Rapidly Getting Started with Python
- Instructions prior to Workshop

Developed for:

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Install Anaconda

- Go to the following link: https://www.continuum.io/downloads
- Follow instructions for your system (Mac, Windows, Linux) to install the **Python 2.7** version of Anaconda
    - The file is approximately 300-500 MB so it may take a while to download in the class period; additionally the file takes a while to install
    - Please be sure to do this prior to class to maximize time learning Python
- Review the following tutorials if you're interested in investigating conda more:
    - *http://conda.pydata.org/docs/get-started.html*

Once Anaconda is installed (or if Anaconda is already installed):

- Open a terminal
    - On a Mac or Linux machine open up the terminal
    - On a Windows machine the easiest option is to use the Anaconda Prompt that comes with Anaconda.
        - Unfortunately I am not that familiar with the windows command prompt commands. So please review the command prompt commands prior to class.
        - If you're more advanced in Windows and would like to get a UNIX terminal to work with conda please go ahead!
- Check the version of Anaconda. Type the following into your terminal
    - `conda --version`
    - conda will respond with the version number that you have installed, like: `conda 3.11.0`
- Update conda to the latest version by typing the following commands
    - `conda update conda`
- If a newer version of conda is available, type Y to update
    - `Proceed ([y]/n)? y`
- Update the *Anaconda* meta package:
    - `conda update anaconda`
    - `Proceed ([y]/n)? y`

Changing from Python 3.5 to Python 2.7

- Check the current version of python from the installation
    - `python --version`
- This should return something similar to:
    - `Python 2.7.11 :: Anaconda 4.0.0 (x86_64)`
- If it does not say Python 2.7 or Anaconda:
    - If not Anaconda:
        - There is another distribution of python that is installed and ahead of Anaconda in the path. Often this is the Canopy Enthought version of python.
        - On a Mac of Linux machine, to fix this you must edit your `.bash_profile`, `.profile`, and `.bashrc` files to remove mentions of the Canopy version.
        - If you're stuck at this step we can attempt to fix the issue early in the day of the workshop
    - If not Python 2.x and instead Python 3.y, then:
        - Create a Python 2.7 environment
            - `conda create -n py27 python=2.7 anaconda`
        - Activate the new environment
            - `source activate py27`
        - Check python version
            - `python --version`
        - Update conda
            - `conda update conda`
        - Update the *Anaconda* meta package:
            - `conda update anaconda`

Installing a text editor

- If you do not already have a text editor that you are comfortable using on your machine, please install one prior to the class
- One very common one to use is Sublime Text which is available for Mac OS, Windows and Linux
    - https://www.sublimetext.com/
    - Free to download and evaluate, though the full version of the software for continued use costs money.
    - The free version will be adequate for the class
- If you are adventurous, learn how to use vim, emacs, or nano which are alternate command line text editors.
    - These text editors have a steep learning curve, but are very powerful once you get the hand of them.