**1. Get web hosting space from OCF**

The open computing facility offers free web hosting space to Berkeley students. We’re going to use this space to set up individual Wordpress blogs where you can post and share the data visualizations you create in class.

Go to <https://accounts.ocf.berkeley.edu/request-account> and request a web hosting account. Do this as soon as possible because it takes a few days to process and we want everyone to have their account ready by next Thursday.

Next Thursday we’ll set up Wordpress on your new webserver space. If you’d like to read ahead, check out <https://docs.ocf.berkeley.edu/wiki/WordPress> and <http://wordpress.org/>. Don’t worry, we’ll go over all of this together next Thursday.

**2. Download and install Anaconda**

Anaconda is a convenient installer for Python and several of its scientific computing packages (packages are collections of Python code that do some *thing*). Go to <https://store.continuum.io/cshop/anaconda> and download the graphical installer. Make sure you choose Python 2.7. If you’re on Windows, make sure you choose 32-bit. When installing, (install for all users, if asked) make sure you tick the box to make Anaconda your system’s default Python. Install it in the default destination folder.

**3. Understand the *basics* of the command prompt/terminal**

Working with Python requires you to use your computer’s command prompt/terminal. On Windows, click Start > Run… > type cmd and hit Enter. <http://dosprompt.info/>. On Mac, go to Applications > Utilities > Terminal. <http://guides.macrumors.com/Terminal>. Familiarize yourself with the basic commands (such as changing directories and listing the contents of a directory) discussed in these links so that you can use the command prompt/terminal to access Python in class.

**4. IPython notebooks**

Most of the Python code we’ll work on in class will be in the form of IPython notebooks: <http://ipython.org/notebook.html>. You need to launch IPython from the same folder/directory that your notebooks are located in. For example, go to CP255 on <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/> and click the link for today’s session. There you’ll see a link for the IPython notebook Paul went over in class. Download it and save it to a new folder on your desktop called “notebooks”.

Open the command prompt/terminal. Change directories to this “notebooks” folder, then enter the following command: ipython notebook

Your web browser should open and display the directory of IPython notebooks. Click the one named 1-Introduction-to-python.ipynb to launch it. Play around with the code inside of it that Paul went over in class.

**5. Python package management**

conda is a package management tool that comes with Anaconda: <http://conda.pydata.org/docs/examples.html>. You can use it to add, update, or remove Python packages on your computer. For example, to add a Python package to perform web scraping, open the command prompt/terminal window and type: conda install scrapy

This tells conda to install the Python package named “scrapy.” To remove a package from your computer, at the command prompt/terminal type: conda remove scrapy

To update a package that has a newer version available, use: conda update scrapy

or, to update all of your Anaconda packages to their latest versions: conda update anaconda

To see a listing of all the packages you have in your Anaconda environment, use: conda list