

Introduction to Python

Glossary Terms

version 05132014



Boa Constructor	a cross platform Python IDE and wxPython GUI Builder
character	treated as a string of length one
class	a user-defined prototype that accesses attributes which characterize any object in a block
close function	used to close the entire function
Common Gateway Interface (CGI)	a gateway with standards that tell us how information is exchanged between the web server and a custom script; also an external gateway program to interface with information servers such as HTTP servers
compiled languages	the entire source code file is read and then converted into an executable code, or a machine level language
Coroutine	a function written to operate as a task that processes a sequence of inputs sent to it; created by using the yield statement as an expression
Datatypes	tell what kind of values can be stored in a variable and which operations can be performed on each of them
dictionary	an associative array or hash table that contains objects indexed by keys; created by enclosing the values in curly braces
Eclipse PyDev	an advanced open source IDE GUI; a multi-level language supporting platform
extension	any code that you write using a compiled language, like C, C++, or Java, and integrate or import into another Python script
FLOSS	free/libre/open-source software; based on the concept of a community which shares knowledge
function	a block of organized, reusable code which performs a single related action
Function overloading	the assignment of more than one behavior to a particular function
generator	any function that uses yield
identifier	used to identify a module, function, variable, class, or any other objects
IDLE	has been wrapped together with the default implementation of Python language; an optional part of Python
Inheritance	a property used to transfer or modify the characteristics of the original class to a new class
integrated development environment (IDE)	made up of a source code editor, build automation tools, and a debugger

interpreted language	the source code text file is read line-by-line and each statement is converted into machine language and then executed before the next line is read
Komodo IDE and Edit	a full featured developed environment GUI
Lists	sequences of arbitrary objects
match function	matches RE (regular expression) pattern to a string with optional flags
module	a file consisting of Python code, definitions, and statements; can define functions, classes, and variables; may contain runnable code
NetBeans IDE	a community driven effort; a powerful open source development environment GUI
Number datatypes	store numeric values; immutable datatypes
object	consists of internal data and methods that perform various kinds of operations involving that data
object-oriented approach	program is built around objects which combine data and functionality
open function	returns a new file object
operator overloading	the assignment of more than one function to a particular operator
package	a hierarchical file directory structure that defines a single Python application environment
Polymorphism	a method signifying that the meaning of an operation depends on the type of the objects or attributes being operated on
print function	converts the expressions and produces a standard output format in a string
procedure-oriented programming	programs are built around procedures or functions
Python	developed by Guido van Rossum; a high-level programming, interactive language; supports object-oriented features; has efficient high-level data structures; a beginner's language for programmers; has a wide range of applications from simple text processing to web browsers to games, and from simple to complex programs
readline method	reads a single line of input, including the termination of newline
regular expression	a special sequence of characters that helps you match or find other strings or sets of strings, using a specialized syntax

Reserved words	should not be used as constants, variables, or identifiers; should be in lowercase letters only
search function	searches for the initial occurrence of the RE pattern within a string with optional flags
Stani's Python Editor (SPE)	a cross-platform IDE for Python developed and managed by Stani Michiels; free software that runs on GNU/Linux, Mac OS X, and Microsoft Windows
Strings	a set of characters in between quotation marks; can be enclosed in single, double, and triple quotes
traceback message	indicates the type of error that occurred, along with its location
Tuples	created by enclosing a group of values in parentheses; the data cannot be modified
user-defined functions	user created functions
WingIDE	a commercially created programming language for Python
write function	used to write raw data