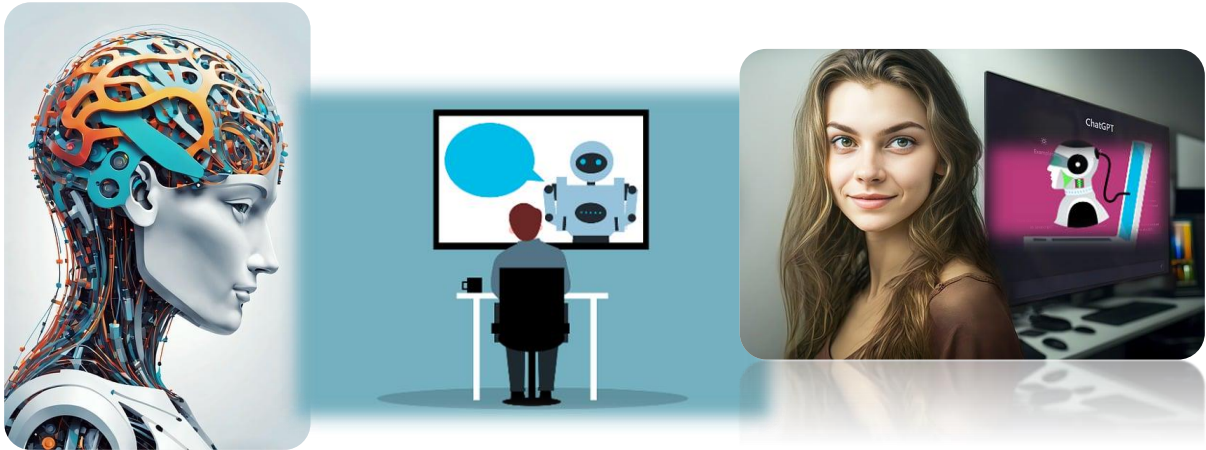


## Creating your Personal Virtual Assistant

**Objective:** Our main task is to learn Python and create your very own virtual assistant, such as an alternative to Siri. This project will not only enhance your programming skills but also provide you with a valuable tool that can simplify your daily tasks and interactions with technology.



The reasons why creating your own virtual assistant using Python are as follows:

1. **Practical Application:** Virtual assistants have become an integral part of our lives, helping us with various tasks such as setting reminders, answering questions, playing music, and even controlling smart devices. By building your own virtual assistant, you'll gain hands-on experience in developing a practical application that can be customized to meet your specific needs.
2. **Language Processing and AI:** One of the most exciting aspects of building a virtual assistant is delving into natural language processing and artificial intelligence. You'll explore techniques to parse and understand human language, enabling your assistant to comprehend and respond to user queries accurately. This knowledge will empower you to work on other AI-related projects in the future.
3. **Creativity and Customization:** As you progress with your virtual assistant, you'll have the freedom to add unique features and functionalities. You can tailor the assistant's responses, design a user-friendly interface, integrate it with external services and APIs, and even experiment with voice recognition capabilities. Your creativity will be the driving force behind making your assistant stand out.

- 4. Collaboration and Learning:** This project provides an excellent opportunity for teamwork and collaboration. You can work in groups, sharing knowledge and skills, and collectively tackle complex problems. Collaborative learning fosters creativity, enhances communication skills, and exposes you to diverse perspectives, all of which are crucial in an engineering environment.

By embarking on this project, you'll not only expand your programming horizons but also cultivate skills that are highly sought after in the job market. Companies across various industries are increasingly integrating virtual assistants into their products and services, making your expertise in this area highly valuable.

After completing this project, you will enable your “Personal Virtual Assistant” to understand natural language voice commands and completes tasks for you.

## Setup your Working Environment

### 1. Installing Python IDE: PyCharm

PyCharm is a widely used Python Integrated Development Environment (IDE) providing smart code completion, code inspections, on-the-fly error highlighting and quick-fixes, along with automated code refactorings essential tools for Python developers.

Go to PyCharm website using the link below.

<https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/>

Click on **DOWNLOAD**.



Download the community version by clicking on **Download** on the right.

### Download PyCharm

[Windows](#) [macOS](#) [Linux](#)

#### Professional

For both Scientific and Web Python development. With HTML, JS, and SQL support.

Download

Free 30-day trial available

#### Community

For pure Python development

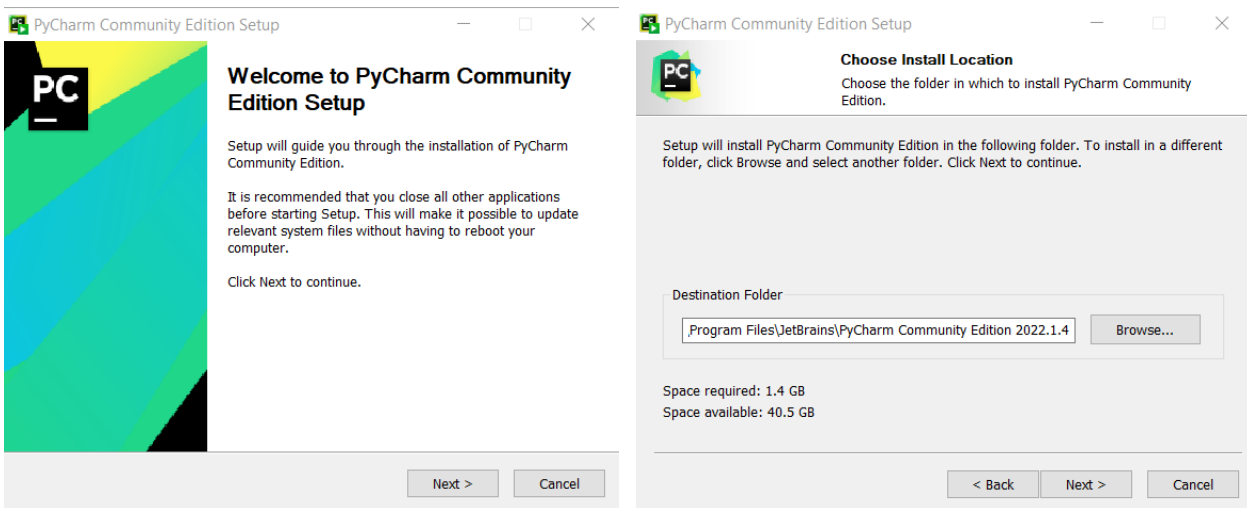
Download

Free, built on open-source

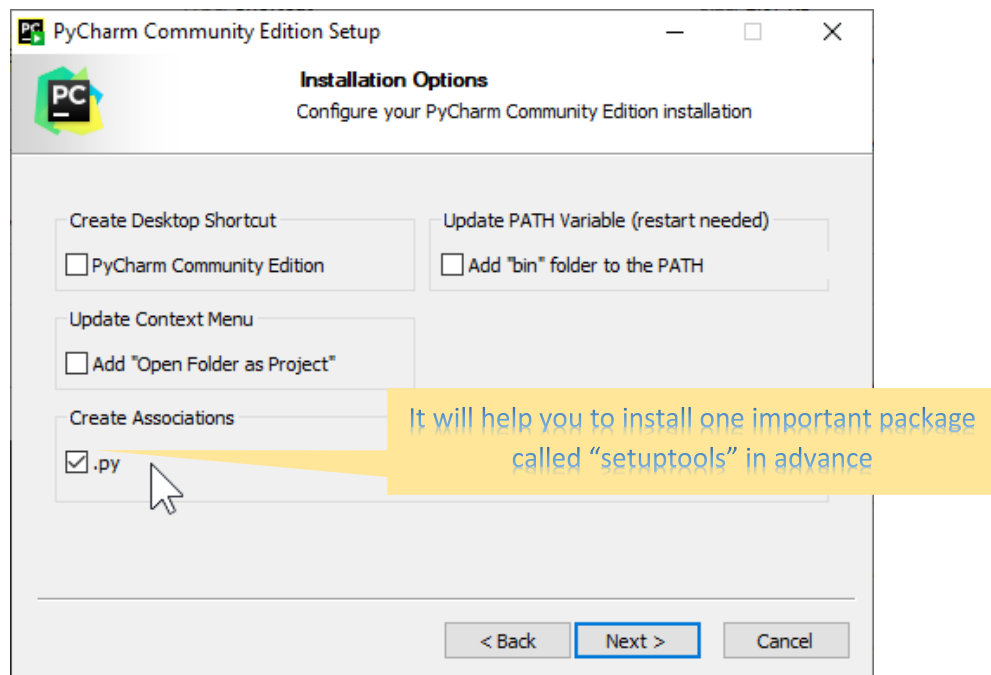


Open it after downloaded

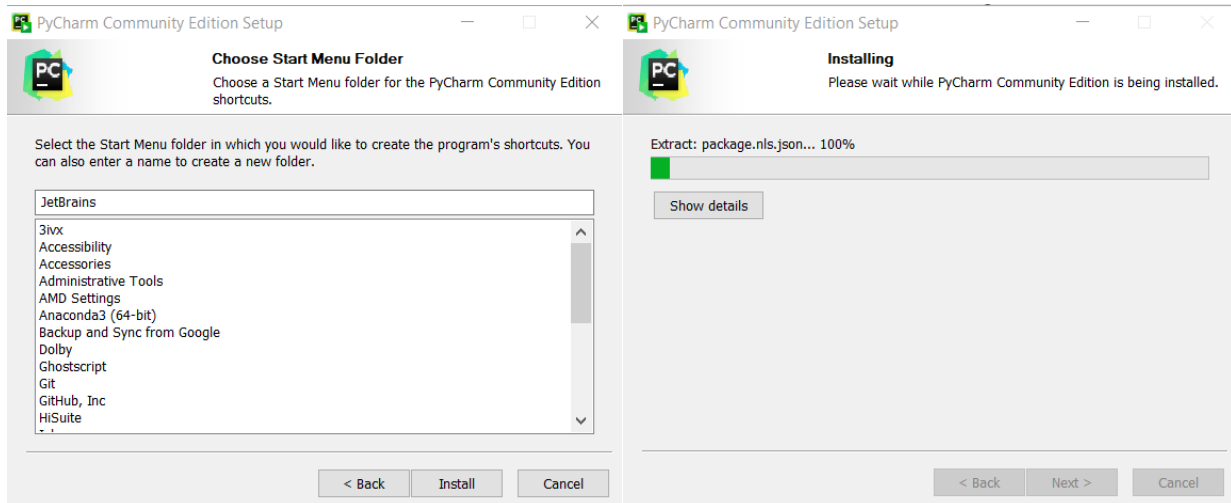
Click on **Next** twice



Enable the association of .py file with PyCharm



Click on **Install**. It may take some time.

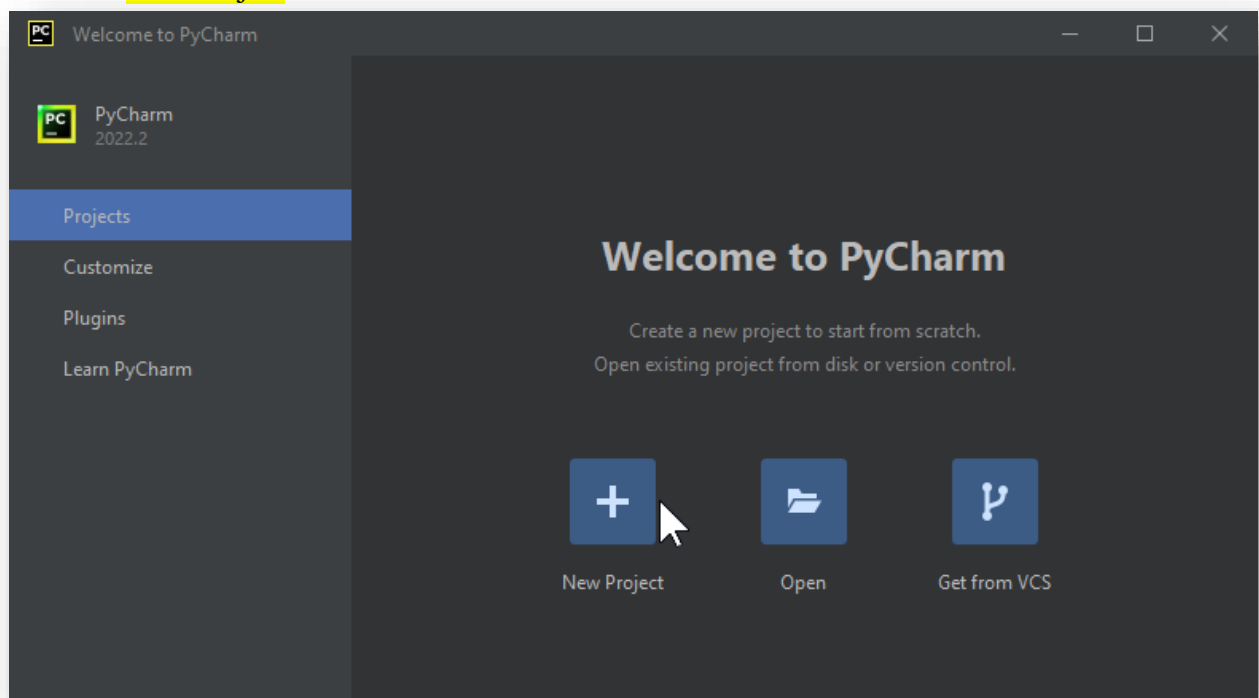


Finally, click on **Finish**.

When you open Pycharm, it may take some time to load.



Click on **New Project**.

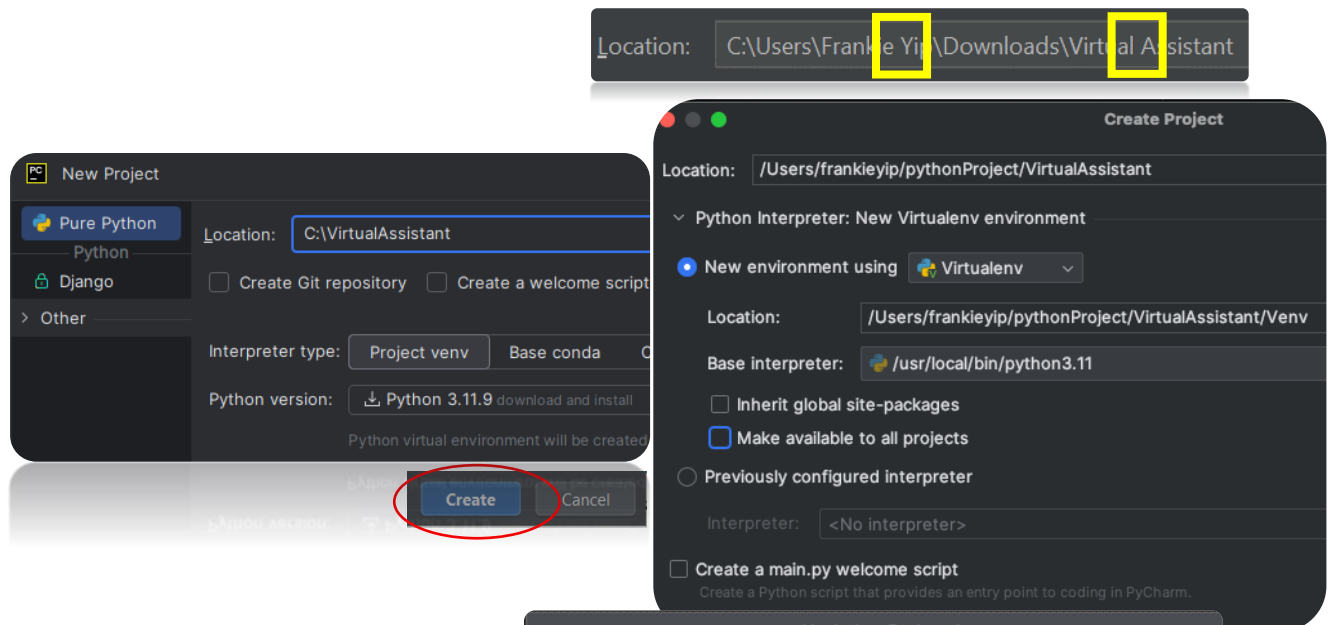


You may name your project e.g. “VirtualAssistant”. Then click on **Create** and wait.

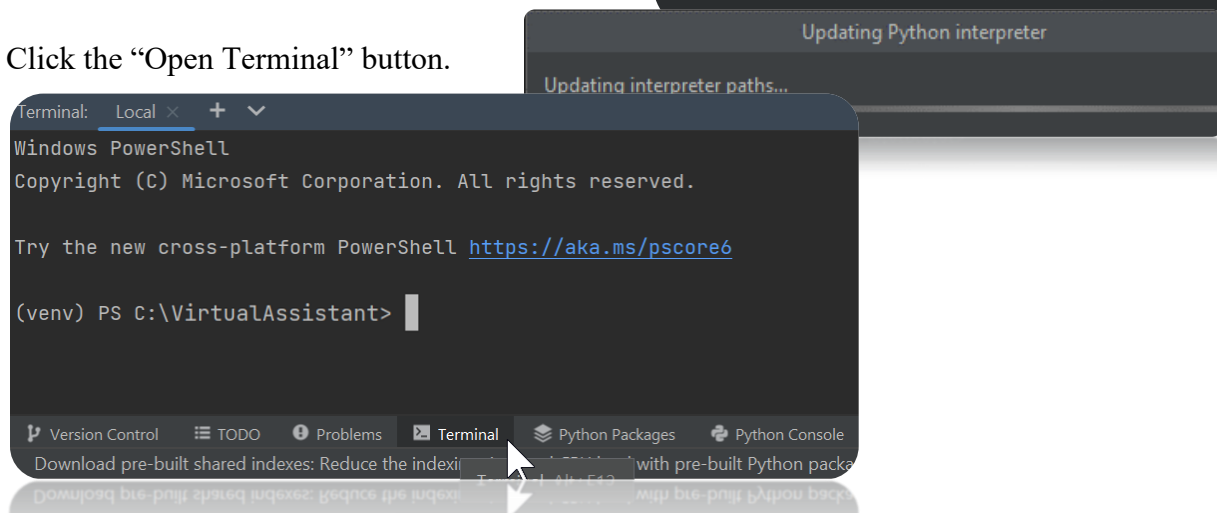
(Path/Filename should not have any space)

Wrong

Wrong



Click the “Open Terminal” button.



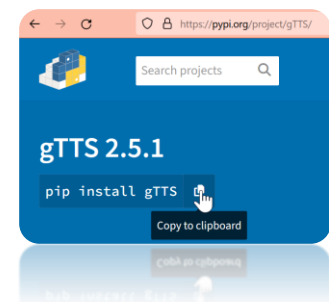
**Task 1:** Installation of the package of Google Text-to-Speech: <https://pypi.org/project/gTTS/>

It is a package that can use python code to convert text to speech and save to mp3 file.  
**Paste it in the terminal and run the code.**

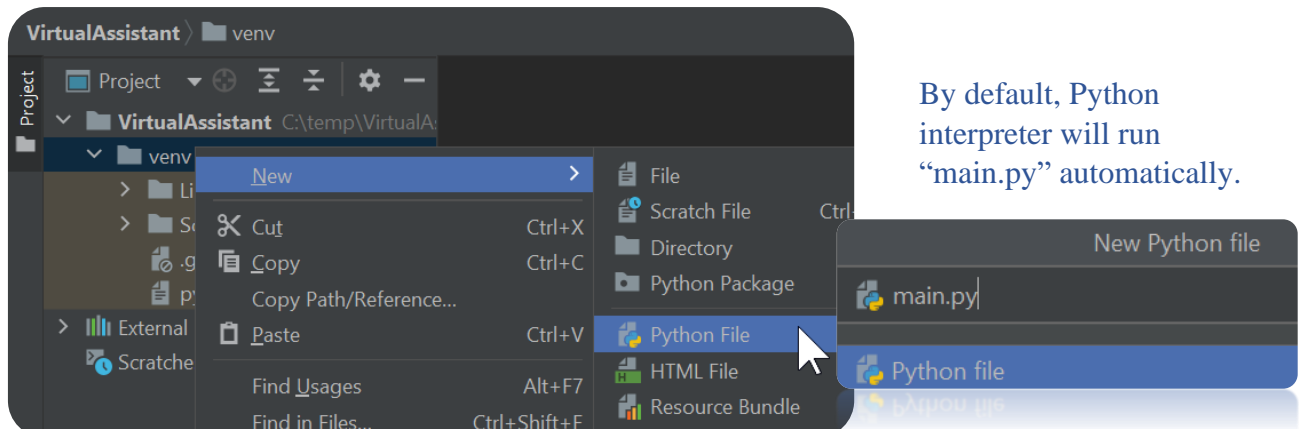
```
(venv) PS C:\temp\VirtualAssistant> pip install gtts
Collecting gtts
  Downloading gTTS-2.5.1-py3-none-any.whl (29 kB)
```

**It will take some time for the installment.**

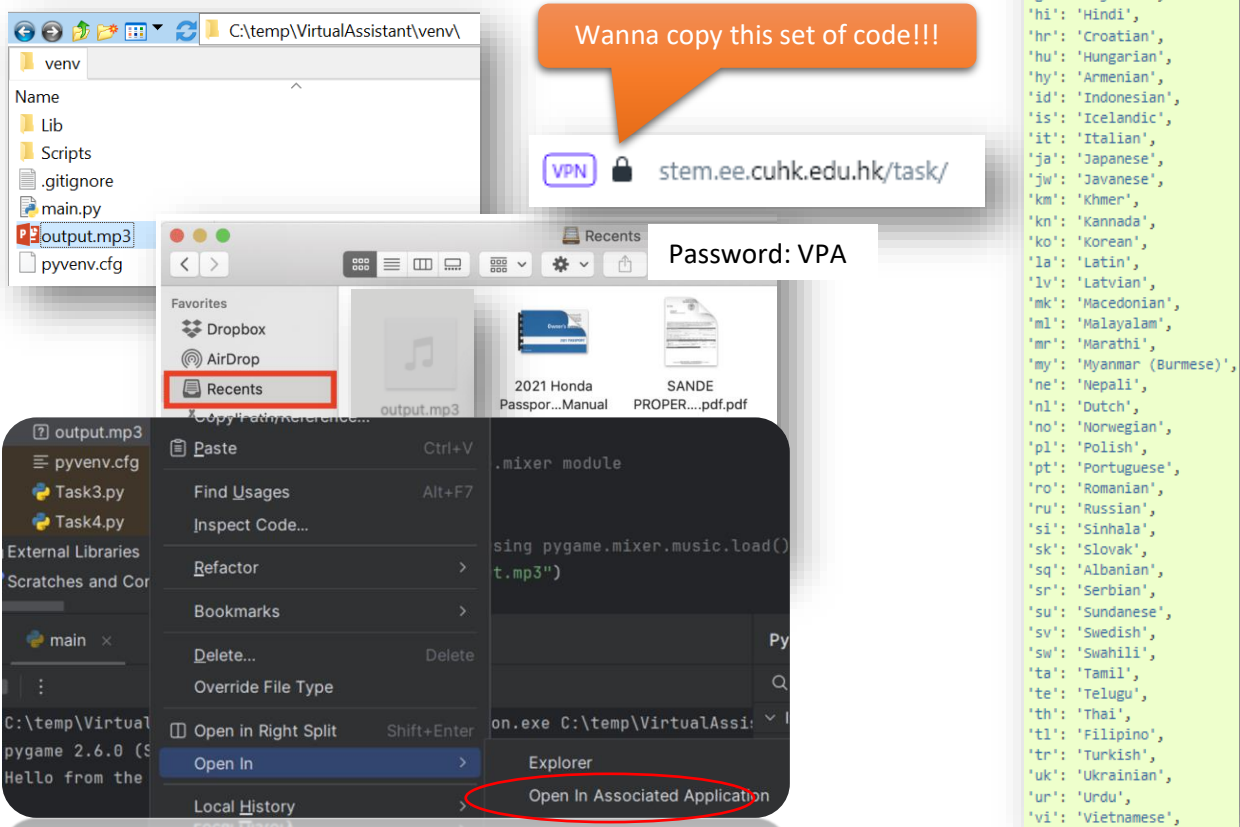
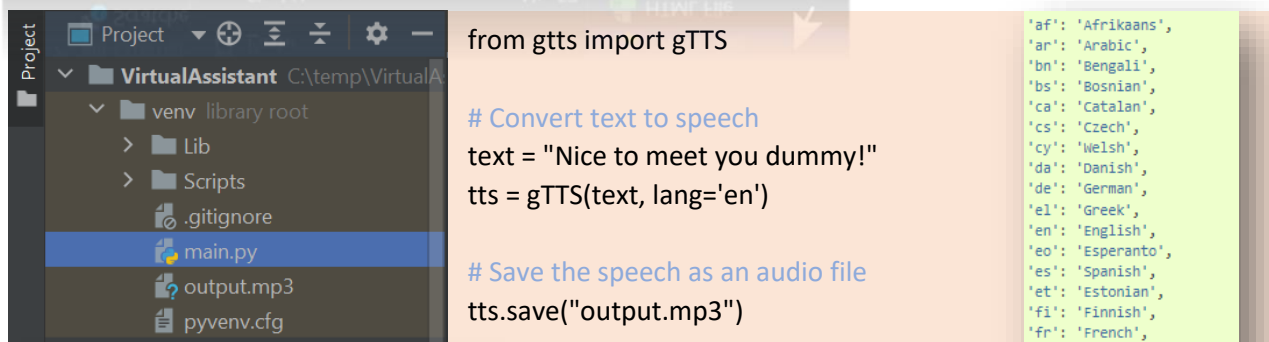
When it's done, you should see **Successfully installed**.



Now, you have downloaded and installed the package successfully and start try python code.



Click the “main.py” file in the side menu and try to input the following code: [Click ▶ to run]



**Task 2:** Automatically play the sound file without the need to use external media player

“pygame” package is needed to be installed to play the speech file generated by gTTS



Local accent	( lang )	( tld )
English (Australia)	en	com.au
English (United Kingdom)	en	co.uk
English (United States)	en	us
English (Canada)	en	ca
English (India)	en	co.in
English (Ireland)	en	ie
English (South Africa)	en	co.za
English (Nigeria)	en	com.ng
French (Canada)	fr	ca
French (France)	fr	fr
Mandarin (China Mainland)	zh-CN	any
Mandarin (Taiwan)	zh-Tw	any
Portuguese (Brazil)	pt	com.br
Portuguese (Portugal)	pt	pt
Spanish (Mexico)	es	com.mx
Spanish (Spain)	es	es
Spanish (United States)	es	us

```
from gtts import gTTS
from pygame import time, mixer
```

```
stop_Speaking = False
```

```
# Convert text to speech using gtts and save it as an audio file
```

```
command = " Nice to meet you dummy!"
```

```
tts = gTTS(command, lang='en', tld='com.au')
```

```
tts.save("output.mp3") # tld means Top Level Domain
```

```
# Initialize the pygame.mixer module
```

```
mixer.init()
```

```
# Load the audio file using pygame.mixer.music.load()
```

```
mixer.music.load("output.mp3")
```

```
# Play the audio file using pygame.mixer.music.play()
```

```
mixer.music.play()
```

```
#Give pygame enough time to load and start playing the audio.
```

```
time.delay(3000)
```

```
# Cleanup the loading of file
```

```
mixer.quit()
```

```
stop_Speaking = True
```

Wanna copy this set of code!!!

VPN  stem.ee.cuhk.edu.hk/task/

Password: VPA

**Is it professional to wait for 3000ms to play the speech file?**

```
# Try to check whether the music playing is busy or not by replacing “time.delay()”
```

```
mixer.music.get_busy():
```

Two codes should be added



**Task 3:** Use Speech Recognition package to read and recognize user speech command

However, for the “SpeechRecognition” package, it needs to use pyAudio library to execute.

Thus, you need to install “pyAudio” package, too.

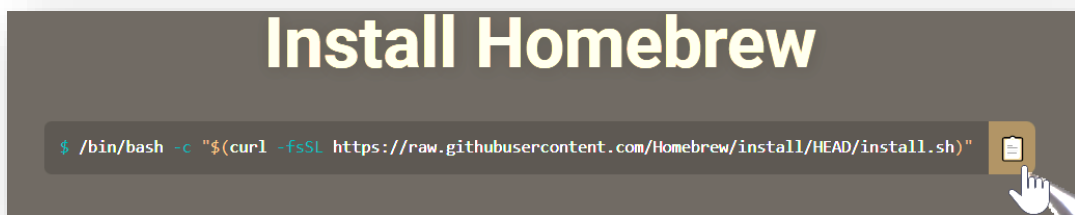
*For Windows user,*

Simply use “pip install pyaudio” to install

*For MacOS user,*

In built-in terminal of MacOS, 

Firstly, visit <https://brew.sh> to install Homebrew (Software Manager of MacOS)



Once you got a fatal error: `Could not resolve HEAD to a revision`, type the command: “git -C \$(brew --repository homebrew/core) checkout master” and try to install again

- uninstall the PyAudio & portaudio from you system by the following commands:

“brew uninstall portaudio” ← Homebrew is a software manager of MacOS

- Secondly, update the Homebrew by using

“brew update”

- Thirdly, update both wheel and setuptools by using

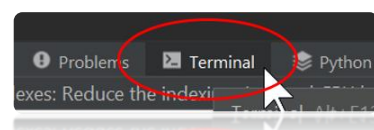
“python3 -m pip install --upgrade pip setuptools wheel”

- Then, install the latest version of portaudio:

“brew install portaudio --HEAD”

- Finally, go back to Terminal of Pycharm, install PyAudio:

pip install pyaudio --global-option="build\_ext" --global-option="-I/opt/homebrew/include" --global-option="-L/opt/homebrew/lib"



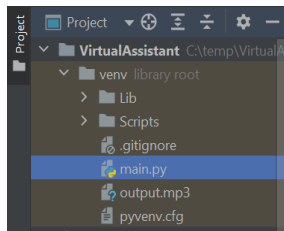


*Click the tab of  
“Python Packages”  
to see what did you install*

*See whether you have  
installed successfully  
those four essential  
packages...*



... Try to use below code to get your voice signal



```
import speech_recognition as sr
import threading
```

```
assistant_name = 'X_x_x_x_x_X'
listener = sr.Recognizer()
```

# Shared variable to signal when to stop monitoring

```
stop_Speaking = True
stop_monitoring = False
```

# Shared variable to signal when to stop monitoring

```
def monitor_audio(source):
    # Continuously monitor the audio while it's being received
    silent = True
    while not stop_monitoring:
        try:
            with sr.Microphone() as monitor:
                # Listen to a short segment of audio to check if speech is present
                audio = listener.listen(monitor, phrase_time_limit=0.5)
                if audio:
                    if silent:
                        silent = False
                        print(">> listening ...", end="")
                    else:
                        print(" ...", end="")
                except KeyboardInterrupt:
                    break
```

```
while True:
    if stop_Speaking:
        try:
            with sr.Microphone() as source:
                listener.adjust_for_ambient_noise(source)

                print("\n[" + assistant_name.upper() + ' is ready, your majesty!']')
```

# Create a separate thread to monitor the audio

```
stop_monitoring = False
audio_thread = threading.Thread(target=monitor_audio, args=(source,))
audio_thread.start()
```

# Listen for the user's speech  
voice = listener.listen(source)

# Stop monitoring thread  
stop\_monitoring = True

```
if voice:
    print("\n")
    translated_voice = listener.recognize_google(voice).lower()
    print('You said: "' + translated_voice + '".')
else:
    continue
```

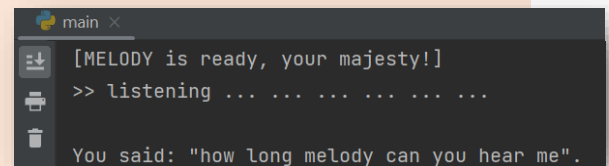
```
except sr.UnknownValueError:
    print('You didn't say anything or Unable to recognize your speech.')
```

```
except sr.RequestError as e:
    print('Error occurred during speech recognition:', str(e))
```

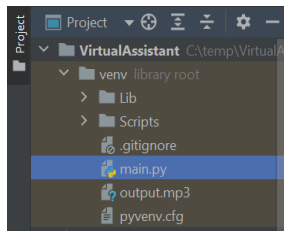
Wanna copy this set of code!!!

VPN [stem.ee.cuhk.edu.hk/task/](https://stem.ee.cuhk.edu.hk/task/)

Password: VPA



## Task 4: Combine all “Text-to-Speech” & “Speech Recognition” together by define functions



```
from gtts import gTTS
from pygame import mixer
import speech_recognition as sr
import threading
```

```
assistant_name = "X_x_x_x_x_X"
listener = sr.Recognizer()
```

```
stop_Speaking = True
stop_monitoring = False
```

```
def speak(command):
```

```
speak(assistant_name.upper() + ' is ready, your majesty!')
```

```
# Shared variable to signal when to stop monitoring
```

```
def monitor_audio(source):
```

```
# Continuously monitor the audio while it's being received
```

```
silent = True
```

```
while not stop_monitoring:
```

```
try:
```

```
with sr.Microphone() as monitor:
```

```
# Listen to a short segment of audio to check if speech is present
```

```
audio = listener.listen(monitor, phrase_time_limit=0.5)
```

```
if audio:
```

```
if silent:
```

```
silent = False
```

```
print(">> listening ...", end="")
```

```
else:
```

```
print(" ...", end="")
```

```
except KeyboardInterrupt:
```

```
break
```

```
while True:
```

```
if stop_Speaking:
```

```
try:
```

```
with sr.Microphone() as source:
```

```
listener.adjust_for_ambient_noise(source)
```

```
print("\n[" + assistant_name.upper() + ' is ready, your majesty!']')
```

```
# Create a separate thread to monitor the audio
```

```
stop_monitoring = False
```

```
audio_thread = threading.Thread(target=monitor_audio, args=(source,))
```

```
audio_thread.start()
```

```
voice = listener.listen(source)
```

```
stop_monitoring = True
```

```
if voice:
```

```
print("\n")
```

```
translated_voice = listener.recognize_google(voice).lower()
```

```
print("You said: '" + translated_voice + "'.')
```

```
speak("You said: '" + translated_voice + "'.')
```

```
else:
```

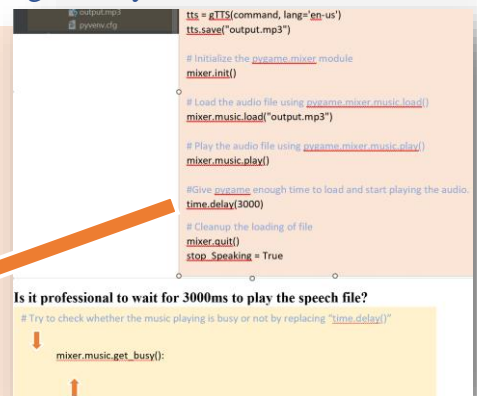
```
continue
```

```
except sr.UnknownValueError:
```

```
print("You didn't say anything or Unable to recognize your speech.")
```

```
except sr.RequestError as e:
```

```
print('Error occurred during speech recognition:', str(e))
```



**Task 5:** Play specific “YouTube” Videos by using your instruction

Installation of the package of pywhatkit: <https://pypi.org/project/pywhatkit/>

**pywhatkit 5.4**

```
pip install pywhatkit
```

It is a package that we can use python code to send something to others using whatsapp or play YouTube videos.

```
while True:
    if stop_Speaking:
        try:
            with sr.Microphone() as source:
                listener.adjust_for_ambient_noise(source)

                print("\n[" + assistant_name.upper() + ' is ready, your majesty!'])

            # Create a separate thread to monitor the audio
            stop_monitoring = False
            audio_thread = threading.Thread(target=monitor_audio, args=(source,))
            audio_thread.start()

            voice = listener.listen(source)
            stop_monitoring = True

            if voice:
                print("\n")
                translated_voice = listener.recognize_google(voice).lower()
                print('You said: "' + translated_voice + '"')
                speak("You said: " + translated_voice + ".")
            else:
                continue

        except sr.UnknownValueError:
            print('You didn't say anything or I can't hear you')

        except sr.RequestError as e:
            print('Error occurred during speech recognition: ' + e)
```

```
[MELODY is ready, your majesty!]
>> listening ... ..
You said: hello melody please help me to play let it go
```

if assistant\_name.lower() in translated\_voice:

# Find the index of assistant\_name in translatedVoice

```
index = translated_voice.lower().index(assistant_name.lower())
```

# Extract the text after assistant\_name

```
command = translated_voice[index + len(assistant_name):].strip()
```

if 'play' in command:

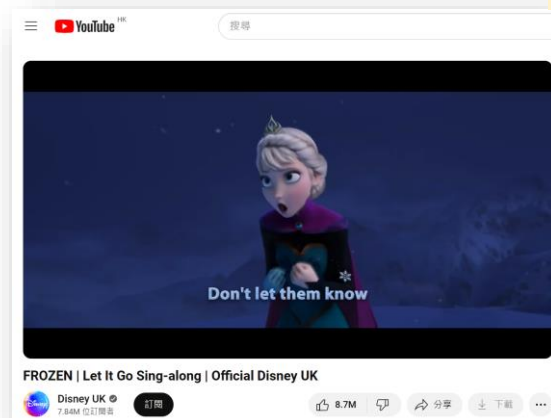
```
song = command[command.index('play'):].strip()
```

```
speak("Got it, I'll help you to " + song + ', your majesty!')
```

```
pywhatkit.playonyt(song)
```

Remember to import pywhatkit

```
4 import threading
5 import pywhatkit
```

**Try on your own:**

Asking: “Assistant Name you set,  
play any song you like ”

Other Packages for you to try:

**Task 6:** Installation of the package of DateTime: [https:// pypi.org/project/DateTime/](https://pypi.org/project/DateTime/)

## DateTime 4.5

```
pip install DateTime
```

It is a package that we can use python code to get the real time data.

```
if assistant_name.lower() in translated_voice:
    # Find the index of assistant_name in translatedVoice
    index = translated_voice.lower().index(assistant_name.lower())
    # Extract the text after assistant_name
    command = translated_voice[index + len(assistant_name):].strip()
    if 'play' in command:
        song = command[command.index('play'):].strip()
        speak("Got it, I'll help you to " + song + ', your majesty!')
        pywhatkit.playonyt(song)
```

**This function will tell you the time,**

Paste below to the code after

```
elif 'time' in command:
    time = datetime.datetime.now().strftime('%I:%M %p')
    speak('Current time is ' + time)
```

Remember to add the following code on the top:

```
import datetime
2 import speech_recognition as sr
3 import pywhatkit
4 import datetime
```

## Try on your own:

Asking: “Assistant Name you set, what is the current time ”

```
C:\Users\cueevisit\Anaconda3\envs\VisualAssitant\python.exe
Assistant is listening...
Peter tell me the current time
tell me the current time
tell me the current time
Assistant is listening...
!
```

Your voice assistant will tell you the time by voice

## Type some funny code

### Task 7: Answer the question ‘are you single’?

Paste below to the code:

```
elif 'are you single' in command:
    NumOfCompanion = 3
    speak('I've got ' + str(NumOfCompanion) + ' relationship before.')
```

### Try on your own:

Asking: “Assistant Name you set, are you single”

```
[MELODY is ready, your majesty!]
>> listening ... ..
You said: "hi melody are you single".
```

```
if 'play' in command:
    song = command[command.index('play')].strip()
    speak("Got it, I'll help you to " + song + ', yo
    pywhatkit.playonyt(song)

elif 'time' in command:
    time = datetime.datetime.now().strftime('%I:%M %
    speak('Current time is ' + time)

elif 'are you single' in command:
    NumOfCompanion = 3
    speak('I got ' + str(NumOfCompanion) + ' relatio
```

It'll tell you “I've got 3 relationship before” by voice.

### Task 8a: Response to unclear command

If the virtual assistant heard that you called his/her name, but the command is unclear,

Paste below to the code after:

```
else:
    speak('I heard you your majesty! But I am unclear about
    your instruction. Could you please repeat it')
```

Your assistant will say  
 “I heard you your majesty!  
 But I am unclear about your instruction.  
 Could you please repeat it”  
 by voice

### Task 8b: Comment out annoying speaking what the virtual assistant heard by adding “#”

```
#speak('You said: "' + translated_voice + '".')
else:
    continue
```

**Task 9 (Optional):** Installation of the package of Wikipedia (search Wikipedia function):

<https://pypi.org/project/wikipedia/>

wikipedia 1.4.0

pip install wikipedia

It is a package that we can use python code to search Wikipedia.

**This function will tell you the information from Wikipedia**

by asking “who is”

Paste below to the code after

```
if assistant_name.lower() in translated_voice:
    # Find the index of assistant_name in translatedVoice
    index = translated_voice.lower().index(assistant_name.lower())
    # Extract the text after assistant_name
    command = translated_voice[index + len(assistant_name):].strip()
    if 'play' in command:
        song = command[command.index('play'):].strip()
        speak("Got it, I'll help you to " + song + ", your majesty!")
    pywhatkit.playonyt(song)
```

```
elif 'who is' in command:
    person = command.replace('who is', '')
    info = wikipedia.summary(person, 1)
    print(info)
    speak(info)
```

Type the following code on the top

```
import wikipedia
```

```
2 import speech_recognition as sr
3 import pywhatkit
4 import datetime
5 import wikipedia
```

**Try on your own:**

Asking: “Assistant Name you set, who is anyone”

```
tant()
main x
C:\Users\cueevisit\Anaconda3\envs\VisualAssitant\python.exe C:/Users/cueevisit/PycharmP
Assistant is listening...
Peter who is Obama
  who is obama
  who is obama
Barack Hussein Obama II ( (listen) bə-RAHK hoo-SAYN oh-BAH-mə; born August 4, 1961) is a
Assistant is listening...
```

The assistant will tell you the information by voice and text



**Task 10 (Optional):** Installation of the package of pyJokes (search Jokes function):  
<https://pypi.org/project/pyjokes/>

## pyjokes 0.6.0

`pip install pyjokes`

It is a package that we can use python code to have the program to say some jokes.

**This function will tell you a joke**

Paste below to the code after

```
elif 'joke' in command:
    speak(pyjokes.get_joke())
```

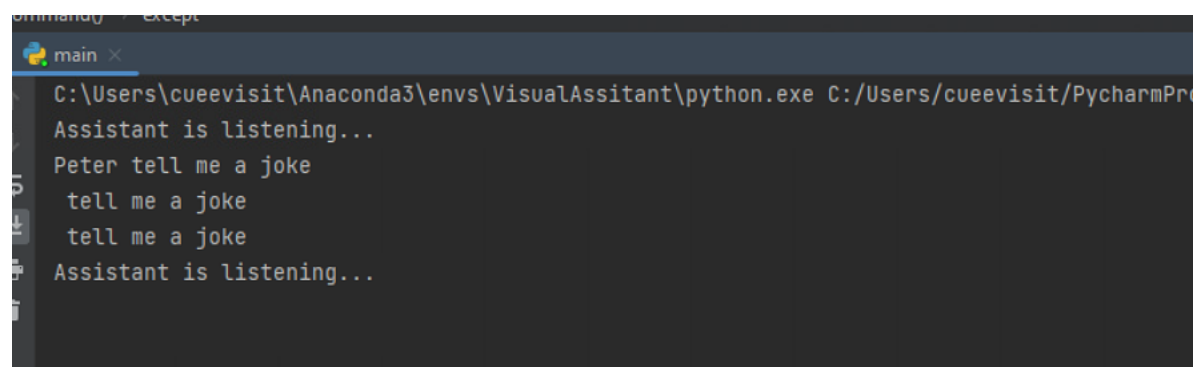
Paste the following code on the top :

```
import pyjokes
```

```
2 import speech_recognition as sr
3 import pywhatkit
4 import datetime
5 import wikipedia
6 import pyjokes
7
```

**Try on your own:**

Asking: “Assistant Name you set, tell me a joke”



```
main x
C:\Users\cueevisit\Anaconda3\envs\VisualAssitant\python.exe C:/Users/cueevisit/PycharmPr
Assistant is listening...
Peter tell me a joke
tell me a joke
tell me a joke
Assistant is listening...
```

The assistant will tell you the joke by voice

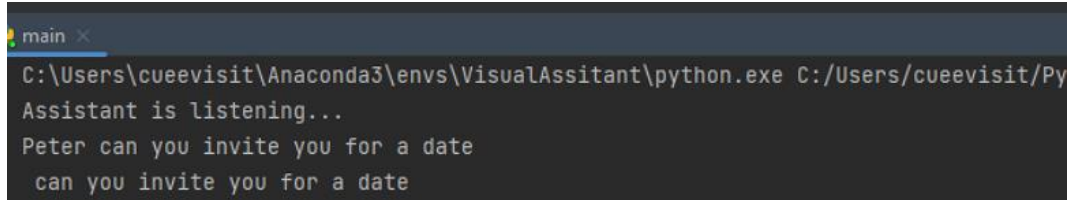
**Task 11 (Optional):** To refuse your “dating” invitation

Paste below to the code:

```
elif 'date' in command:  
    speak('sorry, I have a headache')
```

**Try on your own:**

Asking: “Assistant Name you set, can I invite you for a date”



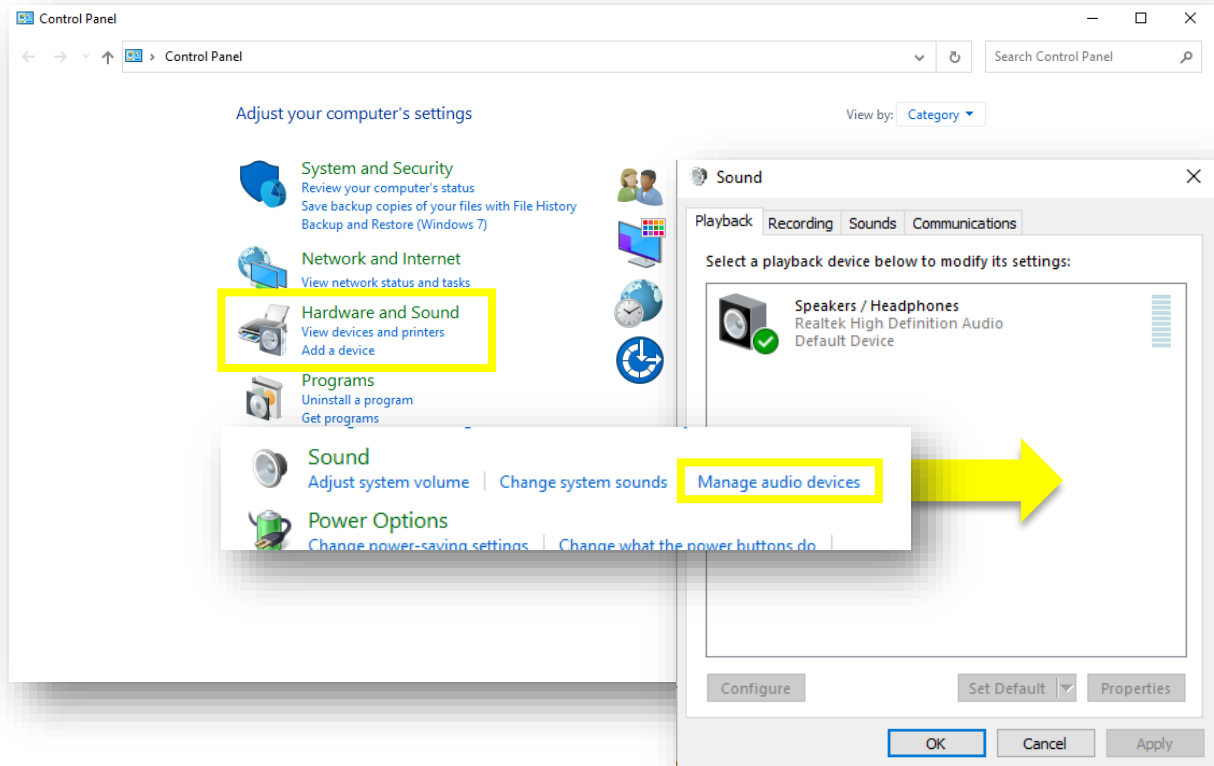
```
main x  
C:\Users\cueevisit\Anaconda3\envs\VisualAssitant\python.exe C:/Users/cueevisit/Py  
Assistant is listening...  
Peter can you invite you for a date  
can you invite you for a date
```

The assistant will tell you: 'sorry, I have a headache'

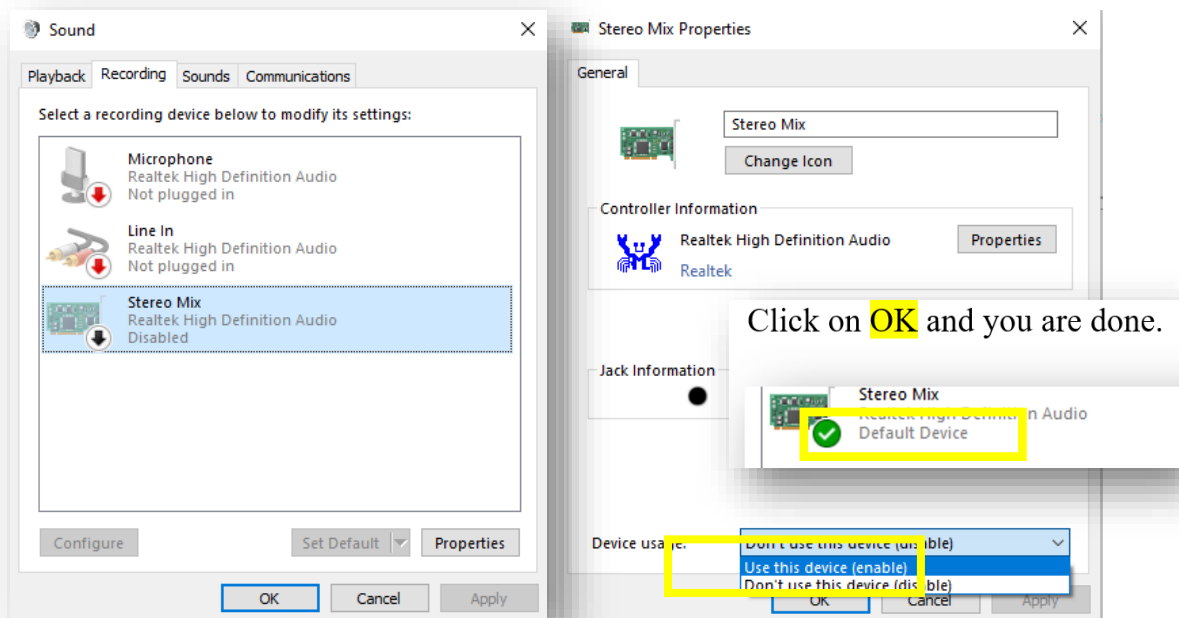
## Appendix

### How to enable Speech Recognition of Python Code detect system sound in Windows?

1. Open the control panel and click the **Hardware and Sound**, then **Manage audio devices**.



2. Click on Recording and select Stereo Mix. Change to **Use this device(enable)**.



## Task 12: Send whatsapp message to specific person immediately

Installation of the package of pywhatkit: <https://pypi.org/project/pywhatkit/>

**pywhatkit 5.4**

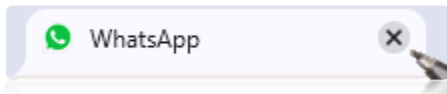
`pip install pywhatkit`

```
import speech_recognition as sr
import pywhatkit
import datetime
```

It is a package that we can use python code to send something to others using whatsapp

Open your default browser to visit <https://web.whatsapp.com/> and scan QRcode to login

After logged in, you close the tab of this web chatroom interface



### Log into WhatsApp Web

Message privately with friends and family using WhatsApp on your browser.

1. Open WhatsApp on your phone
2. Tap Menu ⓘ on Android, or Settings ⚙ on iPhone
3. Tap Linked devices and then Link a device
4. Point your phone at this screen to scan the QR code



[Need help getting started?](#)

[Log in with phone number](#)

Stay logged in on this browser

```
elif 'whatsapp my mother' in command:
    Target = 'Mother'
    PhoneNumber = '+852xxxxxxx'
    Msg = 'Not going home to eat!\nYou eat yourself?'
    pywhatkit.sendwhatmsg_instantly(PhoneNumber, Msg, 10, True, 3)
    print(f"Message sent to {Target} with Phone Number {PhoneNumber}:\n>> {Msg}")
    speak(f"Message sent to {Target} with Phone Number {PhoneNumber}: {Msg}")
```

### Try on your own:

Asking: “Assistant Name you set, whatsapp my mother not going home to eat”

```
Message sent to Mother with Phone Number +852
>> Not going home to eat!
You eat yourself?
```

The assistant will tell you:

Message sent to Mother with Phone Number +852xxxxxxx:  
Not going home to eat! You eat yourself?

### Task 13: Send whatsapp image with caption to specific person immediately

**pywin32 310**

`pip install pywin32`

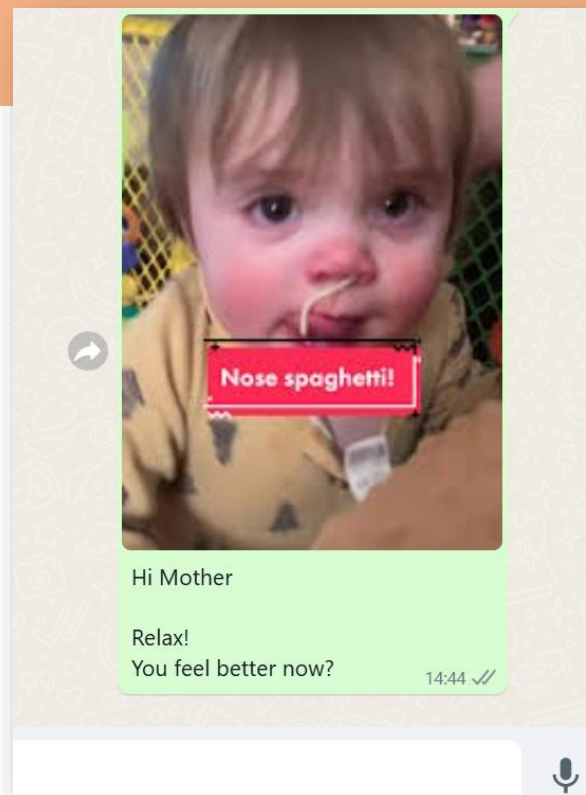
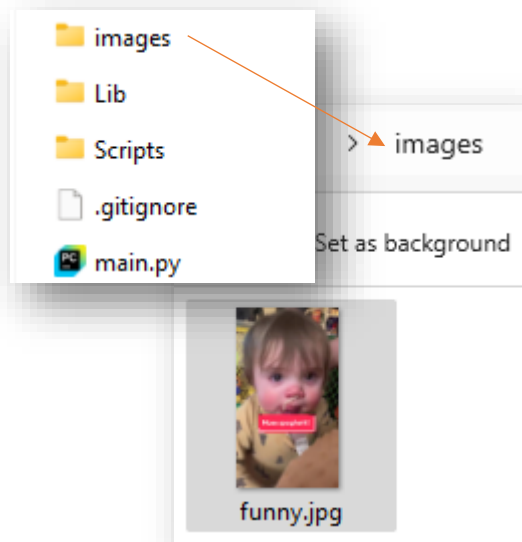
*Need to install one more package called “pywin32”*

```
import pywhatkit
import os
```

```
elif 'whatsapp image' in command:
    Target = 'Mother'
    PhoneNumber = "+852xxxxxxx"

    # Specify the relative path to the image
    image_path = "images/funny.jpg" # Ensure this path is correct
    caption = "Hi " + Target + "\n\n" + "Relax!\nYou feel better now?"

    # Check if the image file exists before sending
    if os.path.isfile(image_path):
        try:
            # Send the image with the caption
            pywhatkit.sendwhats_image(PhoneNumber, image_path, caption, 8, True, 3)
            print(f"Message sent to {Target} with Phone Number {PhoneNumber}:\n>> {caption}")
            speak(f"Message sent to {Target} with Phone Number {PhoneNumber}:\n>> {caption}")
        except Exception as e:
            print(f"An error occurred: {e}")
    else:
        print(f"Image not found: {image_path}")
```



### Try on your own:

Asking: “Assistant Name you set, whatsapp image”

## Task 14: Send whatsapp messages to multiple people in batch

pywin32 310

pip install pywin32

*Need to install one more package called "pywin32"*

```
import pywhatkit
import csv
import os
```

```
elif 'whatsapp my schedule' in command:
    with open("send_msg.csv", "r", encoding='utf-8') as file:
        reader = csv.DictReader(file) # Use tab as delimiter
        for row in reader:
            # Create the full message including the greeting
            message = 'Hi ' + row['Recipient'] + ',\n\n' + row['Message'].replace('\n', '\n')
            phone = row['Phone']
            image_path = row['ImagePath']

            print(row) # Print the row for debugging

            # Check if ImagePath is not empty
            if image_path:
                # Ensure the image file exists before sending
                if os.path.isfile(image_path):
                    pywhatkit.sendwhats_image(phone, image_path, message, 8, True, 3)
                else:
                    print(f"Image not found: {image_path}")
            else:
                pywhatkit.sendwhatmsg_instantly(phone, message, 8, True, 3)

        speak("All messages have been sent")
```

ID	Recipient	Phone	Message	ImagePath
1	Richard	+852xxxxxxx	方便嗎\n有什麼需要嗎?	images/myDear.jpg
2	Mary	+852xxxxxxx	Go to church on foot. Don't forget to pray	
3	Kaisin	+852xxxxxxx	please don't go	images/Greeting.png

File name: send\_msg.csv  
Save as type: CSV UTF-8 (Comma delimited) (\*.csv)

**Try on your own:**

Asking: "Assistant Name you set, whatsapp my schedule now"

## Practicum Coursework:

## Your Own Virtual Assistant Creation (Due: 4:59pm of Today's Session)

- Build your own virtual assistant with specific name that you choose
- The virtual assistant should make use of at least THREE packages.  
(At most choose **ONE OPTIONAL** package from what I have mentioned in this set of notes)
- You can search <https://pypi.org> for other TWO packages to try.
- Demonstrate your virtual assistant to TA to get marks
- Upload your source code – Your Student ID.py (e.g. 1155131649.py) to blackboard

(Beware of Plagiarism, a permanent drawback will be issued by HKIE)

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INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS  
香港工程師學會

## President's Message



hbc-random-number 0.2.0

hkobservatory 1.0.6

fortunetelleracs1029 1.0.0