOMENT THE SCRIPT FINISHES
2. IN THIS EXERCISE YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE PICKLING PROCESS WITH THE PICKLE.DUMP() METHOD. WHAT ARE PICKLES? IN WHICH SITUATIONS WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO USE PICKLES AND WHY?
 - PICKLES CONVERT DATA INTO BYTES THAT ARE WRITTEN INTO A BINARY FILE, THUS USING PICKLE.DUMP() METHOD YOU CAN STORE THE DATA INPUT INTO A FILE THAT CAN STORE AND ACCESS THE ORIGINAL INFORMATION
3. IN PYTHON, WHAT FUNCTION DO YOU USE TO FIND OUT WHICH DIRECTORY YOU'RE CURRENTLY IN? WHAT IF YOU WANTED TO CHANGE YOUR CURRENT WORKING DIRECTORY?
 - BY USING THE OS COMPOUND YOU CAN CALL OS.GETCWD() TO SEE WHICH DIRECTORY YOU ARE CURRENTLY WORKING IN. IF YOU WANTED TO CHANGE DIRECTORIES YOU CAN USE OS.CHDIR() WITH THE DESIRED PATH TO FOLDER YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE DO.
4. IMAGINE YOU'RE WORKING ON A PYTHON SCRIPT AND ARE WORRIED THERE MAY BE AN ERROR IN A BLOCK OF CODE. HOW WOULD YOU APPROACH THE SITUATION TO PREVENT THE ENTIRE SCRIPT FROM TERMINATING DUE TO AN ERROR?
 - BY UTILIZING TRY AND EXCEPT YOU CAN KEEP THE SCRIPT RUNNING AFTER THROWING AN ERROR IF A USER INPUT IS INCORRECT OR INFORMATION THAT CANNOT BE RETRIEVED ETC.

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5. YOU'RE NOW MORE THAN HALFWAY THROUGH ACHIEVEMENT 1! TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON YOUR LEARNING IN THE COURSE SO FAR. HOW IS IT GOING? WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE PROUD OF SO FAR? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH? WHAT DO YOU NEED MORE PRACTICE WITH? FEEL FREE TO USE THESE NOTES TO GUIDE YOUR NEXT MENTOR CALL.

- IM PROUD THAT I HAVE LEARNED SOME OF THE DATA STRUCTURES AND HOW TO USE THE CONSOLE FOR INPUTTING INFORMATION AND STORING IT TO A FILE.
- IM STILL STRUGGLING WITH SOME OF THE CONCEPTS, NOT BEING ABLE TO WRITE OUT THE PYTHON LANGUAGE IN THE WAY THE INSTRUCTIONS ASK. I GET A LITTLE BACKWARDS AND FORGET EVERYTHING I HAVE LEARNED IN THE LESSON WHEN I HAVE TO WRITE IT OUT. I DEFINITELY NEED MORE PRACTICE WRITING THE LANGUAGE AS IT CAN HELP SOLIDIFY IN MY BRAIN WHAT EACH PART IS DOING AND HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER.