Executing Python Code

Let's learn how to write and run Python code locally.

We'll cover the following

In the second lesson of the course, we wrote a simple line of code for printing "**Hello World**":

```
print("Hello World")
```

So, how would we run the code we wrote above on our machines?

Well, if we use an IDE, we can simply write the code in the IDE's **text editor** and run the code (usually, by pressing a button somewhere at the top).

If we've installed Python on our system, we have a couple of options.

The Python Shell

Go to the terminal (or command prompt) and type `python3`. This will launch the **Python Shell**. This is a contained environment where we can write and execute code in Python.

The `>>` or `>>>` symbols prepended to each line indicate that we are in the shell.

We can write `print ("Hello World")` here and it would give the same output as seen above.

```
Python 3.7.3 (default, May 14 2019, 12:32:21)
[Clang 10.0.1 (clang-1001.0.46.4)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print ("Hello World")
```

To exit the shell, we can use the `exit()` or `quit()` command.

`.py` Files

Files with the `.py` extension are used to store Pythonic code. This is the most widely used means of programming in Python as it allows us to make multiple files and directories in a project.

Go to the desired directory and create a `.py` file, such as `test.py`. Navigate from the terminal to the same directory.

To execute the contents of the Python file, write the following line in the terminal:

```
python3 fileName.py
```

For a file named `test.py`, we'd have to write `python3 test.py`.