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Reflection – PA2

To practice python programming, I decided to write this assignment using the knowledge from the python course I’m currently enrolled in. When we began programming this assignment during lecture, I already had a few ideas in mind that I knew I would be able to apply using python. For instance, when it came to the locations. I wasn’t exactly sure how I was supposed to format the locations, so I created a dictionary of where the letter codes represented on the HSU map were keys. We were told in class to include the actual names of the buildings that belong within the letter key. So for each key, I created a list of the buildings that belong or were at proximity to the letter code on the HSU map image. At first, I did this using sets, but when I wanted to print to the screen the paths, I did not want the word “set” to print so I used lists instead. What confused me was looking at the examples of the Tiers given on the homework handout. The user inputs the building’s initials (eg. WLDF, BSS) and the short path traveled are single building locations. I wasn’t sure how to format my locations so that my printed shortest path I would print a single building location from the key rather than the whole list. The person would technically be passing all those buildings, but not quite. I also used the whole building name with some building initials rather than all building initials. Just a style preference I suppose.

Furthermore, since the shortest path time was given through the function compute\_shortest\_path all it needed was a list that contained the path that was taken from the starting location to the rest. I wanted the list to be a value of the distances dictionary, but since distances contained already the shortest weight as a value, I made distances contain a list as a value. Therefore, the first item is the shortest weight and the second item is the path taken.

Overall, I enjoyed this programming assignment, especially with the use of python and a debugger.