

## Why is `__pycache__` created when we import a file?

When you do:

```
python
```





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```
from hello_chai import chai
```

Python does **two things**:

1.  It **loads** the `chai` function so you can use it.
2.  It **compiles** the `hello_chai.py` file into **bytecode** — a faster, low-level version that Python can run quickly.

## What is bytecode?

- Bytecode is an optimized version of your `.py` file.
- It ends in `.pyc` (Python compiled).
- It's stored inside a folder called `__pycache__`.

Example:

```
markdown
```



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```
__pycache__/  
hello_chai.cpython-311.pyc
```

This means:

- It's a **cached** version of `hello_chai.py`
- Compiled using **CPython** (Python's standard interpreter)
- For version **3.11** (or whatever Python version you're using)

## Why does Python do this?

To improve performance.

- Next time you run or import `hello_chai.py` , Python can skip parsing and compiling the `.py` file again.
  - It just loads the `.pyc` file from `__pycache__` , which is faster.
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## Can you delete `__pycache__` ?

Yes, you can safely delete the `__pycache__` folder.

Python will simply recreate it the next time you run or import that module.

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## Summary

Thing	Explanation
<code>__pycache__</code>	Folder where compiled <code>.pyc</code> files are stored
Why it's created	To speed up future imports and execution
Can you delete it?	Yes, Python will regenerate it automatically