Programming in Python

Course Overview

(Elective course offered at PESIT Bangalore for 6th Semester BE Computer Science and Information Science students)

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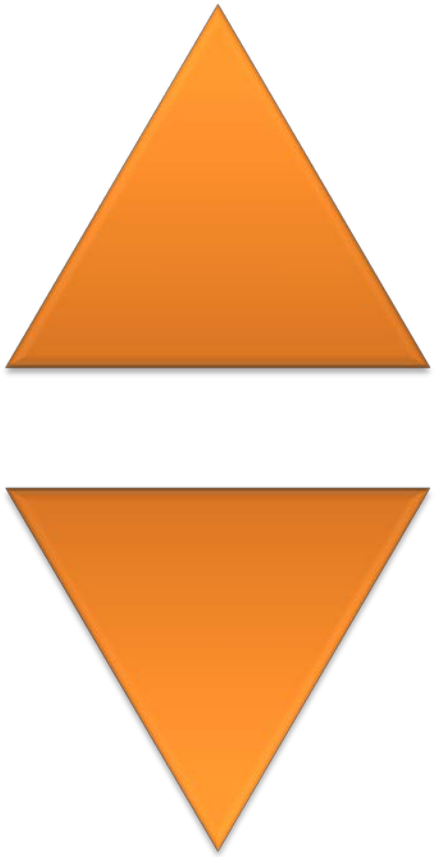
Learning a programming language: Two Approaches

- Different but complementary nature of two approaches:
  1. Start with the goal of learning a programming language and its associated tools, frameworks and solve appropriate problems
  2. Start with the class of problems you want to solve, choose the most appropriate language and platform, learn the platform.
- In our course we take the latter approach
  - Solve problems pertaining to web analytics and unstructured data processing and choose Python as an implementation vehicle



Sample Project Domains

- LinkedIn analysis
- Wiki People database
- Financial Information
- Tourism database
- Device database (look at WURFL)
- HTML Responsive design
- Articles database in ZDNet

Course Structure

- **Unit 1**: Python language features overview
- **Unit 2**: Programming with Python Standard Library
- **Unit 3**: Web Programming in Python
- **Unit 4**: Programming for the cloud using Python
- **Unit 5**: Web Analytics in Python

Instruction Methodology

- Classroom lectures for language overview, some standard library APIs and worked out examples for other topics

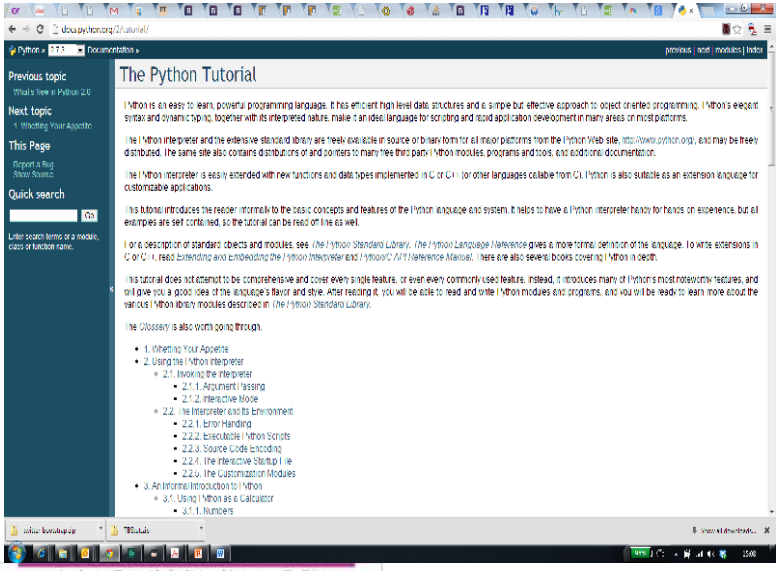
- Hands on project for each unit – each project is independent but all of them can be combined in to a wholesome project

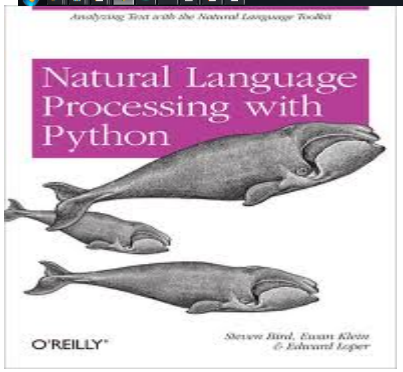
Evaluation Model

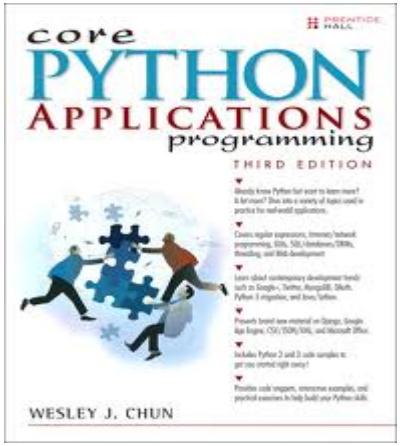
Test	Approach	Marks	FINAL SEE
Test 1	Regular Written Test	50	10
Test 2	5 mini projects (each carrying 12 marks)	60	60
SEE	Regular Written Exam	100	25
	Attendance	5	5
	TOTAL		100

Reference books/URLs for the course

- T1: Core Python Applications Programming by Wesley J Chun, Third Edition, Pearson publications
- UNIT – I : Python Tutorial http://docs.python.org/2/tutorial/index.html
- UNIT – II : T1 Chapters 1-4
- UNIT – III : T1 Chapters 9-11 (Web frameworks like Django excluded)
- UNIT – IV : T1 Chapters 12-13
- UNIT – V : BeautifulSoup (http://www.crummy.com/software/BeautifulSoup/bs4/doc/), NLTK (http://nltk.org/), Orange (http://orange.biolab.si/doc/ofb/)







Example of Course Project

- Build an in-memory database using Python data structures (such as dictionary, lists etc)
- Expose it as a socket server that caters to multiple clients simultaneously
- Enhance the above in to a web server and service, expose a REST interface
- Process the unstructured/structured data from the web and covert that in to a database
- Port the above to Google App Engine

People Database

- Objective: Build a specialized database of famous people (example: Mahatma Gandhi, C.V. Raman, Thomas Alva Edison, Sachin Tendulkar) and information about them. We would like to answer queries such as:
  - Who are the Nobel laureates born in India?
  - What are the literary works of Kalidasa?
  - Who invented the light bulb?
  - Where did Sachin score his hundredth hundred?

Assignment #1

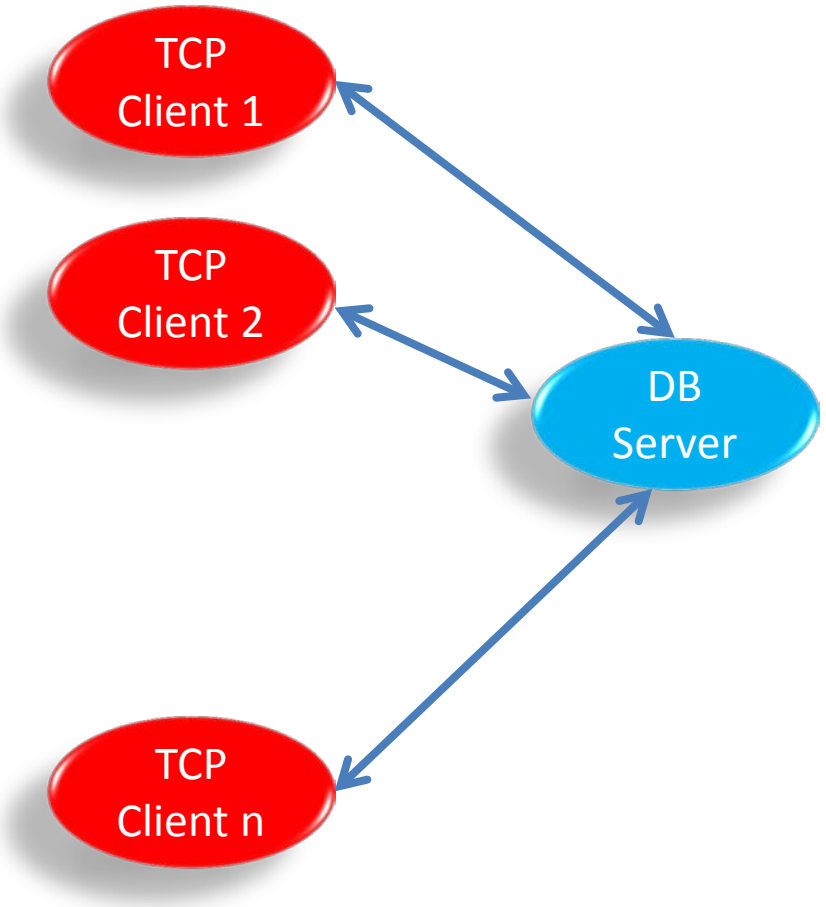
Build an in-memory database, support queries on the following:

- Name of the person
- Gender
- Country of birth
- Date of birth (Day, Month, Year)
- Date of Expiry (if no longer alive)
- Profession

Boolean combination of the above – eg: All people whose profession is scientist born in India after 1900

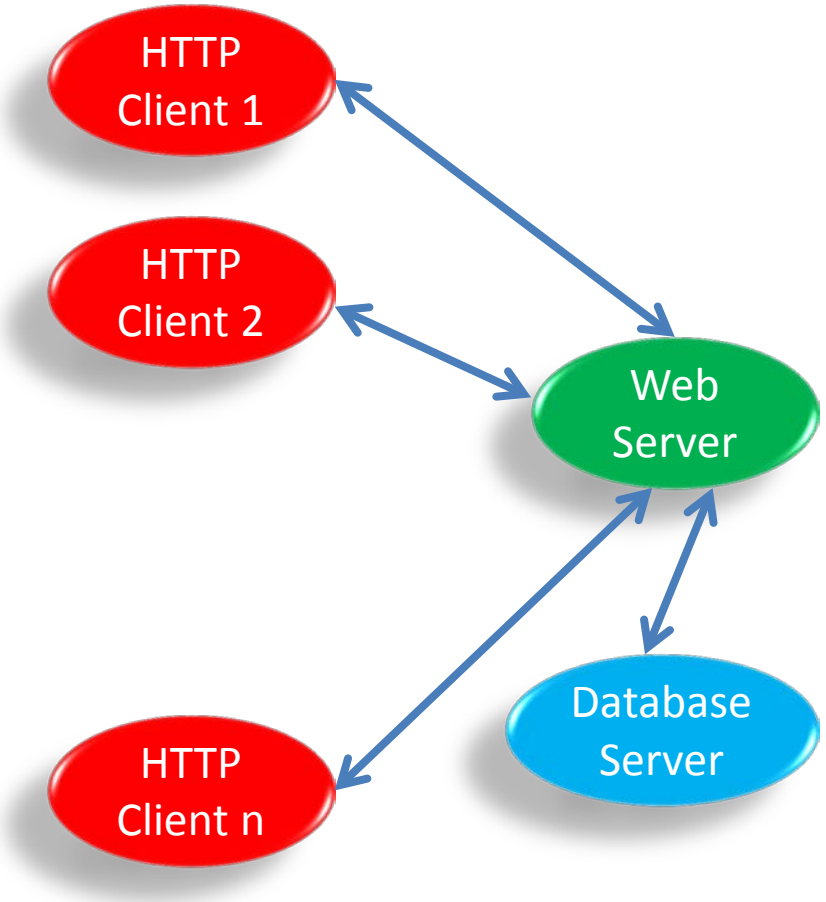
Assignment #2

- Expose the database program developed in assignment 1 in to a server application exposed through socket interface
- Write the client application that can take inputs from interactive console or file and can query the server through socket
- It should be possible for multiple clients to access the server simultaneously (Use Python multithreading)



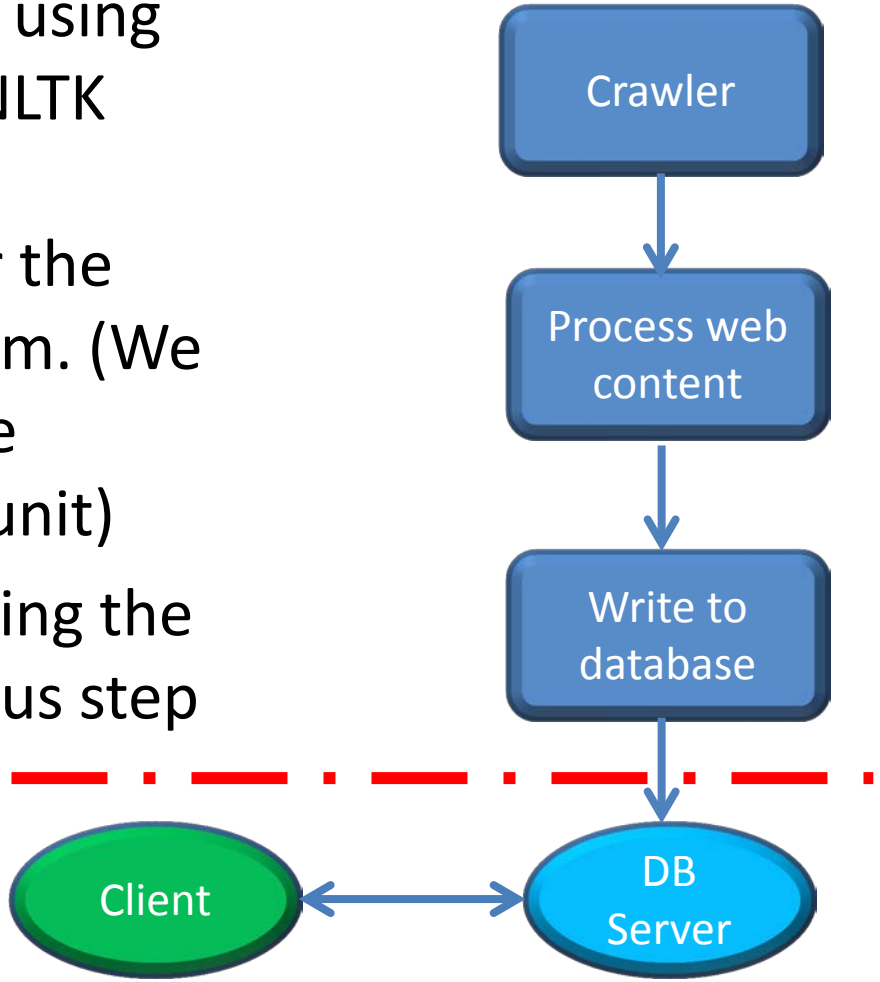
Assignment #3

- Expose the server developed in the Assignment#2 as a database server accessible through HTTP Server
- Build a typical HTML based web page serving as well as a REST interface, support one of JSON or XML
- Build a crawler to fetch the pages from the specified domain (you can repurpose freely available crawlers written in Python from open source)



Assignment #4

- Perform HTML text processing using tools such as Beautiful Soup, NLTK and Orange to dig out the information needed to answer the queries specified in the problem. (We will specify these queries more precisely when we get to this unit)
- Build a structured database using the data retrieved from the previous step



Assignment #5

- Port the application to Google App Engine. Use the GAE data store instead of the database you developed in Assignment #1
- Support both the service oriented model as well as page serving
- (optional) Write compelling client UI
- (optional) Support mobile clients by building suitable client side library (for example Android SDK)