CPSC 1301, Computer Science I Homework 02

Chapter 3, *Learning Python*

Readings

Read chapter 3 in the *Learning Python* book.

Installing Software

If you have not already done so, install the appropriate versions of Python from `https://www.python.org/downloads/` and Notepad++ from `https://notepad-plus-plus.org/downloads/`. Make sure you have set up a directory structure for your assignments. '

Discussion Questions

Answer the discussion questions in writing. When you read the book, run the example code at the interactive Python prompt.

1. On your machine, how do you start the command line interface, either the Windows command prompt or on Linux the terminal?

2. You will be writing Python scripts for exercises and labs. You will also write your won testing scripts. Where would you save and run these testing scripts on your machine?

3. Why would you use the interactive Python prompt?

4. In Python, can you use a variable before you assign it a value?

5. How many statements at a time does the interactive prompt run?

6. What is `sys.platform`? What does it do?

7. What is *stream redirection*? What is the *output redirection operator* and what does it do? What is the *input redirection operator* and what does it do?

8. What is the "shebang" line and what does it do?

9. Describe the odule-based services model. What significance does the "main" module have? How do you load modules? Why is reloading modules necessary?

10. Can you `reload` a module without first `import`ing it? Why or why not?

11. Explain the dot operator (.). What does it do? In other languages the dot operator is sometimes called the "access operator." Why do you think it would be called this?

12. What is the difference between `import` and `from`? Why would you use either one?