**Running your Python Program Outside of the Integrated Developer’s Environment**

Once you save a program as a .py file, you can run it by double clicking on the file icon in your file manager window. The program should execute in a black console window. The window closes as soon as it reaches the end of the program, which often is not what you’d like. To keep the window open longer, add this statement to the end of your program:

input (“Press return to exit”)

This will force the program to wait until you press the enter key to exit the window.

Since Python is interpreted, not compiled, you have to have the Python interpreter on the host computer. If you write a nice program and want to share it with friends, it likely won’t work on their system unless your friends also have the Python interpreter on their computer.

There are a few applications out there that will translate your Python code into executable form. One such application is called py2exe ([www.py2exe.org](http://www.py2exe.org)). A list of compilers is given at <http://effbot.org/zone/python-compile.htm>. We will not be producing executable programs in this course. Use at your own risk!

At the moment, we are writing programs that execute on the ***console***. The console is just a black and white window that shows simple text only. This is best while we learn the basics of programming. Once we are adept at the basic rules of programming, we can introduce a ***Graphical User Interface*** (called a ***GUI***). Acorns before Oaks, however...

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