# What does “if \_\_name\_\_ == '\_\_main\_\_':” mean?

| from flask import Flask  app = Flask(\_\_name\_\_)  @app.route("/")  def home():  return "Hello, Flask!"  **if \_\_name\_\_ == '\_\_main\_\_':**  app.run(port=5000, debug=True) |
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**Answer:**

1. Create example.py and util.py in the same folder.

| **# example.py**  import util  print("example.py: \_\_name\_\_ is '" + \_\_name\_\_ + "'") |
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| **# util.py**  print("util.py: \_\_name\_\_ is '" + \_\_name\_\_ + "'") |

1. In command prompt, run **python example.py**

| C:\ESD>**python example.py**  util.py: \_\_name\_\_ is 'util'  example.py: \_\_name\_\_ is '\_\_main\_\_' |
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* 1. Notice that each python script has its own \_\_name\_\_ variable.
  2. The main script being executed is example.py and its \_\_name\_\_ variable has the value '\_\_main\_\_'.
  3. The script util.py is imported and its \_\_name\_\_ variable has the value 'util' (which is the module’s name)

1. In command prompt, run **python util.py**

| C:\ESD>**python util.py**  util.py: \_\_name\_\_ is '\_\_main\_\_' |
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* 1. The main script being executed is util.py and its \_\_name\_\_ variable has the value '\_\_main\_\_'.

1. Hence, the main script being executed will have its \_\_name\_\_ variable with the value '\_\_main\_\_'.
2. Therefore, the lines of code in a flask application mean if this is the main script being executed then start Flask web server.

| from flask import Flask  app = Flask(\_\_name\_\_)  @app.route("/")  def home():  return "Hello, Flask!"  **# if this is the main script being executed**  if \_\_name\_\_ == '\_\_main\_\_':  **# start Flask web server**  app.run(port=5000, debug=True) |
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