**COSC First Steps – An Introduction to Python**

*By M Dasarada Ram Reddy, BE 3/4 CSE-2*

After the formation of the COSC club, a jump-start was needed to introduce Open Source technologies. Our thought was to introduce Python, a powerful programming language which has a lot of applications. It is used in web programming, networking, and desktop applications among other things. Nowadays it is used as a substitute for conventional programming languages like C/C++ and Java.

Python, an interpreted language has a design philosophy which focuses on code readability and a syntax which allows programmers and beginners to express their algorithms or concepts in fewer lines of code than would be necessary in languages such as C++ or Java.

In CBIT, students are trained in C/C++ in their first year and Java in their second. It is difficult to develop larger applications such as web based applications and desktop applications in C/C++. In view of this, we decided to introduce Python programming on behalf of our club as our first step. We organised a two day workshop named "Introduction to Python" on the basics of Python on 5th and 6th January 2017, to which there was a response of about 200 students from CSE and IT departments. It was a hands-on workshop which also had lab sessions for students to practice in.

The sessions were taken by Ganesh Katrapati, Research Assistant at IIIT Hyderabad on both days. At each and every step of our progress, Swecha organisation helped us and played a key role. The workshop was a great success, which was our first and foremost step as a club, thus laying its foundation very strongly. As a club we are proud to announce that the computer networks lab which has been implemented in C till now, has given an opportunity to students to implement the tasks in Python.