A picture containing graphical user interface

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5.6: The while Loop

Let’s look at an example – similar to the one you would have completed within the pre-session materials – to demonstrate a while loop. Define a function called while\_sum() which takes a single parameter – number. In the function, enter the following code:

sum = 0

counter = 1

while(counter <= number):

sum += counter

counter += 1

return sum

Update your main(), so that the while\_sum(number) function runs. You will need to make sure that it asks for a user input for the value to stop iterating at:



As you can see from the code, we have had to create an extra variable to support the while loop and remember to update it each time. Try commenting out the line which updates the value of the counter – what happens? For this particular example, the for loop would be a much better (and safer) way to program your solution.