

An interpreter is a kind of program that executes other programs. When you write python programs, it contains ^{with} source code written by the developer into intermediate language which is again translated into the native language/machine language that is executed.

The python code you write is compiled into python bytecode, which creates file with extension `.pyc`. The developer bytecode compilation happened internally, and almost completely hidden from developer. Compilation is simply a translation step, and

Byte code is a low-level, and platform-independent, representation of your source code. Roughly each of your source statements is translated into a group of byte code instructions.

The .pyc file, created in compilation step, is then executed by appropriate virtual machine.

The virtual machine just a big loop that iterates through your byte code instructions, one by one, to carry out their

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operations. The virtual machine is the runtime engine of Python.