General Assembly

STUDY GUIDE

ERROR HANDLING IN PYTHON

Key Terms and Definitions

» **Error handling:** Including instructions for what your code should do if it's unable to do what is intended.

» There are several types of built-in errors in Python:

- NameError: Thrown when the variable that's referred to does not exist in the name space — in other words, when we have yet to define the variable but are trying to access it.
- SyntaxError: Indicates that the logic of the code is incorrect or contains a typo.
- TypeError: Tells us that the error is related to Python data types.

» There are a few elements to error handling code blocks:

- try: Attempts the code inside of its block. If that code successfully runs,except is skipped.
- except: Indicates the code block to run if thetry code throws an exception.
- else: Follows anytry and except statement code and will execute only if no exception has been thrown.
- finally: Comes at the end of the code and will always run — regardless of whether or not an exception is caught.

Guiding Questions

1. Python was specifically developed to be adept at error handling. Why has this helped make it such a popular programming language?

Additional Resources

1. DataCamp: Python Data Science Toolbox (Part 1)
   » Section 3, "Lambda Functions and Error-Handling" (specifically, look at the "Introduction to Error Handling" walkthrough).
2. All Built-In Error Handling
3. GA Error-Handling Demo Video