Python Getting Started

Python Install

Many PCs and Macs will have python already installed.

To check if you have python installed on a Windows PC, search in the start bar for Python or run the following on the Command Line (cmd.exe):

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python --version
```

To check if you have python installed on a Linux or Mac, then on linux open the command line or on Mac open the Terminal and type:

```
python --version
```

If you find that you do not have Python installed on your computer, then you can download it for free from the following website: https://www.python.org/

Python Quickstart

Python is an interpreted programming language, this means that as a developer you write Python (.py) files in a text editor and then put those files into the python interpreter to be executed.

The way to run a python file is like this on the command line:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python helloworld.py
```

Where "helloworld.py" is the name of your python file.

Let's write our first Python file, called helloworld.py, which can be done in any text editor.

helloworld.py

```
print("Hello, World!")
```

Try it Yourself »

Simple as that. Save your file. Open your command line, navigate to the directory where you saved your file, and run:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python helloworld.py
```

The output should read:

```
Hello, World!
```

Congratulations, you have written and executed your first Python program.

The Python Command Line

To test a short amount of code in python sometimes it is quickest and easiest not to write the code in a file. This is made possible because Python can be run as a command line itself.

Type the following on the Windows, Mac or Linux command line:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python
```

Or, if the "python" command did not work, you can try "py":

```
C:\Users\Your Name>py
```

From there you can write any python, including our hello world example from earlier in the tutorial:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python
Python 3.6.4 (v3.6.4:d48eceb, Dec 19 2017, 06:04:45) [MSC v.1900 32 bit
(Intel)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print("Hello, World!")
```

Which will write "Hello, World!" in the command line:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python
Python 3.6.4 (v3.6.4:d48eceb, Dec 19 2017, 06:04:45) [MSC v.1900 32 bit
(Intel)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print("Hello, World!")
Hello, World!
```

Whenever you are done in the python command line, you can simply type the following to quit the python command line interface:
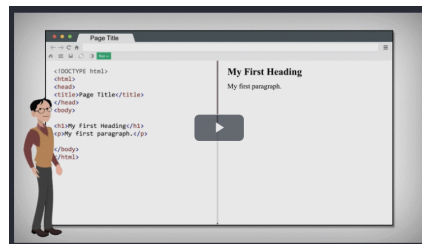
```
exit()
```

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