

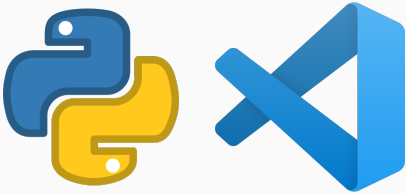
Discovering Python

Emilien Valat


September 2, 2022

University of Bristol, School of Economics

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. Anaconda is a Python distribution that will help to partition efficiently your codes between different projects.

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**. Feel free to stick with Spyder if this is what you are used to.

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

```
C:\> 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

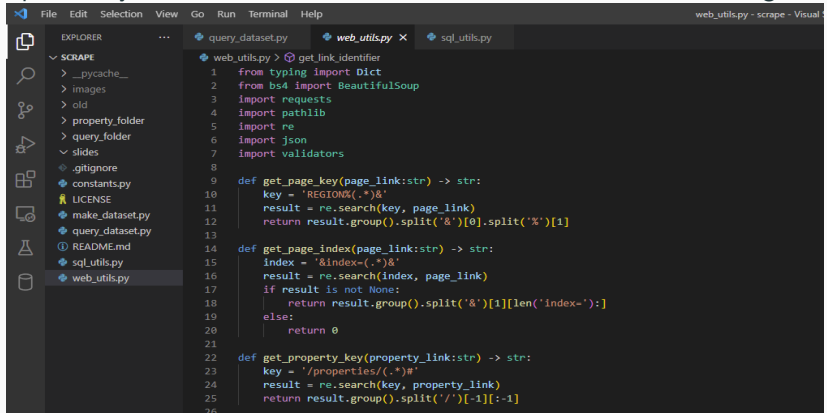
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> school = 'Economics'
>>> print(f'Hello Bristol School of {school}')
Hello Bristol School of Economics
>>> exit()

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 > get_link_identifier
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]
26
```

VS Code is great! It is free, open-source, flexible, with all sort of extensions. I find useful when coding as type hints are well supported. Don't forget to add the Python Extension (Ctrl + Shift + X and then type Python in the search bar) and you're good to go.