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Counting Words In A Txt File.

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#1 cthomas1489



- D.I.C Head

Reputation: 1

-
- Posts: 104
- Joined: 20-June 11

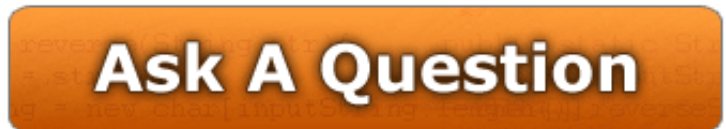
Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 01 February 2012 - 04:10 PM

So I'm attempting to help my girlfriend with her python assignment and I'm not very familiar with Python coding/syntax.

Basically she has a text file that has a list of words and needs to count how many words are in the file. It would actually appear to me that she only needs to count the number of lines since there are no lines with multiple words (ie. each line is one word, in a list format). So we don't need to worry about getting rid of whitespace or anything. We want to output a text file with the number of words written in it as well.

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```

01 filename =
   'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
02
03 int words = 0
04 textfile = open(filename, 'r')
05
06 for wordcount in textfile
07
08     Something here
09
10     words++

```

I'm not familiar with what to use in python. In java I would use a while loop as long as input.hasNextLine() and increment the counter every time I input.nextLine();

What would the equivalent be here?

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Replies To: Counting words in a txt file.

#2 Simown



- Blue Sprat



Reputation: 321

-
- Posts: 650
- Joined: 20-May 10

Re: Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 01 February 2012 - 06:24 PM

First of all, you need to escape the backslashes in a path name, if you don't understand what that means, this topic came up recently which explains it in detail: <http://www.dreaminco...hon-file-error/>

You were close, but you can't write variable++ in Python, it's just not valid syntax.

Python binds types to variables at runtime, so called "dynamic typing" - int variable is not valid syntax, the interpreter will work out the type and stick to it.

It's not only Python that does this, a "for item in" increments to the next value each loop, so you don't need to explicitly ask for it.

Another thing is that you are counting each character in the for loop, assuming the words are separated by spaces, the best thing to do would be to split the text file on each empty character.

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```

01 filename =
   r'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
02
03 words = 0
04 textfile = open(filename, 'r')
05
06 # For each word in the file, split the
   text on the empty character
07 for wordcount in
   textfile.readlines().split(" "):
08     #Count the word
09     words += 1
10
11 #Print the result
12 print("The number of words are: " +
   words)

```

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This post has been edited by **Simown**: 01 February 2012 - 06:31 PM

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#3 Vblaster



- New D.I.C Head



Reputation: 1

-
- Posts: 18
- Joined: 16-January 11

Re: Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 02 February 2012 - 06:59 PM

Shorter, and no for loop:

```

1 filename =
   r'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
2
3 textfile = open(filename, 'r')
4 #Print the result
5 print("The number of words are: " +
   len(textfile.split(" ")))

```

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#4 mantis8



- New D.I.C Head

Reputation: 0

-
- Posts: 4
- Joined: 04-February 13

Re: Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 04 February 2013 - 04:24 PM

Vblaster, on 02 February 2012 - 06:59 PM, said:
Shorter, and no for loop:

```
1 filename =
  r'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
2
3 textfile = open(filename, 'r')
4 #Print the result
5 print("The number of words are: " +
  len(textfile.split(" ")))
```

I'm a noobie with python & linux. I tried this piece of code on linux mint using geany, but I keep getting a syntax error that says no such file or directory (path to file/syntax)- compilation failed after I clicked on the compile icon in geany. I double-checked the file name & path & it seems to be correct, but obviously, something is wrong somewhere.

I saved the code as filename.py.

Any help is appreciated.

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#5 mantis8



- New D.I.C Head

Reputation: 0

-
- Posts: 4
- Joined: 04-February 13

Re: Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 04 February 2013 - 04:30 PM

Vblaster, on 02 February 2012 - 06:59 PM, said:
Shorter, and no for loop:

```

1 filename =
  r'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
2
3 textfile = open(filename, 'r')
4 #Print the result
5 print("The number of words are: " +
  len(textfile.split(" ")))



```

I'm a noobie with python & linux. I tried this piece of code on linux mint using geany, but I keep getting a syntax error that says no such file or directory (path to file/syntax)- compilation failed after I clicked on the compile icon in geany. I double-checked the file name & path & it seems to be correct, but obviously, something is wrong somewhere.

I saved the code as filename.py.

Any help is appreciated.

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#6 mantis8  




- New D.I.C Head

Reputation: 0

- 
- Posts: 4
- Joined: 04-February 13

Re: Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 04 February 2013 - 04:35 PM

 Vblaster, on 02 February 2012 - 06:59 PM, said:


Shorter, and no for loop:

```

1 filename =
  r'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
2
3 textfile = open(filename, 'r')
4 #Print the result
5 print("The number of words are: " +
  len(textfile.split(" ")))

```

Sorry for the duplicate post - I got an error message saying it didn't post, so I posted again, only to find 2

posts instead of one. 

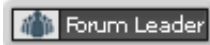
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#7 andrewsw

- I'm not here to twist your niblets



Reputation: 4643

-
- Posts: 17,153
- Joined: 12-December 12

Re: Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 04 February 2013 - 04:45 PM

```
1 r'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
```

this isn't a valid path in linux; I assume it's forward-slashes '/'; something like:

```
1 r'/home/user/Documents/something.txt'
```

or

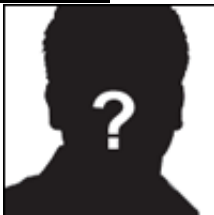
```
1 r'/usr/share/app-
install/desktop/test.txt'
```

[http://www.daniweb.c...ile-path-system](http://www.daniweb.com/...ile-path-system)

This post has been edited by **andrewsw**: 04 February 2013 - 04:49 PM

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#8 mantis8

- New D.I.C Head

Reputation: 0

-
- Posts: 4
- Joined: 04-February 13

Re: Counting words in a txt file.

Posted 04 February 2013 - 04:54 PM

andrewsw, on 04 February 2013 - 04:45 PM, said:

```
1 | r'C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\test.txt'
```

this isn't a valid path in linux; I assume it's forward-slashes '/'; something like:

```
1 | r'/home/user/Documents/something.txt'
```



or

```
1 | r'/usr/share/app-  
install/desktop/test.txt'
```

[http://www.daniweb.c...ile-path-system](http://www.daniweb.com/...ile-path-system)

The path in example 1 (/home/user/Documents/...filename.txt) was the path I had already in my code. I've also tried putting the file name that's in the parenthesis in quotes & without. Same error.

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