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← Pre-Course Work

Python 2 vs. Python 3

Python 2 persisted in many industries for years after the release of Python 3. There were several reasons for this:

- Companies with legacy codebases had trouble adapting to Python 3. This is because Python 3 is not backward-compatible, which means it has trouble reading materials written in Python 2. Therefore, many companies have stuck with the older version due to technical debt — they simply haven't had time to rewrite all of their code!

- However, Python 2.7 will only be maintained until 2020. While the open-source community may continue to develop with it, most organizations are slowly beginning to transition over to Python 3.

- Many of the changes in Python 3 make it more efficient. However, these changes may not always be visible to programmers who are used to prior versions.

To summarize: The two versions of Python are Python 2 and Python 3. We'll be teaching Python 3 in this course.

Pro tip: Most forward-thinking programs and organizations are developing with Python 3; however, you may encounter both versions in your data science journey.

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