School of Code

Keep thinking: Section 9

The Complete Python/PostgreSQL Developer Course

Although quizzes are great to test your knowledge and do some quick revision, in some cases more extended questions and thought is necessary.

The questions in this document are solely for you to think about and try to answer. Use the internet and the course to try to answer them.

Once you've answered them, create a discussion in the Course Q&A so we can have a chat about what you've thought about them.

Question: in terms of your operating system, files, and folders, what does it mean to "install a program"?

With this question let's try to dispel the myth of installing programs. Remember: nothing in computers is magic. For your operating system to be able to run a program, things must've happened during installation.

What happens when you install a program? You can use Python 3.5 as an example.

Here's a few questions as food for thought.

What files and folders get created? When you execute the program, what file specifically are you executing? What do you think would happen if you copied the installation folder and pasted it somewhere else? Are there any system properties being modified when you install programs?

Question: what happens when you create a virtual environment?

Give this a go: create a new virtual environment. Then, go inside the virtual environment folder and see what's there. See if that matches with the folder that was created in the initial Python installation.

Are there any differences? What do you see in your virtual environment?

Question: with your newly created virtual environment, what happens when you install a package using pip?

Install a new package, and then go exploring inside your virtual environment folder.

Can you find where the package is installed? What does the installed package look like?

Why is this important?

Why am I bothering you with these “operating system” questions?

The truth is: software development is not all about programming. There are servers, databases, links between applications (installed in the same computer, but also in different computers), and much, much more.

Knowing about computers and how they work will make a big difference in your software development journey.

But do keep programming!

Your instructor
— Jose