

Programming fundamentals with Python

Modules and packages

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Plan for today

- Errata & answer questions about previous sessions

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- PYPI

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- Downloading & using Python libraries

The last day I wasn't able to run cells that contained imports of local python packages. This demonstrated to be a bug in VSCode's python plugin.

- How recursion works?
- How mergesort recursion works?

Python Package Index

In order to install libraries using pip we will first need to know which library to install. To make this search easier, the Python community maintains **Pypi**, the Python Package Index, a website with all the available libraries and instructions to install them.

<https://pypi.org>

Python Package Index

The Python Package Index is a great place to find libraries you may be interested in.



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Searching in the Python Package Index

Let's search for some libraries in the Python Package Index...

Virtual environments

Virtual environments are a way to create a project with its own dependencies.

Virtual environments

Hint

In order to follow today's class from windows, run commands in **Anaconda Prompt**.

Creating virtual environments

In order to create a virtual environment, we'll use the `python -m venv` tool:

```
$ mkdir testing-virtualenvs  
$ cd testing-virtualenvs  
$ python -m venv env
```

This last command creates a subdirectory in the current directory that will contain all the meta information about the virtualenv. It's common to check that into git.

Activating a virtual environment

We can *activate* a virtual environment by running:

```
$ source env/bin/activate
```


pip is a package manager for Python. We will use it through the command line:

```
$ <venv>/bin/pip
```

Or, in our case:

```
$ env/bin/pip
```

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- install packages **env/bin/pip install whatever**

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And... what can this **whatever** be? Anything we want to search a library for.

```
$ python3 -m pip install mergesort
Collecting mergesort
  Downloading mergesort-0.0.1.tar.gz (779 bytes)
Building wheels for collected packages: mergesort
  Running setup.py clean for mergesort
Failed to build mergesort
Installing collected packages: mergesort
  Running setup.py install for mergesort ... done
Successfully installed mergesort-0.0.1
```


Troubleshooting

It's possible that on your windows computer python is not behaving as you expect. This tutorial is handy for these cases.

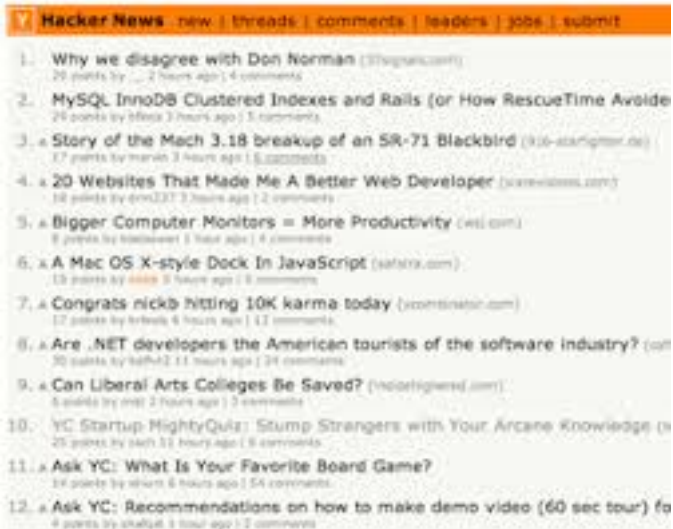
<https://www.datacamp.com/community/tutorials/installing-anaconda-windows>

Using third party libraries

Once we've found the library we want to use in our project, it's time to see how it's used. Usually libraries will have some documentation explaining how to use them.

The place where this doc should be is in the homepage of the library.

Using third party libraries

A screenshot of the Hacker News website. At the top is an orange navigation bar with the text 'Hacker News' followed by links for 'new', 'threads', 'comments', 'leaders', 'jobs', and 'submit'. Below this is a list of 12 items, each consisting of a rank, a title, a score, the author, the time since posting, and the number of comments. The items are: 1. 'Why we disagree with Don Norman (37signals.com)' with 29 points; 2. 'MySQL InnoDB Clustered Indexes and Rails (or How RescueTime Avoided)' with 29 points; 3. 'A Story of the Mach 3.18 breakup of an SR-71 Blackbird (radio-starfighter.de)' with 17 points; 4. '20 Websites That Made Me A Better Web Developer (scarewheels.com)' with 18 points; 5. 'Bigger Computer Monitors = More Productivity (wsl.com)' with 8 points; 6. 'A Mac OS X-style Dock In JavaScript (safari.com)' with 13 points; 7. 'Congrats nickb hitting 10K karma today (xcombinator.com)' with 17 points; 8. 'Are .NET developers the American tourists of the software industry? (com)' with 30 points; 9. 'Can Liberal Arts Colleges Be Saved? (indiehighered.com)' with 5 points; 10. 'YC Startup MightyQuiz: Stump Strangers with Your Arcane Knowledge (n)' with 25 points; 11. 'Ask YC: What Is Your Favorite Board Game?' with 14 points; 12. 'Ask YC: Recommendations on how to make demo video (60 sec tour) fo' with 4 points.

Hacker News · new · threads · comments · leaders · jobs · submit

1. Why we disagree with Don Norman (37signals.com)
29 points by ... 2 hours ago | 4 comments
2. MySQL InnoDB Clustered Indexes and Rails (or How RescueTime Avoided)
29 points by bfeck 3 hours ago | 3 comments
3. A Story of the Mach 3.18 breakup of an SR-71 Blackbird (radio-starfighter.de)
17 points by marvin 3 hours ago | 5 comments
4. 20 Websites That Made Me A Better Web Developer (scarewheels.com)
18 points by dnm337 3 hours ago | 2 comments
5. Bigger Computer Monitors = More Productivity (wsl.com)
8 points by hawkeyer 3 hour ago | 4 comments
6. A Mac OS X-style Dock In JavaScript (safari.com)
13 points by ~~code~~ 5 hours ago | 8 comments
7. Congrats nickb hitting 10K karma today (xcombinator.com)
17 points by bfeck 6 hours ago | 11 comments
8. Are .NET developers the American tourists of the software industry? (com)
30 points by kdf42 11 hours ago | 24 comments
9. Can Liberal Arts Colleges Be Saved? (indiehighered.com)
5 points by msl 2 hours ago | 3 comments
10. YC Startup MightyQuiz: Stump Strangers with Your Arcane Knowledge (n)
25 points by sakh 11 hours ago | 8 comments
11. Ask YC: What Is Your Favorite Board Game?
14 points by shawn 6 hours ago | 54 comments
12. Ask YC: Recommendations on how to make demo video (60 sec tour) fo
4 points by shayak 1 hour ago | 2 comments

Using third party libraries

hackernews-client is a library for getting HackerNews (<http://news.ycombinator.com>) data programatically.

Exercise

Let's have 10 minutes to create a virtual environment that uses hackernews-client and a Python program that gets the 10 best stories from it (look in the docs how to get it).

Using third party libraries - HN

```
$ python3 -m pip install hackernews-client
```

```
Collecting hackernews-client
```

```
  Using cached hackernews-client-0.1.2b1.tar.gz (8.1 kB)
```

```
Building wheels for collected packages: hackernews-client
```

```
  Building wheel for hackernews-client (setup.py) ... error
```

```
    Running setup.py clean for hackernews-client
```

```
Failed to build hackernews-client
```

```
Installing collected packages: hackernews-client
```

```
  Running setup.py install for hackernews-client ... done
```

```
Successfully installed hackernews-client-0.1.2b1
```

Using third party libraries - HN

```
from hackernews import hn # import the hn module from hackernews package
```

Using third party libraries - HN

```
from hackernews import hn  
  
client = hn.NewsClient() # create a client
```

Using third party libraries - HN

```
from hackernews import hn

client = hn.NewsClient()

for story in client.get_best_story(10): # get 10 high score stories
    print(story.title)
```


Getting all dependencies for a project

When we're working on a project, we want to make it easy for people to get up to speed. We can do that for dependencies, so that new developers in the project don't need to install dependencies one by one.

Remember **pip freeze**? We'll use it to generate a file called **requirements.txt** that contains all library dependencies.

```
$ env/bin/pip freeze > requirements.txt
```

Getting all dependencies for a project

Finally, when we clone a repository that contains some Python dependencies, we can install them all in one go, with:

```
$ env/bin/pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Demo

Let's demo it with session-15 repository

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