Article #21 – This is a quick small reference post about one of the most important aspect of writing 'good', 'clean' and 'easy to read' Python Code. I feel that PEP-8 is a reference that all Python developers should keep handy and refer every time they write a new piece of code, refactor an existing code or do review of someone else's code. In this article I am just trying to bring back to our cautious mind, Python's PEP-8 and along with that sharing some good references that I have come across about PEP-8. I hope you would enjoy this quick small article.

What is PEP in Python

As defined by Python.org

"PEP stands for Python Enhancement Proposal.

A PEP is a design document providing information to the Python community, or describing a new feature for Python or its processes or environment."

PEPs are the proposals submitted by Python community members to make any improvements to Python itself or to the standards surrounding Python.

For more information about "PEP" in general, refer the below two links:

1). PEP – Purpose and Guidelines

https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0001/

2). Index of Python Enhancement Proposals

https://www.python.org/dev/peps/

What is PEP-8

Python creator Guido Van Rossum says:

"The code is read much more than its written."

The three most important aspects that makes up a 'good piece of code' are – Efficiency, Accuracy and Readability of the code. Efficiency and Accuracy makes the code reliable and thus creates dependable applications out of it. Readability of the code makes the code understandable and thus easy to maintain. Style Guides are documents that provide guidelines and best practices on styling the code and making the code consistent across functions, modules and projects.

PEP-8 is a Python style guide created by Guido van Rossum, Barry Warsaw and Nick Coghlan in 2001. The guidelines provided in PEP-8 style guide are intended to improve the readability of code and make it consistent across the wide spectrum of Python code.

Python PEP-8 style guide originally written by Guido van Rossum, Barry Warsaw and Nick Coghlan (I term this as the Supreme source to learn PEP-8 style guide) is available at : https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0008/

Apart from the PEP-8 style guide located on python.org, there are few good sources on Internet that helps to learn PEP-8 style guide with easy-to-understand examples and explanation. Sharing below what I collated as 'good sources' to understand PEP-8 style guide. I would highly encourage everyone to thoroughly understand PEP-8 style guide and encourage all your team members for the same.

Three best sources to understand PEP-8 style guide thoroughly:

Pep8.org https://pep8.org/
The Prettiest Way to View the PEP 8 Python Style Guide by Real Python https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Hwckt4J96dI
How to Write Beautiful Python Code With PEP 8 by Real Python https://realpython.com/python-pep8/

Few more beautiful sources related to PEP-8 style guide:

Vlogs:

PyconUk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zrlZGyEwMM
PyCon 2015 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf-BqAjZb8M
Sebastian Mathot https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm0wwmEwqpI

Blogs/Articles:

AnalyticsVidhya https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2020/07/python-style-guide/
JavaTPoint https://www.javatpoint.com/pep-8-in-python
ReadTheDocs https://pymbook.readthedocs.io/en/latest/pep8.html
Stanford.edu https://cs.stanford.edu/people/nick/py/python-style1.html
Cheatography https://cheatography.com/jmds/cheat-sheets/python-pep8-style-guide/
LeMaRiva Tech https://lemariva.com/blog/2019/05/analytics-beautiful-python-using-pep-8

About Me:

My Name is **Hiral Amodia.** I am based in Bangalore, India. I am a Software Engineer working in Indian IT Industry for over 16 years now. Currently, I am employed as a Software Engineering Manager at a leading Indian IT services company. I am passionate about learning new technologies and concepts. I strongly believe that teaching is the best way of learning and that caring is the true way of sharing. With this philosophy in mind, I keep on writing articles on technology, concepts, etc. that I learn.

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