

# How to's

## Installing Python, Visual Studio code, and Anaconda

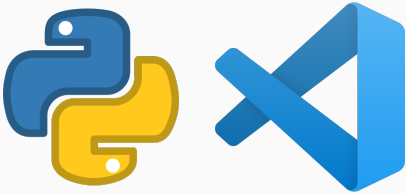
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Before you get to write your first script, you need to install two pieces of software:



Make sure to click the icons ;)

It is the code interpreter: it will translate the code to machine language.  
I recommend downloading through  Anaconda.

Although Anaconda comes with Spyder, an Integrated Development Environment (IDE), I recommend installing Visual Studio Code (VsCode), as it is less clumsy than Spyder. to interface them, I recommend you go through **this tutorial**.

Once you have installed your Python distribution, you can run it from a terminal:

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19044.1889]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\hx21262>python
Python 3.8.8 (default, Apr 13 2021, 15:08:03) [MSC v.1916 64 bit (AMD64)] :: Anaconda, Inc. on win32

Warning:
This Python interpreter is in a conda environment, but the environment has
not been activated. Libraries may fail to load. To activate this environment
please see https://conda.io/activation

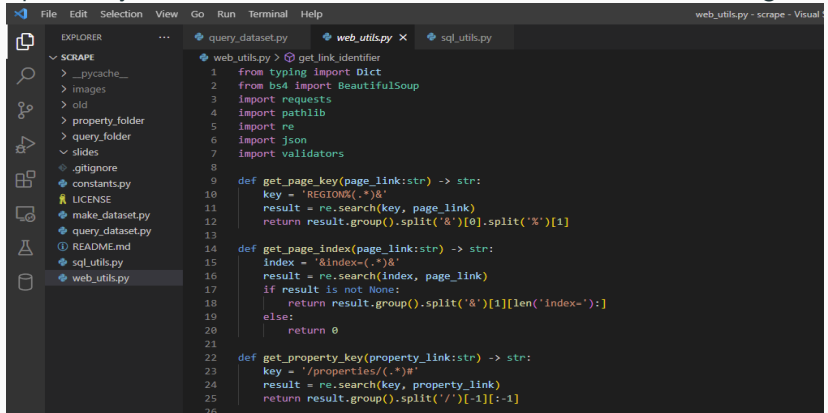
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> school = 'Economics'
>>> print(f'Hello Bristol School of {school}')
Hello Bristol School of Economics
>>> exit()

C:\Users\hx21262>
```

# Visual studio Code

Developing without an IDE is such a 1960's thing. You need one to interact with the interpreter in a smooth fashion.

I personally recommend Visual Studio Code, as it is free and well designed.



```
File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
web_utils.py - scrape - Visual Studio Code

EXPLORER
SCRAPE
  __pycache__
  images
  old
  property_folder
  query_folder
  slides
  .gitignore
  constants.py
  LICENSE
  make_dataset.py
  query_dataset.py
  README.md
  sql_utils.py
  web_utils.py

web_utils.py
1  from typing import Dict
2  from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
3  import requests
4  import pathlib
5  import re
6  import json
7  import validators
8
9  def get_page_key(page_link:str) -> str:
10     key = 'REGIONX(.*?)&'
11     result = re.search(key, page_link)
12     return result.group().split('&')[0].split('%')[1]
13
14  def get_page_index(page_link:str) -> str:
15     index = '&index-(.*?)&'
16     result = re.search(index, page_link)
17     if result is not None:
18         return result.group().split('&')[1][len('index='):]
19     else:
20         return 0
21
22  def get_property_key(property_link:str) -> str:
23     key = '/properties/(.*?)#'
24     result = re.search(key, property_link)
25     return result.group().split('/')[1][:-1]
```

VS Code is great! It can even run Latex :) Don't forget to add the Python extension and you're good to go.