

Introduction to Python

Debugging Python Programs

4th November 2016

What Is Debugging?

- A bug is a problem with a program - either it doesn't run or it doesn't do what you want it to do.


What Is Debugging?

- A bug is a problem with a program - either it doesn't run or it doesn't do what you want it to do.
- Named for Admiral Grace Hopper who "debugged" a moth in a Mark II in the 1940s.

9/9

0800 Antman started
1000 " stopped - antman ✓
1300 (033) MP-MC ~~1.58267000~~ 1.58267000
(033) PRO 2 2.130476415
convd 2.130676415
Relays 6-2 in 033 failed special speed test
in relay 10.00 test.

Relays changed
1100 Started Cosine Tape (Sine check)
1525 Started Multi-Adder Test.

1545  Relay #70 Panel F
(moth) in relay.

First actual case of bug being found.
1650 Antman started.
1700 closed down

Relay 3376
Relay 3376

What Is Debugging?

- A bug is a problem with a program - either it doesn't run or it doesn't do what you want it to do.
- Named for Admiral Grace Hopper who “debugged” a moth in a Mark II in the 1940s.
- Many different types of bugs - memory, flow control, using variables out of scope etc.

What Is Debugging?

- A bug is a problem with a program - either it doesn't run or it doesn't do what you want it to do.
- Named for Admiral Grace Hopper who “debugged” a moth in a Mark II in the 1940s.
- Many different types of bugs - memory, flow control, using variables out of scope etc.
- An **error** is behaviour in a program we don't want.

What Is Debugging?

- A bug is a problem with a program - either it doesn't run or it doesn't do what you want it to do.
- Named for Admiral Grace Hopper who “debugged” a moth in a Mark II in the 1940s.
- Many different types of bugs - memory, flow control, using variables out of scope etc.
- An **error** is behaviour in a program we don't want.
- The aim of debugging is to **diagnose** the bug that causes the error.

The Devil's Guide To Debugging

Stolen from Steve McConnell's Code Complete

- 1 Scatter output statements everywhere

The Devil's Guide To Debugging

Stolen from Steve McConnell's Code Complete

- 1 Scatter output statements everywhere
- 2 Debug the program into existence

The Devil's Guide To Debugging

Stolen from Steve McConnell's Code Complete

- ❶ Scatter output statements everywhere
- ❷ Debug the program into existence
- ❸ Never back up earlier versions

The Devil's Guide To Debugging

Stolen from Steve McConnell's Code Complete

- ❶ Scatter output statements everywhere
- ❷ Debug the program into existence
- ❸ Never back up earlier versions
- ❹ Don't bother understanding what the program should do

The Devil's Guide To Debugging

Stolen from Steve McConnell's Code Complete

- ❶ Scatter output statements everywhere
- ❷ Debug the program into existence
- ❸ Never back up earlier versions
- ❹ Don't bother understanding what the program should do
- ❺ Use the most obvious fix (fix the symptom!)

The Devil's Guide To Debugging

Stolen from Steve McConnell's Code Complete

- ❶ Scatter output statements everywhere
- ❷ Debug the program into existence
- ❸ Never back up earlier versions
- ❹ Don't bother understanding what the program should do
- ❺ Use the most obvious fix (fix the symptom!)

Better Debugging

- Use the scientific method.

Better Debugging

- Use the scientific method.
- Take your time - debugging can take more time than coding!

Better Debugging

- Use the scientific method.
- Take your time - debugging can take more time than coding!
- Set up test cases that you can work out by hand - or at least estimate.

pdb

- pdb is a Python library that lets you step through your program and access variables.

```
import pdb  
pdb.set_trace() #start debugging
```


pdb

- pdb is a Python library that lets you step through your program and access variables.

```
import pdb  
pdb.set_trace() #start debugging
```

- Some commands:
 - 1 h(elp) - print list of commands (USE THIS!)
 - 2 b(reak) [linenum]- set breakpoint here or at linenum
 - 3 cl(ear) [linenum] - delete breakpoint here or at linenum
 - 4 s(step) - step into function called in this line
 - 5 c(ontinue) - execute until breakpoint
 - 6 p [exp] - print expression e.g. a variable

Demo

- Classic problem: Strip HTML tags from a string.

```
<b>foo</b> —> foo
```

- Solution: Have a boolean TAG variable that checks if you are inside a tag or not.

Demo

- Classic problem: Strip HTML tags from a string.

```
<b>foo</b> —> foo
```

- Solution: Have a boolean TAG variable that checks if you are inside a tag or not.

Demo Time!