

Lab 7: The Cow Says...

Overview

This lab is designed to introduce students to the Bash Command Line Interface (CLI) and the concept of CLI arguments and give them practice writing classes. The **cowsay** utility is a popular Unix program from the 20th century (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowsay>). You will write a slightly simplified **cowsay** program that takes in several arguments and prints out different text depending on the arguments.

Tools

Please note that **you are strongly recommended to use a text editor and the terminal to edit and run your program and its directories**. It is advised students learn/review basic Unix shell commands before beginning; a good run-through can be found here: <https://linuxjourney.com/lesson/the-shell>. **You are also allowed to use PyCharm and its terminal to write and run your program.**

Follow these steps to get started on the lab:

1. Open a terminal and enter the **pwd** command to identify the path to the working (current) directory (folder)
2. Enter **ls** to list the contents of the current directory
3. Use the **mkdir** command to make a new directory called *CowLab*.
4. Use **ls** to see the change, then **cd** to change to the directory *CowLab*.
5. Do your lab work in that folder. Use your google skills to find more commands.

You can read more information about some of these commands here:

<https://www.howtogeek.com/howto/42980/the-beginners-guide-to-nano-the-linux-command-line-text-editor/>
<https://pythonbasics.org/execute-python-scripts/>

Specification

Students will write two files: a driver file with a **main()** entry point (**cowsay**) and a data class (**cow**). Note that **heifer_generator.py** is provided for you; your code must use this class to create the cow objects.

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Provided For Students - HeiferGenerator

get_cows()

Static method which returns a Python list of cow objects from the built-in data set. This will use the **Cow** constructor and **image** property of the cow class to properly initialize new cow objects uniquely for each data set. *This means it is dependent on your Cow class, so you should write that before working on main!*

cowsay.py (Program Driver)

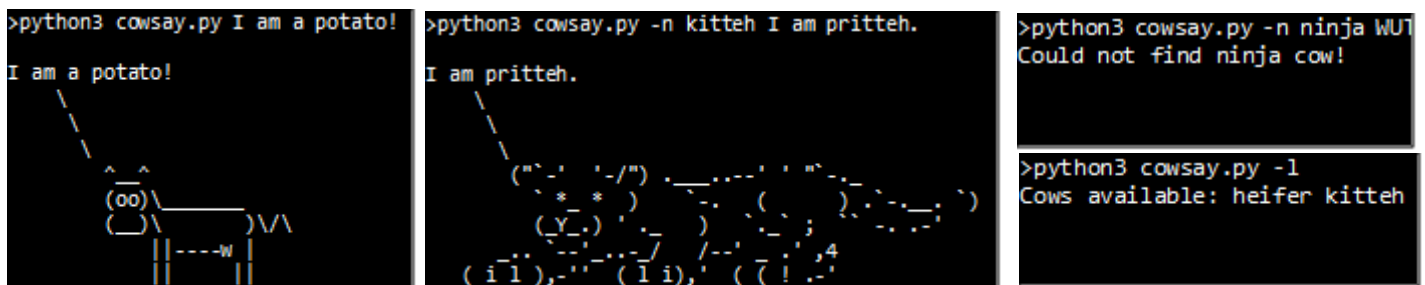
Your program must accept command line arguments. Command line arguments are captured as part of the **argv** variable found in the **sys** module. This can be accessed with **sys.argv** after you **import sys** (Review lecture slides for examples!).

The command line arguments that must be supported are as follows:

```
python3 cowsay.py -l Lists the available cows
python3 cowsay.py MESSAGE Prints out the MESSAGE using the default COW
python3 cowsay.py -n COW MESSAGE Prints out the MESSAGE using the specified COW
```

If a user calls for a cow that does not exist, the program should print out “Could not find **[COWNAME]** cow!”

Output Samples



Suggested Functions

The following functions are suggested to make development easier, but are not required:

list_cows(cows)

Displays the available cows from a Python list of **Cow** objects.

find_cow(name, cows)

Given a name and a Python list of **Cow** objects, return the **Cow** object with the specified **name**. If no such Cow object can be found, return **None**.

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```
>python3 cowsay.py -l
Cows available: heifer kitteh

>python3 cowsay.py -n ninja Hello world!
Could not find ninja cow!

>python3 cowsay.py Hello -n kitteh

Hello -n kitteh
```

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