1.2.7. Standard Library

Note: Reference document for this section:

- The Python Standard Library documentation: https://docs.python.org/library/index.html
- Python Essential Reference, David Beazley, Addison-Wesley Professional

1.2.7.1. os module: operating system functionality

"A portable way of using operating system dependent functionality."

1.2.7.1.1. Directory and file manipulation

Current directory:

```
In [17]: os.getcwd()
Out[17]: '/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source'
```

List a directory:

```
In [31]: os.listdir(os.curdir)
Out[31]:
['.index.rst.swo',
 '.python_language.rst.swp',
 '.view_array.py.swp',
 '_static',
```

```
 '_templates',
 'basic_types.rst',
 'conf.py',
 'control_flow.rst',
 'debugging.rst',
 ...
```

Make a directory:

```
In [32]: os.mkdir('junkdir')

In [33]: 'junkdir' in os.listdir(os.curdir)
Out[33]: True
```

Rename the directory:

```
In [36]: os.rename('junkdir', 'foodir')

In [37]: 'junkdir' in os.listdir(os.curdir)
Out[37]: False

In [38]: 'foodir' in os.listdir(os.curdir)
Out[38]: True

In [41]: os.rmdir('foodir')

In [42]: 'foodir' in os.listdir(os.curdir)
Out[42]: False
```

Delete a file:

```
In [44]: fp = open('junk.txt', 'w')

In [45]: fp.close()
```

```
In [46]: 'junk.txt' in os.listdir(os.curdir)
Out[46]: True

In [47]: os.remove('junk.txt')

In [48]: 'junk.txt' in os.listdir(os.curdir)
Out[48]: False
```

1.2.7.1.2. os.path: path manipulations

os.path provides common operations on pathnames.

```
In [70]: fp = open('junk.txt', 'w')

In [71]: fp.close()

In [72]: a = os.path.abspath('junk.txt')

In [73]: a
Out[73]: '/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source/junk.txt'

In [74]: os.path.split(a)
Out[74]: ('/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source',
          'junk.txt')

In [78]: os.path.dirname(a)
Out[78]: '/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source'

In [79]: os.path.basename(a)
Out[79]: 'junk.txt'

In [80]: os.path.splitext(os.path.basename(a))
Out[80]: ('junk', '.txt')
```

```
In [84]: os.path.exists('junk.txt')
Out[84]: True

In [86]: os.path.isfile('junk.txt')
Out[86]: True

In [87]: os.path.isdir('junk.txt')
Out[87]: False

In [88]: os.path.expanduser('~/local')
Out[88]: '/Users/cburns/local'

In [92]: os.path.join(os.path.expanduser('~'), 'local', 'bin')
Out[92]: '/Users/cburns/local/bin'
```

1.2.7.1.3. Running an external command

```
In [8]: os.system('ls')
basic_types.rst   demo.py          functions.rst  python_language.rst
      standard_library.rst
control_flow.rst  exceptions.rst   io.rst         python-logo.png
demo2.py          first_steps.rst  oop.rst        reusing_code.rst
```

Note: Alternative to `os.system`

A noteworthy alternative to `os.system` is the sh module. Which provides much more convenient ways to obtain the output, error stream and exit code of the external command.

```
In [20]: import sh
In [20]: com = sh.ls()

In [21]: print com
```

```
basic_types.rst   exceptions.rst   oop.rst
      standard_library.rst
control_flow.rst  first_steps.rst  python_language.rst
demo2.py          functions.rst    python-logo.png
demo.py           io.rst           reusing_code.rst

In [22]: print com.exit_code
0
In [23]: type(com)
Out[23]: sh.RunningCommand
```

1.2.7.1.4. Walking a directory

`os.path.walk` generates a list of filenames in a directory tree.

```
In [10]: for dirpath, dirnames, filenames in os.walk(os.curdir):
   ....:     for fp in filenames:
   ....:         print os.path.abspath(fp)
   ....:
   ....:
/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source/.index.rst.swo
/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source/.view_array.py.swp
/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source/basic_types.rst
/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source/conf.py
/Users/cburns/src/scipy2009/scipy_2009_tutorial/source/control_flow.rst
...
```

1.2.7.1.5. Environment variables:

```
In [9]: import os

In [11]: os.environ.keys()
Out[11]:
['_',
 'FSLDIR',
 'TERM_PROGRAM_VERSION',
 'FSLREMOTECALL',
 'USER',
 'HOME',
 'PATH',
 'PS1',
 'SHELL',
 'EDITOR',
 'WORKON_HOME',
 'PYTHONPATH',
 ...

In [12]: os.environ['PYTHONPATH']
Out[12]: '.:/Users/cburns/src/utils:/Users/cburns/src/nitools:
/Users/cburns/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/:
/usr/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/:
/Library/Frameworks/Python.framework/Versions/2.5/lib/python2.5'

In [16]: os.getenv('PYTHONPATH')
Out[16]: '.:/Users/cburns/src/utils:/Users/cburns/src/nitools:
/Users/cburns/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/:
/usr/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/:
/Library/Frameworks/Python.framework/Versions/2.5/lib/python2.5'
```

1.2.7.2. `shutil`: high-level file operations

The `shutil` provides useful file operations:

- `shutil.rmtree`: Recursively delete a directory tree.
- `shutil.move`: Recursively move a file or directory to another location.
- `shutil.copy`: Copy files or directories.

1.2.7.3. glob: Pattern matching on files

The `glob` module provides convenient file pattern matching.

Find all files ending in `.txt`:

```
In [18]: import glob

In [19]: glob.glob('*.txt')
Out[19]: ['holy_grail.txt', 'junk.txt', 'newfile.txt']
```

1.2.7.4. sys module: system-specific information

System-specific information related to the Python interpreter.

- Which version of python are you running and where is it installed:

```
In [117]: sys.platform
Out[117]: 'darwin'

In [118]: sys.version
Out[118]: '2.5.2 (r252:60911, Feb 22 2008, 07:57:53) \n
          [GCC 4.0.1 (Apple Computer, Inc. build 5363)]'
```

```
In [119]: sys.prefix
Out[119]: '/Library/Frameworks/Python.framework/Versions/2.5'
```

- List of command line arguments passed to a Python script:

```
In [100]: sys.argv
Out[100]: ['/Users/cburns/local/bin/ipython']
```

`sys.path` is a list of strings that specifies the search path for modules. Initialized from PYTHONPATH:

```
In [121]: sys.path
Out[121]:
['',
 '/Users/cburns/local/bin',
 '/Users/cburns/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/grin-1.1-py2.5.egg',
 '/Users/cburns/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/argparse-0.8.0-py2.5.egg',
 '/Users/cburns/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/urwid-0.9.7.1-py2.5.egg',
 '/Users/cburns/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/yolk-0.4.1-py2.5.egg',
 '/Users/cburns/local/lib/python2.5/site-packages/virtualenv-1.2-py2.5.egg',
 ...
```

1.2.7.5. pickle: easy persistence

Useful to store arbitrary objects to a file. Not safe or fast!

```
In [1]: import pickle

In [2]: l = [1, None, 'Stan']

In [3]: pickle.dump(l, file('test.pkl', 'w'))

In [4]: pickle.load(file('test.pkl'))
```

```
Out[4]: [1, None, 'Stan']
```

Exercise

Write a program to search your PYTHONPATH for the module `site.py`.

The PYTHONPATH Search Solution