

DocTests

At Lightning Speed

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doctests

```
def factorial(n):  
    """Compute the factorial of n.
```

```
    >>> factorial(5)  
    120
```

```
    """
```

people (e.g. me) say

doctest is better than unittest

first impression

huh?

won't test overwhelm code?

I didn't get it until I read

Jim Fulton's PyCon 2004 talk

*Literate Testing: Automated Testing
with doctest*

<http://www.python.org/pycon/dc2004/papers/4/PyCon2004DocTestUnit.pdf>



don't abuse docstrings

short illustrative examples only

put extensive tests in a separate
test module

```
def doctest_one_thing():
    """Test one thing
```

```
    ...
    """
```

```
def doctest_another_thing():
    """Test another thing
```

```
    ...
    """
```

why not just use unittest?

nice extra features

(since Python 2.4)

whitespace normalization

ellipsis notation

unified diffs

 SchoolBell: mostly doctests

4 kinds of doctests

1

function docstrings

2

unit tests

3

page tests

4

developer documentation

stream of consciousness testing

Phillip J. Eby's weblog

Stream of Consciousness Testing

<http://dirtsimple.org/2004/11/stream-of-consciousness-testing.html>

the end