Python follow-up resources

Deeper into Python:

First, repeats from my welcome email, if you prefer reading through material to watching it:

<https://www.w3schools.com/python/>

This site provides very quick examples of how to work with Python without much explanation.  It’s a great place to go if you’re just trying to remember how, say, slicing a String works.

<https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/index.htm>

This site provides much more in the way of explanation and is generally well balanced if you’re looking to get a topic down better.

<https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/>

This is the official Python tutorial.  It goes in to significant detail and looks under the hood. Probably not something you want to dive into this week, but an excellent resource for mastering the language.

<https://codingbat.com/python>

Coding bat (available for Python and Java) is loaded with practice problems appropriate to a new learner that can be completed and checked in your browser.  It’s great practice as you’re getting started.

I’d look at Tutorialspoint and python.org over W3Schools for learning material. Codigbat’s practice doesn’t get deep but is particularly good if you’re newer to programming in general, as you can get lots of practice working with loops and lists and such.

cognizant.udemy.com

(We don’t have work yet on whether the company-wide license is being renewed. It’s good through the 24th or 27th of this month, I’m not sure which. They are looking at usage data, but like most of the company Academy is under a lot of cost pressure and is facing restructuring.)

There is a TON of other good stuff on Python, including a 51-hour class – <https://cognizant.udemy.com/course/python-the-complete-python-developer-course/> - that, obviously, goes MUCH deeper than the 9-hour one that fit the intended depth and duration of this course. The section on functions and modules is nearly as long as the entire course we used here AND involves putting together a GUI (which I want to look at myself – haven’t done that in Python). If you have the time, like guided exercises and video, and want to get the language itself down, this looks like an excellent option. (Let me know if it is if you go through it.)

Machine Learning, Data Science and such

First, Anaconda -- <https://www.anaconda.com/products/individual>

If you’re going to get into ML/DS you’ll be starting with Anaconda in place of vanilla python. This is a fairly massive collection of most of the packages you’d need along with the conda package manager to pull compatible versions of others from Anaconda’s repositories. You can do all of this yourself with vanilla Python and pip, the python package manager, but if you don’t mind (and can do) a big install, it’s the way to go.

The 2020.02 release is available in OneIT, if you need to raise a request for it.

As an introductory course, I’d look at <https://cognizant.udemy.com/course/data-science-and-machine-learning-with-python-hands-on/> (I hope that works, as my URL takes me to the last video I looked at in the course.) I used this for a blended introductory ML course. I’m not proud of how the overall course worked out, as it was rushed, but I really liked this video as an introduction to the topic. It will NOT get you intimately acquainted with any of the tools or packages he uses, but will walk you through practically using them as well as examples of some different problems in ML/DS with solutions and suggestions for playing around with them. It’s a lot of fun, frankly, and you have enough Python at this point to start it. Take notes on the topics and you’ll have a great list of things to delve deeper into.