**Activity - Develop an algorithm**

**Introduction**

An algorithm is a set of steps that can be used to solve a problem. Security analysts develop algorithms to provide the solutions that they need for their work. For example, an analyst may work with users who bring them devices. The analyst may need an algorithm that first checks if a user is approved to access the system and then checks if the device that they have brought is the one assigned to them.

In this lab, you'll develop an algorithm in Python that automates this process.

**Tips for completing this lab**

**Scenario**

In this lab, you're working as a security analyst and you're responsible for developing an algorithm that connects users to their assigned devices. You'll write code that indicates if a user is approved on the system and has brought their assigned device to the security team.

**Task 1**

You'll work with a list of approved usernames along with a list of the approved devices assigned to these users. The elements of the two lists are synchronized. In other words, the user at index 0 in approved\_users uses the device at index 0 in approved\_devices. Later, this will allow you to verify if the username and device ID entered by a user correspond to each other.

First, to explore how indices in lists work, run the following code cell as is and observe the output. Then, replace each 0with another index and run the cell to observe what happens.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "tshah", "sgilmore", "eraab"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "2ye3lzg", "4n482ts", "a307vir"]

​

*# Display the element at the specified index in `approved\_users`*

​

print(approved\_users[0])

​

*# Display the element at the specified index in `approved\_devices`*

​

print(approved\_devices[0])

​

elarson

8rp2k75

**Question 1**

**What did you observe about the output when approved\_users[0] is displayed and when approved\_devices[0] is displayed? What happens when you replace each 0 with another index?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 2**

There's a new employee joining the organization, and they need to be provided with a username and device ID. In the following code cell, you are given a username and device ID of this new user, stored in the variables new\_user and new\_device, respectively. Use the .append() method to add these variables to the approved\_users and approved\_devices respectively. Afterwards, display the approved\_users and approved\_devices variables to confirm the added information. Be sure to replace each ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "tshah", "sgilmore", "eraab"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "2ye3lzg", "4n482ts", "a307vir"]

​

*# Assign `new\_user` to the username of a new approved user*

​

new\_user **=** "gesparza"

​

*# Assign `new\_device` to the device ID of the new approved user*

​

new\_device **=** "3rcv4w6"

​

​

*####print ("new\_user" + "new\_device")*

​

*# Add that user's username and device ID to `approved\_users` and `approved\_devices` respectively*

​

approved\_users.append(new\_user)

approved\_devices.append(new\_device)

​

*# Display the contents of `approved\_users`*

​

print(approved\_users)

​

*# Diplay the contents of `approved\_devices`*

​

print(approved\_devices)

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'tshah', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '2ye3lzg', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

**Hint 1**

**Hint 2**

**Question 2**

**After the new approved user is added, what did you observe about the output when approved\_users is displayed and when approved\_devices is displayed?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 3**

An employee has left the team and should no longer have access to the system. In the following code cell, you are given the username and device ID of the user to be removed, stored in the variables removed\_user and removed\_devicerespectively. Use the .remove() method to remove each of these elements from the corresponding list. Afterwards, display both the approved\_users and the approved\_devices variables to view the removed users. Run the code and observe the results. Be sure to replace each ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "tshah", "sgilmore", "eraab", "gesparza"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "2ye3lzg", "4n482ts", "a307vir", "3rcv4w6"]

​

*# Display `approved\_users`*

​

print(approved\_users)

​

*# Diplay `approved\_devices`*

​

print(approved\_devices)

print()

​

*# Assign `removed\_user` to the username of the employee who has left the team*

​

removed\_user **=** "tshah"

​

*# Assign `removed\_device` to the device ID of the employee who has left the team*

​

removed\_device **=** "2ye3lzg"

​

*# Remove that employee's username and device ID from `approved\_users` and `approved\_devices` respectively*

​

approved\_users.remove(removed\_user)

approved\_devices.remove(removed\_device)

​

*# Display `approved\_users`*

​

print(approved\_users)

​

*# Diplay `approved\_devices`*

​

print(approved\_devices)

​

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'tshah', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '2ye3lzg', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

**Hint 1**

**Hint 2**

**Question 3**

**After the user who left the team is removed, what did you observe about the output when approved\_users is displayed and when approved\_devices is displayed?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 4**

As part of verifying a user's identity in the system, you'll need to check if the user is one of the approved users. Write a conditional statement that verifies if a given username is an element of the list of approved usernames. If it is, display "The user \_\_\_\_\_\_ is approved to access the system.". Otherwise, display "The user \_\_\_\_\_\_ is not approved to access the system.". Be sure to replace each ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "sgilmore", "eraab", "gesparza"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "4n482ts", "a307vir", "3rcv4w6"]

*# Display `approved\_users`*

print(approved\_users)

*# Display `approved\_devices`*

print(approved\_devices)

print()

*# Assign `username` to a username*

​

username **=** "sgilmore"

​

*# Conditional statement*

*# If `username` belongs to `approved\_users`, then display "The user \_\_\_\_\_\_ is approved to access the system."*

*# Otherwise display "The user \_\_\_\_\_\_ is not approved to access the system."*

​

**if** username **in** approved\_users:

print("The username", username, "is approved to access the system.")

**else**:

print("The username", username, "is not approved to access the system.")

​

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

The username sgilmore is approved to access the system.

**Hint 1**

**Hint 2**

**Hint 3**

**Question 4**

**What message do you observe in the output when username is "sgilmore"?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 5**

The next part of the algorithm uses the .index() method to find the index of username in the approved\_usersand store that index in a variable named ind.

When used on a list, the .index() method will return the position of the given value in the list.

Add a statement to display ind in the following code cell to explore the value it contains. Be sure to replace the ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "sgilmore", "eraab", "gesparza"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "4n482ts", "a307vir", "3rcv4w6"]

​

*# Display `approved\_users`*

print(approved\_users)

*# Display `approved\_devices`*

print(approved\_devices)

print()

​

*# Assign `username` to a username*

​

username **=** "sgilmore"

​

*# Assign `ind` to the index of `username` in `approved\_users`*

​

ind **=** approved\_users.index(username)

​

*# Display the value of `ind`*

​

print(ind)

​

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

2

**Hint 1**

**Question 5**

**What do you observe from the output when username is "sgilmore"?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 6**

This task will allow you to build your understanding of list operations for the algorithm that you'll eventually build. It will demonstrate how you can find an index in one list and then use this index to display connected information in another list. First, use the .index() method again to find the index of username in the approved\_users and store that in a variable named ind. Then, connect ind to the approved\_devices and display the device ID located at the index ind. Afterwards, run the cell to observe the result. Be sure to replace each ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "sgilmore", "eraab", "gesparza"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "4n482ts", "a307vir", "3rcv4w6"]

​

*# Display `approved\_users`*

print(approved\_users)

*# Display `approved\_devices`*

print(approved\_devices)

print()

​

*# Assign `username` to a username*

​

username **=** "sgilmore"

​

*# Assign `ind` to the index of `username` in `approved\_users`*

​

ind **=** approved\_users.index(username)

*# Display the device ID at the index that matches the value of `ind` in `approved\_devices`*

​

print(approved\_devices[ind])

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

4n482ts

**Hint 1**

**Hint 2**

**Question 6**

**What do you observe from the output when username is "sgilmore"?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 7**

Your next step in creating the algorithm is to determine if a username and device ID correspond. To do this, write a conditional that checks if the username is an element of the approved\_devices and if the device\_id stored at the same index as username matches the device\_id entered. You'll use the logical operator and to connect the two conditions. When both conditions evaluate to True, display a message that the username is approved and another message that the user has their assigned device. Be sure to replace each ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "sgilmore", "eraab", "gesparza"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "4n482ts", "a307vir", "3rcv4w6"]

​

*# Display `approved\_users`*

print(approved\_users)

*# Display `approved\_devices`*

print(approved\_devices)

print()

​

*# Assign `username` to a username*

​

username **=** "sgilmore"

​

*# Assign `device\_id` to a device ID*

​

device\_id **=** "4n482ts"

​

*# Assign `ind` to the index of `username` in `approved\_users`*

​

ind **=** approved\_users.index(username)

​

*# Conditional statement*

*# If `username` belongs to `approved\_users`, and if the device ID at `ind` in `approved\_devices` matches `device\_id`,*

*# then display a message that the username is approved,*

*# followed by a message that the user has the correct device*

​

**if** username **in** approved\_users **and** device\_id **==** approved\_devices[ind]:

print("The username", username, "is approved to access the system.")

print(device\_id, "is the assigned device for", username)

​

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

The username sgilmore is approved to access the system.

4n482ts is the assigned device for sgilmore

**Hint 1**

**Hint 2**

**Question 7**

**What do you observe from the output when username is "sgilmore" and device\_id is "4n482ts"?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 8**

It would also be helpful for users to receive messages when their username is not approved or their device ID is incorrect.

Add to the code by writing an elif statement. This elif statement should run when the username is part of the approved\_users but the device\_id doesn't match the corresponding device ID in the approved\_devices. The statement should also display two messages conveying that information.

Be sure to replace each ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

(After you run the code once with a device\_id of "4n482ts", you might want to explore what happens if you assign a different value to device\_id.)

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "sgilmore", "eraab", "gesparza"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "4n482ts", "a307vir", "3rcv4w6"]

​

print()

*# Display `approved\_users`*

print(approved\_users)

*# Display `approved\_devices`*

print(approved\_devices)

print()

​

*# Assign `username` to a username*

​

username **=** "sgilmore"

​

*# Assign `device\_id` to a device ID*

​

device\_id **=** "4n482ts"

​

*# Assign `ind` to the index of `username` in `approved\_users`*

​

ind **=** approved\_users.index(username)

​

*# If statement*

*# If `username` belongs to `approved\_users`, and if the element at `ind` in `approved\_devices` matches `device\_id`,*

*# then display a message that the username is approved,*

*# followed by a message that the user has the correct device*

​

**if** username **in** approved\_users **and** device\_id **==** approved\_devices[ind]:

print("The user", username, "is approved to access the system.")

print(device\_id, "is the assigned device for", username)

​

*# Elif statement*

*# Handles the case when `username` belongs to `approved\_users` but element at `ind` in `approved\_devices` does not match `device\_id`,*

*# and displays two messages accordingly*

​

**elif** username **in** approved\_users **and** device\_id **!=**approved\_devices[ind]:

print("The user", username, "is approved to access the system, but", device\_id, "is not their assigned device.")

​

['elarson', 'bmoreno', 'sgilmore', 'eraab', 'gesparza']

['8rp2k75', 'hl0s5o1', '4n482ts', 'a307vir', '3rcv4w6']

The user sgilmore is approved to access the system.

4n482ts is the assigned device for sgilmore

**Hint 1**

**Hint 2**

**Question 8**

**What do you observe from the output when username is "sgilmore" and device\_id is "4n482ts"?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Task 9**

In this task, you'll complete your algorithm by developing a function that uses some of the code you've written in earlier tasks. This will automate the login process.

There are multiple ways to use conditionals to automate the login process. In the following code, a nested conditional is used to achieve the goals of the algorithm. There is a conditional statement inside of another conditional statement. The outer conditional handles the case when the username is approved and the case when username is not approved. The inner conditional, which is placed inside the first if statement, handles the case when the username is approved and the device\_id is correct, as well as the case when the username is approved and the device\_id is incorrect.

To complete this task, you must define a function named login that takes in two parameters, username and device\_id. Afterwards, call the function and pass in different username and device ID combinations to experiment and observe the function's behavior. Be sure to replace the ### YOUR CODE HERE ### with your own code before you run the following cell.

*# Assign `approved\_users` to a list of approved usernames*

​

approved\_users **=** ["elarson", "bmoreno", "sgilmore", "eraab", "gesparza"]

​

*# Assign `approved\_devices` to a list of device IDs that correspond to the usernames in `approved\_users`*

​

approved\_devices **=** ["8rp2k75", "hl0s5o1", "4n482ts", "a307vir", "3rcv4w6"]

​

print()

​

*# Define a function named `login` that takes in two parameters, `username` and `device\_id`*

​

**def** login(username,device\_id):

​

*# If `username` belongs to `approved\_users`,*

​

**if** username **in** approved\_users:

​

*# then display "The user \_\_\_\_\_\_ is approved to access the system.",*

​

print("The user", username, "is approved to access the system.")

​

*# assign `ind` to the index of `username` in `approved\_users`,*

​

ind **=** approved\_users.index(username)

​

*# and execute the following conditional*

*# If `device\_id` matches the element at the index `ind` in `approved\_devices`,*

​

**if** device\_id **==** approved\_devices[ind]:

​

*# then display "\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the assigned device for \_\_\_\_\_\_"*

​

print(device\_id, "is the assigned device for", username)

​

*# Otherwise,*

​

**else**:

​

*# display "\_\_\_\_\_\_ is not their assigned device"*

​

print(device\_id, "is NOT their assigned device.")

​

*# Otherwise (part of the outer conditional and handles the case when `username` does not belong to `approved\_users`),*

​

**else**:

​

*# Display "The user \_\_\_\_\_\_ is not approved to access the system."*

​

print("The username", username, "is NOT approved to access the system.")

​

*# Call the function you just defined to experiment with different username and device\_id combinations*

​

login("bmoreno","hl0s5o1")

print()

login("gesparza","3rcv4w6")

print()

login("eraab","3rcv4w6")

The user bmoreno is approved to access the system.

hl0s5o1 is the assigned device for bmoreno

The user gesparza is approved to access the system.

3rcv4w6 is the assigned device for gesparza

The user eraab is approved to access the system.

3rcv4w6 is NOT their assigned device.

**Hint 1**

**Hint 2**

**Hint 3**

**Question 9**

**After Python enters the inner conditional, what happens when the device\_id is correct, and what happens when the device\_id is incorrect?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]

**Conclusion**

**What are your key takeaways from this lab?**

[Double-click to enter your responses here.]