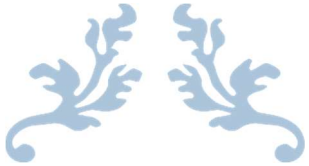

INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON

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INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON

BY

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What is Python?

Python is a popular programming language. It was created by Guido van Rossum, and released in 1991.

It is used for:

- web development (server-side),
- software development,
- mathematics,
- system scripting.

What can Python do?

- Python can be used on a server to create web applications.
- Python can be used alongside software to create workflows.
- Python can connect to database systems. It can also read and modify files.
- Python can be used to handle big data and perform complex mathematics.
- Python can be used for rapid prototyping, or for production-ready software development.

Why Python?

- Python works on different platforms (Windows, Mac, Linux, Raspberry Pi, etc).
- Python has a simple syntax similar to the English language.
- Python has syntax that allows developers to write programs with fewer lines than some other programming languages.
- Python runs on an interpreter system, meaning that code can be executed as soon as it is written. This means that prototyping can be very quick.
- Python can be treated in a procedural way, an object-oriented way or a functional way.

Python Comments

Comments can be used to explain Python code.

Comments can be used to make the code more readable.

Comments can be used to prevent execution when testing code.

Creating a Comment

Comments starts with a #, and Python will ignore them

Multi Line Comments

Python does not really have a syntax for multi line comments.

To add a multiline comment you could insert a # for each line

Or, not quite as intended, you can use a multiline string.

Since Python will ignore string literals that are not assigned to a variable, you can add a multiline string (triple quotes) in your code, and place your comment inside it

Example

```
"""
This is a comment
written in
more than just one line
"""
print("Hello, World!")
```

Python Variables

Variables

Variables are containers for storing data values.

Creating Variables

Python has no command for declaring a variable.

A variable is created the moment you first assign a value to it.

Example

```
x = 5
y = "John"
print(x)
print(y)
```

Variables do not need to be declared with any particular *type*, and can even change type after they have been set.

Example

```
x = 4       # x is of type int
x = "Sally" # x is now of type str
print(x)
```

Casting

If you want to specify the data type of a variable, this can be done with casting.

Example

```
x = str(3)    # x will be '3'
y = int(3)    # y will be 3
z = float(3)  # z will be 3.0
```

Get the Type

You can get the data type of a variable with the `type()` function.

Example

```
x = 5
y = "John"
print(type(x))
print(type(y))
```

Single or Double Quotes?

String variables can be declared either by using single or double quotes:

Example

```
x = "John"
# is the same as
x = 'John'
```

Case-Sensitive

Variable names are case-sensitive.

Example

This will create two variables:

```
a = 4
A = "Sally"
#A will not overwrite a
```

Variable Names

A variable can have a short name (like x and y) or a more descriptive name (age, carname, total_volume). Rules for Python variables:

- A variable name must start with a letter or the underscore character
- A variable name cannot start with a number
- A variable name can only contain alpha-numeric characters and underscores (A-z, 0-9, and _(Underscore)
- Variable names are case-sensitive (age, Age and AGE are three different variables)

Example

Legal variable names:

```
myvar = "John"
my_var = "John"
_my_var = "John"
myVar = "John"
```

```
MYVAR = "John"
myvar2 = "John"
```

Example

Illegal variable names:

```
2myvar = "John"
my-var = "John"
my var = "John"
```

Remember that variable names are case-sensitive

Python Variables - Assign Multiple Values

Many Values to Multiple Variables

Python allows you to assign values to multiple variables in one line:

Example

```
x, y, z = "Orange", "Banana", "Cherry"
print(x)
print(y)
print(z)
```

Note: Make sure the number of variables matches the number of values, or else you will get an error.

One Value to Multiple Variables

And you can assign the *same* value to multiple variables in one line:

Example

```
x = y = z = "Orange"
print(x)
print(y)
print(z)
```

Python - Output Variables

Output Variables

The Python `print` statement is often used to output variables.

To combine both text and a variable, Python uses the `+` character:

Example

```
x = "awesome"
print("Python is " + x)
```

You can also use the `+` character to add a variable to another variable:

Example

```
x = "Python is "
y = "awesome"
z =  x + y
print(z)
```

For numbers, the `+` character works as a mathematical operator:

Example

```
x = 5
y = 10
print(x + y)
```

If you try to combine a string and a number, Python will give you an error:

Example

```
x = 5
y = "John"
print(x + y)
```

Python - Global Variables

Global Variables

Variables that are created outside of a function (as in all of the examples above) are known as global variables.

Global variables can be used by everyone, both inside of functions and outside.

Example

Create a variable outside of a function, and use it inside the function

```
x = "awesome"

def myfunc():
  print("Python is " + x)

myfunc()
```

If you create a variable with the same name inside a function, this variable will be local, and can only be used inside the function. The global variable with the same name will remain as it was, global and with the original value.

Example

Create a variable inside a function, with the same name as the global variable

```
x = "awesome"

def myfunc():
  x = "fantastic"
  print("Python is " + x)

myfunc()

print("Python is " + x)
```

The global Keyword

Normally, when you create a variable inside a function, that variable is local, and can only be used inside that function.

To create a global variable inside a function, you can use the `global` keyword.

Example

If you use the `global` keyword, the variable belongs to the global scope:

```
def myfunc():
  global x
  x = "fantastic"

myfunc()

print("Python is " + x)
```

Also, use the `global` keyword if you want to change a global variable inside a function.

Example

To change the value of a global variable inside a function, refer to the variable by using the `global` keyword:

```
x = "awesome"

def myfunc():
  global x
  x = "fantastic"

myfunc()

print("Python is " + x)
```

Python Data Types

Built-in Data Types

In programming, data type is an important concept.

Variables can store data of different types, and different types can do different things.

Python has the following data types built-in by default, in these categories:

Text Type:	`str`
Numeric Types:	`int`, `float`, `complex`
Sequence Types:	`list`, `tuple`, `range`
Mapping Type:	`dict`

Set Types:	`set`, `frozenset`
Boolean Type:	`bool`
Binary Types:	`bytes`, `bytearray`, `memoryview`

Getting the Data Type

You can get the data type of any object by using the `type()` function:

Example

Print the data type of the variable `x`:

```
x = 5
print(type(x))
```