

Exercise 1.1: Getting Started with Python

Learning Goals

- Summarize the uses and benefits of Python for web development
- Prepare your developer environment for programming with Python

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, what is the difference between frontend and backend web development? If you were hired to work on backend programming for a web application, what kinds of operations would you be working on?

Frontend development deals with all that a user/consumer/client sees, touches and interacts with. Backend development is the server and business logic that enables the front end to return the results it is designed to achieve. If I was hired to do backend development, I would likely be working with databases, authentication and authorization, security, APIs and the like.

2. Imagine you're working as a full-stack developer in the near future. Your team is asking for your advice on whether to use JavaScript or Python for a project, and you think Python would be the better choice. How would you explain the similarities and differences between the two languages to your team? Drawing from what you learned in this Exercise, what reasons would you give to convince your team that Python is the better option?

The benefits of using Python are in its readability and its ease of maintenance. Its dynamic typing allows for quicker debugging, and there is a massive amount of community support that helps to ensure a continued high level product.

3. Now that you've had an introduction to Python, write down 3 goals you have for yourself and your learning during this Achievement. You can reflect on the following questions if it helps you. What do you want to learn about Python? What do you want to get out of this Achievement? Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?

I'd like to become more fluent in the syntax and language, to get a solid feel for how the structure functions. I want to be comfortable indicating why I do or do not prefer this language for a particular project/prospect. Lastly, I would like to be able to learn how to integrate Python with other languages and frameworks to continually develop the best full-stack programming background I can.