

# Setting Up Your Development Environment

This is a crucial section that is the foundation of the book's later chapters. You need a computer running a \*nix-based operating system such as Linux or OS X. I am using a MacBook Air (early 2015) running OS X 10.11.1 for the purpose of illustration.

## Python 2.x

You will write Melissa's code in the Python programming language. So, you need to have the Python interpreter installed to run the Python code files. \*nix systems generally have Python preinstalled. You can check whether you have Python installed by running the following command in the terminal of your operating system:

```
$ python --version
```

This command returns the version of the Python installed on your system. In my case, it gives the following output:

```
Python 2.7.11
```

This should also work on other versions of Python 2.

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■ **Note** I am using Python 2 instead of Python 3 because the various dependencies used throughout the book are written in Python 2.

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## Python Package Index (PyPI)

You need pip to install the third-party modules that are required for various software operations. You use these third-party modules so you do not have to reinvent the wheels of assorted basic software processes.

You can check whether pip is installed on your system by issuing the following command:

```
$ pip --version
```

In my case, it gives this output:

```
pip 7.1.2 from /usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages (python 2.7)
```

If you do not have pip installed, you can install it by following the guide at <https://pip.pypa.io/en/stable/installing/>.