

## IT TOOLS & PRACTICES

### PEP in Python

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#### D) What is PEP?

→ PEP stands for python Enhancement Proposal. A PEP is a design document providing information on to the python community, or describing a new feature for python or its processes or environment. The PEP should provide a concise technical specification of the features and a rational for the feature.

#### \* Code - lay - out

Use 4 spaces per indentation level.

Continuation lines should align wrapped elements either vertically using Python's implicit line joining inside parentheses, brackets and braces or using a hanging indent. When using a hanging indent the following should be considered; there should be no arguments on the first line and further indentation should be used to clearly distinguish itself as a continuation line.

# Correct:

# Aligned with opening delimiter.

```
foo =  
    long_function_name(var_one, var_two,  
    1  
    var_three, var_four)
```

# Add 4 spaces

(an extra level of indentation)  
to distinguish arguments from the rest

def long\_function - none (var-one, var-two,  
var-three,

  var-four):  
print(var-one)

# Hanging indents should add a level.

foo = long\_function - none (var-one,  
var-two, var-three, var-four)

# Wrong:

# Arguments on first line forbidden when  
not using vertical alignment.

foo =

long\_function - none (var-one,  
var-two, var-three, var-four).

# Further indentation requires as  
indentation is not distinguishable

def long\_function - none (var-one,  
var-two, var-three,  
var-four):

## Part (var-one)

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\* The 4-space rule is optional for continuation lines.

optional:

# Hanging indents \*may\* be inserted to other than 4 spaces.

foo = long - function - name (var-one, var-two,  
var-three, var-four)

When the conditional part of an if-statement is long enough to require that 4 be written across multiple lines, it worth character Reynolds (i.e. if), plus a single, plus a single space, plus an opening parenthesis creates a nested 4-space indent for the subsequent line of the multiline conditions. This can produce a visual conflict with the indented suite of code nested inside the if-statement which would also naturally be indented to 4-spaces.

This PEP takes no explicit position on how to further visually distinguish such conditional lines from the nested suite inside the if-statement. Acceptable options in this situation include, but are not limited to:

# No extra indentation  
if this - is - one thing and that - is - another  
thing do - something () .

# Add a comment, which will provide some  
distinction in editor .

# supporting syntax  
highlighting .

it (this - is - one thing and that - is - another  
- thing):

# since both conditions are true  
we can just write

do - something ()

# Add some extra indentation on the  
conditional continuation line

if | this - is - one - thing  
and  
that - is - another - thing ) :

do - something ()

The closing bracket / bracket / parenthesis on multiline constructs may either line up under the first non-white space character of the last line of list, as is:

my - list - [

1, 2, 3,  
4, 5, 6,

result =

some function - that - takes arguments (  
 'a', 'b', 'c',  
 'd', 'e', 'f',  
 )

or it may be lined up under the first character of the line that starts the multiline construct, as is:

my - list - [

1, 2, 3,  
4, 5, 6,

result =

some - function - that - takes arguments (  
 'a', 'b', 'c',  
 'd', 'e', 'f',  
 )

## \* Tabs or spaces?

Tabs should be used solely to ensure consistent width code that is already indented with tabs.

Spaces are the preferred indentation method.

Python disallows mixing tabs and spaces for indentation.

## \* Maximum line length

Limit all lines to a maximum of 79 characters.

For flowing long blocks of text with fixed structural restrictions, the line length should be limited to 72 characters.

Limiting the required editor windows width makes it possible to have several files open side by side, and works well when using code review tools that present the two versions in adjacent columns.

The default mapping in most tools disrupts the visual structure of the code,

making it more difficult to understand.  
The limit are chosen to avoid wrapping  
in editors with the window width set  
to 80, even if the tool places a  
marker glyph in the first column when  
wrapping lines. Some web based tools may  
not offer dynamic line wrapping at all.

## \* Source File Encoding

Code in the core python distribution  
should always use UTF-8, and should not  
have an encoding declaration.

All identifiers in the python standard  
library, MUST use ASCII-only identifiers,  
and SHOULD use English words feasible.

## \* Imports

Imports should usually be on separate  
lines:

# correct:

```
import os  
import sys
```

# wrong:

```
import sys, os 7
```

It's okay to say this though:

# correct:

from subprocess import  
os, re, PIPE

- Imports are always put at the top of the file, just after any module comments and docstrings, and before module globals and constants.

Imports should be grouped in following order

- 1) standard library imports
- 2) relative third party imports
- 3) local application / library specific imports.

\* Absolute imports are recommended, as they are usually more readable and tend to be better behaved if the import system is incorrectly configured.

import mypkg.sibling  
from my\_pkg import sibling  
from my\_pkgs.sibling import  
example

However, explicit relative imports are

~~or 26~~

or acceptable alternative to absolute imports,  
especially when dealing with complex package  
layouts where using absolute imports would  
be unnecessarily verbose:

```
from import sibling
from . sibling import
example.
```

standard library code should avoid complex  
package layouts and always use absolute  
imports

When importing a class from a class-  
containing module, it's usually okay to  
spell this:

```
from my class import
My class
from foo.bar.your class
import Your class
```

If this spelling causes local name clashes,  
then spell this explicitly.

```
import my class
import foo.bar.your class
```

or use "my class.my class" and  
"foo.bar.your class.Your class".

## # Module level header names

Module level "headers" such as - all\_,  
author\_-, - version -, etc.

should be placed after the module docstring  
but before any import statements except for  
future-imports. Python mandates that  
future-imports must appear in the module  
before any other code except docstrings.

"" " This is the example  
module.

This module class stuff

from \_\_future\_\_ import  
bare - os - FFLFL

-- all\_ -- = ['a', 'b', 'c']

-- version -- = '0.1'

-- author \_\_ - = 'Cordiel' \*  
Biggles'

import os  
import sys.

## \* String Quotes

In Python, single-quoted strings and double-quoted strings are the same. This PEP does not make a recommendation for this. Pick a rule and stick to it. When a string contains single or double quote characters, however, use the other one to avoid backslashes in the string. It improves readability.

For triple-quoted strings, always use double quote characters to be consistent with the doctesting convention in PEP 257.

## \* Whitespace in Expressions and statements.

### Pet Peeves

Avoid extraneous whitespace in the following situations:

- Immediately inside parentheses, brackets or braces.

### # Correct:

```
spam(ham[1], {11eggs:2})
```

# wrong:

Span (ham [ : ], { eggs: 2 })

\* Between a trailing comma or a following close parenthesis:

# correct:

foo = ( 0, )

# wrong:

bar = ( 0 )

\* Immediately before a comma, semicolon, or colon:

# correct:

y x == 4; print (x, y) : x;  
y = 4, x

# wrong:

if x == 4; print (x, y);  
x, y = y, x

\* However, in a slice the colon acts like a binary operator, and should have equal amounts on either side. In an extended slice, both colons must have the same amount of spacing applied.<sup>12</sup>

Exception: When a slice parameter is omitted  
the space is omitted:

# Correct:

`hom[1:9]`, ~~0~~ `hom[1:9:3]`,  
`hom[:9:3]`, `hom[1::3]`,  
`hom[1:9:]`

`hom[lower:upper]`,

`hom[lower:upper]`,

`hom[lower::step]`

`hom[lower + offset::]`

~~upper to offset~~

`hom[:upper - fn(x)::]`

`step - fn(x)`, `hom[::`

`step - fn(x)]`

`hom[lower + offset : upper + offset]`.

# Wrong:

`hom[lower + offset : upper + offset]`

`hom[1:9]`, `hom[1:9]`,

`hom[1:9:3]`

`hom[lower :: upper]`

`hom[: upper]`

\* Immediately before the open parenthesis that starts the argument list of a function call:

# correct:  
spen(1)

# wrong:  
Span(1)

\* Immediately before the open parenthesis that starts an indexing or slicing.

# correct:

`det ['Key'] = s12[index]`

# wrong:

`det ['Key'] = s12[index]`

\* More than one space around an assignment (or other) operator to align it with another:

# correct:

`x = 1`

`y = 2`

`long - result = 3`

# wrong:

`x = 1`

`y = 2`

long - variable = 3

## \* Description: naming styles

There are a lot of different naming styles.  
It helps to be able to recognize what naming style is being used, independently from what they are used for.

The following naming styles are commonly distinguished:

- 1) a (single lowercase letter)
- 2) B (single uppercase letter)
- 3) lowercase
- 4) lower-case - with - underscores
- 5) UPPERCASE
- 6) UPPERCASE - WITH - underscores
- 7) Capitalized words for cap words, or Cons(Capitalized words)  
so named because of the bump & look of its letters. This is also sometimes known as studycaps

- \* mixed case (differs from capitalized words by initial lowercase character)
- \* Capitalized - words with underscores (Ugly!)

There's also the style of using a short unique prefix to group related names together. This is not used ~~as~~ much in Python, but it is mentioned for completeness. For example, the os.stat() function returns a tuple whose items traditionally have names like st\_mode, st\_size, st\_mtime and so on.

- \* Single - leading - underscore : weak "internal use" indicator. Eg. from M import \* does not import objects whose names start with an underscore.
- \* Single - trailing - underscore - ; used by convention to avoid conflicts with Python keywords, eg:

```
thunder = topLevel( master,
                     class_ = 'class Name' )
```

- \* - double - leading - underscore : when naming a class attribute, makes name mangled

(inside class FooBar - booke - cones - FooBar -  
boo; see below).

- \* - Double - leading - and - trailing underscore  
"magic" object or attributes that live in  
user - controlled namespaces. e.g.  
- init - , - import - or - file - . Never  
invent such names; only use them as documented.

### \* Names to avoid.

Never use the characters 'I' (lower case letter  
el), 'O' (upper case letter oh), or 'I' (uppercase  
letter eye) as single character visible names.

In some fonts, these characters are indist-  
inguishable from the numbers one and zero  
when tempted to use 'I' use '2' instead.

### \* Exception Names

Because exceptions should be classes, the class  
naming convention applies here. However,  
you should use the suffix "Error" on  
your exception ~~as~~ names.

## \* Function and Variable Names

Function names should be lowercase, with words separated by underscores if necessary to improve readability.

Variable names follow the same convention as function names.

Mixed case is allowed only in contexts where that's already the prevailing style (e.g. threading.py), to retain backwards compatibility.

## \* Function and Method Arguments

Always use self for the first argument to methods.

If a function argument's name clashes with a reserved keyword, it is generally better to open a single trailing underscore rather than use an abbreviation or spelling corruption. Thus class\_ is better than class. (Perhaps better is to avoid such clashes by using a synonym.)

## \* Method Names and Instance Variables

Use the function naming rules: lower case with words separated by underscores as necessary to improve readability.

Use one leading underscore only for non-public methods and instance variables.

To avoid name clashes with subclasses, use two leading underscores to invoke Python's name mangling rules.

Python mangles these names with the class name. If class Foo has an attribute named \_\_a, it cannot be accessed by Foo.\_\_a (an insistent user could still gain access by calling Foo.\_\_foo\_\_.\_a.) Generally, double leading underscores should be used only to avoid name conflicts with attributes in classes designed to be subclassed.

Note: there is some controversy about the use of \_\_names.

## \* Constants

Constants are usually defined on a module level and written in all capital letters with

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underscores separating words. Examples include MAX\_OVERFLOW and TOTAL.

## \* Designing for Inheritance

Always decide whether a class's methods or instances variables (collectively: "attributes") should be public or non-public. If in doubt, choose non-public; it easier to make it public later to make a public attribute non-public.

Public attributes are those that you expect related clients of yours to use, with your commitment to avoid backward incompatible changes. Non-public attributes are those which are not intended to be used by them so die. You make guarantees that non-public attributes won't change or ever be removed.

With this in mind, here are the Pythonic guidelines:

- 1) Public attributes should have no leading underscores.
- 2) If your public attribute name collides with a reserved keyword, append a single underscore.

trailing underscore to your attribute now. This is preferable to an abbreviation or corrupted spelling.

Note 1: See the argument name recommendation above for class methods.

- \* For simple public data attributes, it is best to expose just the attribute name, without complicated accessor/mutator methods. keep in mind that python provides an easy path to future enhancements, should you find that a simple data attribute needs to grow functional behavior. In that case, use properties to hide functional implementation behind simple data attribute access syntax.

Note 1: Try to keep the functional behaviour side effect free, although side effects such as caching are generally fine.

Note 2: Avoid using properties for computationally expensive operations; the attribute notation makes the caller believe that access is (relatively) cheap.

## \* Public and Internal interface.

Any backwards compatibility guarantee applies only to public interfaces. Accordingly, it is important that users be able to clearly distinguish between public & internal interfaces.

Documented interfaces are considered public, unless the documentation explicitly declares them to be provisional or internal, except from the usual backwards compatibility guarantees. All undocumented interfaces should be assumed to be internal.

To better support introspection, modules should explicitly declare the names in their public API using the `-all-` attribute. Setting `-all-` to an empty list indicates that the module has no public API.

Even with `-all-` set appropriately, internal interfaces (packages, modules, classes, function attributes or other names) should still be prefixed with a single leading underscore.

An interface is also considered internal if any containing namespace (package, module or class) is considered internal.  
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## \* Function Annotations

- 1) Function annotations should use PEP 484 syntax.
- 2) The experimentation with annotation styles that was recommended previously in the PEP is no longer encouraged.
- 3) However, outside the stdlib, experiments within the rules of PEP484 are now encouraged. For example, making up a large third party library or application with PEP 484 style type annotations.
- 4) The Python standard library should be conservative in adopting such ~~anno~~ annotations but their use is allowed for new code and for big refactoring.
- 5) For code that wants to make a different use of function annotations it is recommended put a comment of the form:

```
# type: ignore
```

- 6) Like linters, type checkers are optional, separate tools. Python interpreter by default should not issue any message due to type checking and should not alter this behavior based on annotations.

## \* Variable Annotations:

PEP 526 introduced variable annotations. The style recommendations for them are similar to those on function annotation described above.

- 1) Annotations for module level variables, class and instance variables, and local variables should have a single space after the colon.
- 2) There should be no space before the colon.
- 3) If an assignment has a right hand side, then the equality sign should exactly one space on both sides.

## # Correct:

code: int

class Point

coords: Tuple[int,

int]

label: str =

'<unknown>'

# wrong:

Code: int # No space after colon.

Code: int # space before colon

class Test:

result: int = 0 # No spaces around  
equality sign

\* Although the PEP526 is accepted for python  
3.6, the variable annotation syntax  
is the preferred syntax for sub files or  
all versions of python.