**The datetime Library**

A lot of times you want to keep track of when something happened. We can do so in Python using datetime.

Here we'll use datetime to print the date and time in a nice format.

from datetime import datetime

**Getting the Current Date and Time**

We can use a function called datetime.now() to retrieve the current date and time.

from datetime import datetime print datetime.now()

The first line imports the datetime library so that we can use it.

The second line will print out the current date and time.

# Extracting Information

Notice how the output looks like 2013-11-25 23:45:14.317454. What if you don't want the entire date and time?

from datetime import datetime now = datetime.now() current\_year = now.year current\_month = now.month current\_day = now.day

You already have the first two lines.

In the third line, we take the year (and only the year) from the variable now and store it in current\_year.

In the fourth and fifth lines, we store the month and day from now.

# Hot Date

What if we want to print today's date in the following format? mm/dd/yyyy. Let's use string substitution again!

from datetime import datetime now = datetime.now() print '%02d-%02d-%04d' % (now.month, now.day, now.year) # will print the current date as mm-dd-yyyy

Remember that the standalone %operator after the string will fill the %02dand %04d placeholders in the string on the left with the numbers and strings in the parentheses on the right.

%02d pads the month and day numbers with zeros to two places, and %04d pads the year to four places. This is one way dates are commonly displayed.

# Pretty Time

Nice work! Let's do the same for the hour, minute, and second.

from datetime import datetime now = datetime.now() print now.hour print now.minute print now.second

In the above example, we just printed the current hour, then the current minute, then the current second.

We can again use the variable now to print the time.

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