

Zen of Python

- Objectives
 - Define PEP
 - *Pythonic* code samples



What Is PEP

- PEP stands for Python Enhancement Proposal
- PEPs intended to be the primary mechanisms for proposing major new features, for collecting community input on an issue, and for documenting the design decisions that have gone into Python
- **PEP Types**
 - A **Standards Track** PEP describes a **new feature** or implementation for Python
 - An **Informational** PEP describes a **Python design issue**, or provides general guidelines or information to the Python community
 - A **Process** PEP describes a process surrounding Python such as **tools** or **environment** used in Python development

Style Guide for Python Code – PEP 8

- Python has *official* code guidelines
 - <http://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0008/>
- Code is read much more often than written
 - optimize for readability

Indentation:

Use 4 spaces per indentation level.

Alignment: with opening delimiter

```
foo = long_function_name(var_one, var_two,  
                          var_three, var_four)
```

Closing brace: with first character

```
my_list = [  
    1, 2, 3,  
    4, 5, 6,  
]
```



Style Guide for Python Code – PEP 8

Tabs or Spaces?

Spaces are the preferred indentation method.

Python 3 disallows mixing the use of tabs and spaces for indentation

Blank Lines

Separate top-level function and class definitions with two blank lines.

Method definitions inside a class are separated by a single blank line.

Imports

Imports are always put at the top of the file.

Imports should usually be on separate lines

```
import os
import sys
```



Style Guide for Python Code – PEP 8

Naming Conventions

snake_casing_is_generally_preferred

Package and Module Names

Should have short, all-lowercase names. Underscores can be used in the module name if it improves readability.

Class Names

Should normally use the CapWords convention.

Function Names

Should be lowercase, with words separated by underscores as necessary to improve readability.

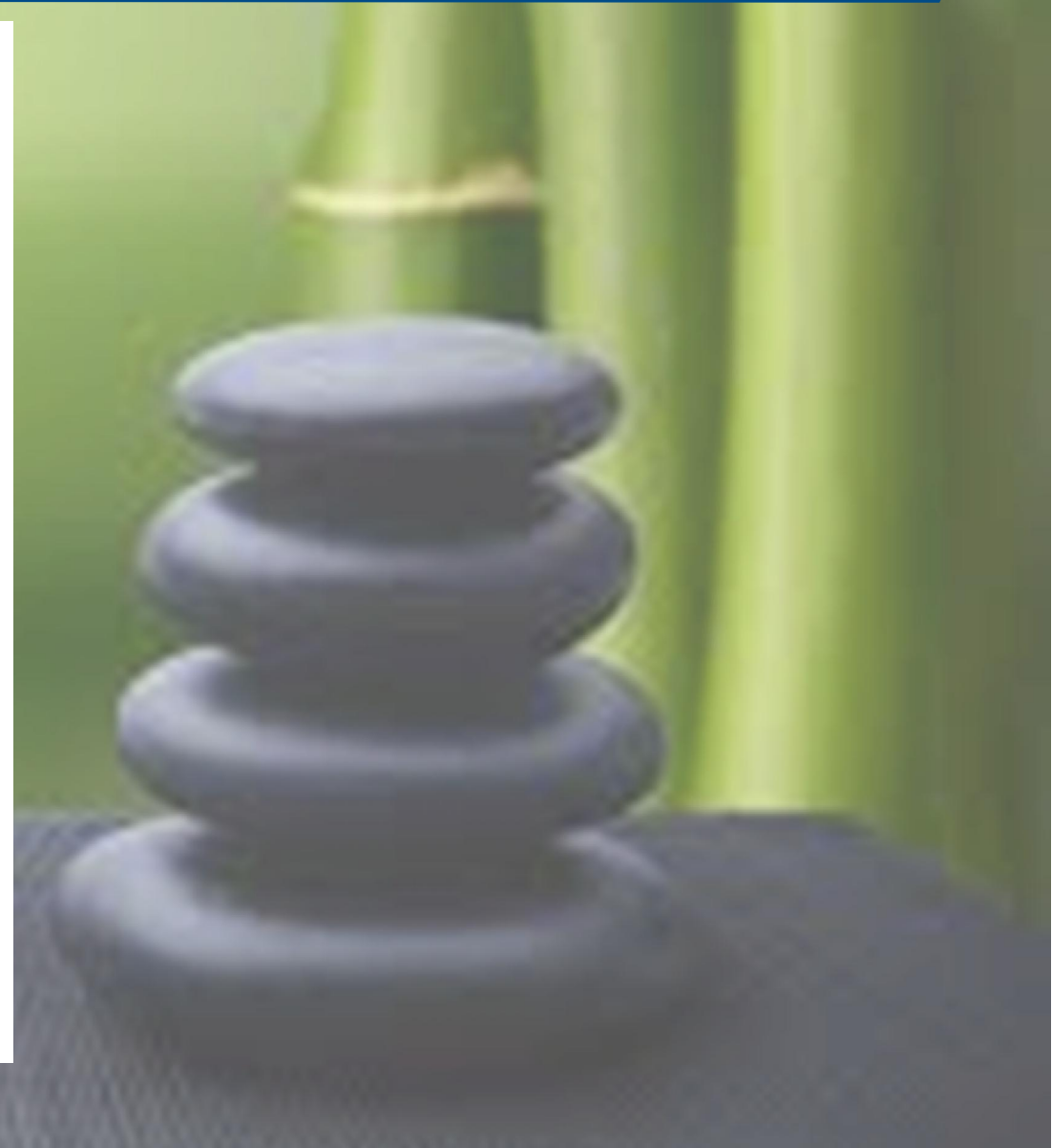


Pythonic code – PEP 20

- Over time, the Python community has settled in on common idioms and styles
 - somewhat motivated by ‘one way to do things’
 - hints at best practices
- Code and patterns that adhere to these idioms are called Pythonic.

There should be one -- and preferably only one -- obvious way to do it.

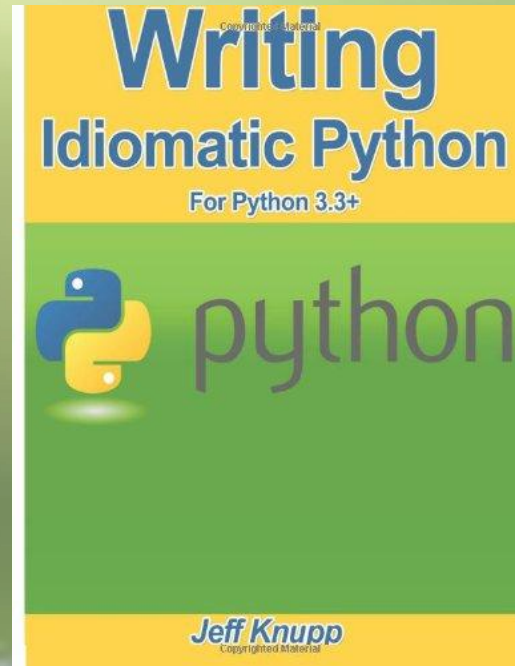
- [Zen of Python](#)



Pythonic Code Samples

We will explore several areas of code samples around idiomatic code

- Conditionals
- Loops
- Functions
- Exceptions
- Fluent APIs
- Comprehensions
- Collections
- Ecosystem
- Testing



Jeff Knupp at [Amazon](#)

Many ideas in this section have been inspired by Jeff's book.

Pythonic Code: Conditionals

- Avoid placing conditional branch code on the same line as the colon.

Harmful

```
user = db.find_user(user_id)
if user.registered: print('welcome back')
```

Idiomatic

```
user = db.find_user(user_id)
if user.registered:
    print('welcome back')
```


Pythonic Code: Conditionals

- Avoid repeating tests on the same variable.

Harmful

```
day = get_today()
if day=="Monday" or day=="Wednesday" or day=="Friday":
    print('Today you attend your MWF classes')
```

Idiomatic

```
day = get_today()
if day in ("Monday", "Wednesday", "Friday"):
    print('Today you attend your MWF classes')
```

Pythonic Code: Loops

- Use the enumerate function in loops instead of creating an **index** variable

Harmful

```
users = get_new_users()
index = 0
while index < len(users):
    print("Processing {}th user: {}".format(index, users[index].name))
    process_new_user(users[index])
    index += 1
```

Idiomatic

```
users = get_new_users()
for index, user in enumerate(users):
    print("Processing {}th user: {}".format(index, user.name))
    process_new_user(user)
```

Pythonic Code: Exceptions

Harmful

```
if user is None:
    return
if not user.email:
    return
if not email_is_well_formed(user.email):
    return
if not mail_server_is_enabled:
    return
# if ... (all conditions)

send_welcome_email(user.email)
```

Idiomatic

```
try:
    send_welcome_email(user.email)
except:
    return
```

Pythonic Code: Fluent APIs

- **Chain string functions** to make a simple series of transformations more clear

Harmful

```
txt = user_input.strip()
txt = txt.lower()
txt = txt.split(',')[0]
txt = txt.strip()
```

Idiomatic

```
txt = ( user_input
        .strip()
        .lower()
        .split(',')[0]
        .strip() )
```

Pythonic Code: Comprehensions

- Use a **list comprehension** to create a transformed version of an existing list.

Harmful

```
publishers = []  
for b in books:  
    if b.is_published:  
        publishers.append(b.publisher)
```

Idiomatic

```
publishers = [  
    b.publisher  
    for b in books  
    if b.is_published  
]
```



Pythonic Code: Collections

- Use a dictionary as a substitute for a switch statement.

Harmful

```
day = 'wed'

if day in ('mon', 'wed', 'fri'):
    do_mwf_schedule()
elif day in ('tues', 'thurs'):
    do_tth_schedule()
elif day in ('sat', 'sun'):
    party()
```

Idiomatic

```
actions = {
    "mon": do_mwf_schedule,
    "wed": do_mwf_schedule,
    "fri": do_mwf_schedule,
    "tues": do_tth_schedule,
    "thurs": do_tth_schedule,
    "sat": party,
    "sun": party,
}
actions[day]()
```

Dictionary + function object
can stand in for switch /
case statements.

Pythonic Code: Collections

- Use a tuple to **return multiple values** from a function.

Harmful

```
def change_multiple(data):  
    val1 = 40 # compute...  
    val2 = 42 # compute...  
    if len(data) == 2:  
        data[0] = val1  
        data[1] = val2  
    else:  
        data.append(val1)  
        data.append(val2)  
  
lst = []  
change_multiple(lst)  
val1 = lst[0]  
val2 = lst[1]
```

Idiomatic

```
def change_multiple():  
    val1 = 40 # compute...  
    val2 = 42 # compute...  
    return val1, val2  
  
val1, val2 = change_multiple()
```

Pythonic Code: Platform

- Use `sys.exit` in your script to return proper error codes.

Harmful

```
def main():  
    if not validate_args():  
        print('Invalid args...')  
        return
```

Idiomatic

```
def main():  
    if not validate_args():  
        print('Invalid args...')  
        sys.exit(-5)  
    return
```

Pythonic Code: Ecosystem

- Avoid reinventing the wheel, get to know [PyPI](#) (the Python Package Index)

Harmful

```
# let's write that new security component
```

Idiomatic

```
pip install security_layer
```

PyPI - the Python Package Index

The Python Package Index is a repository of software for the Python programming language. There are currently **52237** packages here. To contact the PyPI admins, please use the [Support](#) or [Bug reports](#) links.

Pythonic Code: Testing

Use an automated testing tool; it doesn't matter which one.

Separate your test code from your application code.



Summary

- *Pythonic* code confirms to common idioms used in the community
- C-style algorithms are typically not Pythonic
- PEP 8 has many guidelines for code style

