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* IT Tools *

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* PEP 8 *

* Introduction

This document gives coding conventions for the python code comprising the standard library in the main python distribution. Please see the companion informational PEP describing style guidelines for the C code in the C implementation of python.

This document and PEP 257 were adopted from Guido's original python style guide essay, with some additions from Barry's style guide.

This style guid evolves over time as additional conventions are identified and past conventions are rendered obsolete by changes in the language itself.

Many projects have their own coding style guide lines. In the event of any conflicts, such project specific guides take precedence for that project.

* cd foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.

One of Guido's key insights is that code is read much more often than it is written. The guidelines provided here are intended to improve the readability of code and make it consistent across the wide spectrum of python code. cd PEP 20 says, "Readability counts".

A style guide is about consistency. consistency with this style guide is important. consistency within a project is more important. consistency within one module or function is the most important.

However, know when to be inconsistent - sometimes style guide recommendations just aren't applicable. when in doubt use your best judgement. look at other examples and decide what looks best. and don't hesitate to ask!

In particular: do not break backwards compatibility just to comply with this PEP!

Some other good reasons to ignore a particular guideline :-

1. When applying the guideline would make the code less readable even for someone who is used to reading code that follows this PEP.
2. To be consistent with surrounding code that also breaks it --- although this is also an opportunity to ~~set~~ clean up someone else's mess.
3. Because the code in question predates the introduction of the guideline and there is no other reason to be modifying that code.
4. when the code needs to remain compatible with older versions of python that don't support the features recommended by the style guide.

* Code lay-out

* Indentation

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 no arguments on the first line and further indentation should be used to clearly distinguish itself as a continuation:

correct:

```
# aligned with opening delimiter.  
foo = long-function-name(var-one, var-two,  
var-three, var-four)
```

add 4 Spaces (an extra level of indentation) to distinguish arguments from the rest.

```
def long-function-name(  
    var-one, var-two,  
    var-three,
```

'var-four):

print(var-one)

Wanging indents should add a level.

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

wrong:

Arguments on first line forbidden when
not using vertical alignment.

foo :

long-function-name(var-one,

var-two,

var-three, var-four)

further indentation required as
indentation is not distinguishable

def long-function-name (

var-one, var-two, var-three,
var-four):

print(var-one)

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

Optional:

- # Hanging indents *may* be indented 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 it be written across multiple lines, it's worth nothing that the combination of a two character keyword, plus a single space, plus an opening

parenthesis creates a natural 4-space indent for the subsequent lines of the multiline conditional. This can produce a visual effect 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 or whether 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 editors.

Supporting Syntax.

highlighting.

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

Since both conditions are true,
we can fabricate:

do - something ()

Add some extra indentation on the
conditional ~~one~~ continuation line.

if (this - is - one - thing
and

that - is - another - thing):

do - something ()

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

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 in :

my-list = [

1, 2, 3,

4, 5, 6,

]

result =

some-function-that-takes-arguments (

'a', 'b', 'c',

'd', 'e', 'f',

)

* Tabs or Spaces?

Spaces are the preferred indentation method.

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

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 fewer structural restrictions, the line length should be limited to 72 characters.

limiting the required editor window 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 wrapping in most tools disrupts the visual structure of the code, making it more difficult to understand. The limits are chosen to avoid ~~more~~ wrapping in editors with the window width set to 80 even if the tool places a marker ~~if~~ glyph in the final column when wrapping lines. Some web based tools may not offer dynamic line wrapping at all.

Some teams strongly prefer a longer line length - for code maintained exclusively or primarily by a team that can reach agreement on this issue, it is okay to increase the line length limit up to 99 characters, provided that comments and docstring are still wrapped at 72 characters.

The Python standard library is conservative and requires limiting lines to 79 characters and docstring / comments to 72.

The preferred way of wrapping long lines is by using python's implied line continuation inside parentheses, brackets and braces. long lines can be broken over multiple lines by wrapping expressions in parentheses. These should be used in preference to using a backslash for line continuation.

Backslashes may still be appropriate at times. for example, long, multiple with - statements could not use implicit continuation before python 3.10, so backslashes were acceptable for that too:

with

Open ('/path/to/some/file/you/want/
to/read') as file_1,

Open ('/path/to/some/file/being/
written', 'w') as file_2:

file_2.write(file_1.read())

(See the previous discussion on multiline if-statements for further thoughts on the indentation of such multi-line with-statements.)

Another such case is with assert statements.

make sure to indent the continued line appropriately.

* Should a line break before or after a Binary Operator?

For decades the recommended style was to break after binary operators. But this can hurt readability in two ways: the operators tend to get scattered across different columns on the screen and each operator is moved away from its operand and onto the previous line. Here, the gc has to do extra work to tell which items are added and which are subtracted:

wrong:

operators sit far away from their operands.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{income} = & (\text{gross-wages} + \\ & \text{taxable-interest} + \\ & (\text{dividends} - \\ & \text{qualified-dividends}) - \\ & \text{ira-deduction} - \\ & \text{student-loan-interest}) \end{aligned}$$

To solve this readability problem, mathematicians and their publishers follow the opposite convention. Donald Knuth explains the traditional rule in his *Computers and Typesetting* series: "Although formulas within a paragraph always break after binary operations and relations, displayed formulas always break before binary operations".

following the tradition from mathematicians and their publishers follows the opposite convention. Donald usually results in more readable code:

correct:

easy to match operators with operands.

income = (gross_wages

+ taxable_interest

+ (dividends -

qualified_dividends)

- ira_deduction

-

student_loan_interest)

In python code, it is permissible to break before or after a binary operator as long as the convention

is consistent locally, for new code
Kernighan's style is suggested.

* Blank lines

Around top-level function and class
definitions with two blank lines.

Method definitions inside a class are
surrounded by a single blank line.

Extra blank lines may be used sparingly
to separate groups of related functions.
Blank lines may be omitted between a
bunch of related one-liners e.g. a
set of dummy implementations.

Use blank lines in functions, sparingly
to indicate logical sections.

Python accepts the control-L form
feed character as whitespace; Many
tools treat these characters as
page separators, so you may use
them to separate pages of related

sections of your file. Note, some editors and web-based code viewers may not recognize control-L as a form feed and will show another glyph in its place.

* Source file encoding

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

In the standard library, no - UTF-8 encodings should be used only for test purposes only to denote places and human names. If using non-ASCII characters as data, avoid noisy unicode characters like yalgo and byte order marks.

All identifiers in the python standard library must use ASCII-only identifiers ~~not~~ and should use english words wherever feasible (in many cases, abbreviations and technical terms are used which aren't English).

open source projects with a global audience are encouraged to adopt a similar policy.

* Imports

- Imports should usually be on separate lines:

Correct :

import os

import sys

Wrong :

import sys, os

It's okay to say this though:

correct: ~~from subprocess import open, PIPE~~

from subprocess import open,

PIPE

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

Imports should be grouped in the following order

1. Standard library imports.

2. Related third party imports.

3. Local application / library specific imports

You should put a blank line between each group of imports.

- Absolute imports are recommended, as they are usually more readable and tend to be better behaved or at least give better error messages if the import system is incorrectly

* Configured such as when a directly inside a package ends up on sys.path:

import mypkg.sibling

from mypkg import sibling

from mypkg.sibling import

example

However, explicit relative imports are an 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.