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Python String Format Cookbook

Posted on October 10, 2012 in code

Every time I use Python's string formatter, version 2.7 and up, I get it wrong and for th can't figure out their documentation format. I got very used to the older % method. Sc create my own string format cookbook. Let me know in the comments of any other g include.

Number Formatting

The following table shows various ways to format numbers using python's *newish* st examples for both float formatting and integers.

To run examples use `print("FORMAT".format(NUMBER));`
So to get the output of the first example, you would run: `print("{:.2f}".format(3.1`

Number	Format	Output	Description
3.1415926	{:.2f}	3.14	2 decimal places
3.1415926	{:+.2f}	+3.14	2 decimal places with sign
-1	{:+.2f}	-1.00	2 decimal places with sign
2.71828	{:.0f}	3	No decimal places
5	{:0>2d}	05	Pad number with zeros (left padding,
5	{:x<4d}	5xxx	Pad number with x's (right padding,
10	{:x<4d}	10xx	Pad number with x's (right padding,
1000000	{:,}	1,000,000	Number format with comma separator
0.25	{:.2%}	25.00%	Format percentage
1000000000	{:.2e}	1.00e+09	Exponent notation
13	{:10d}	13	Right aligned (default, width 10)
13	{:<10d}	13	Left aligned (width 10)
13	{:^10d}	13	Center aligned (width 10)

string.format() basics

Here are a couple of example of basic string substitution, the `{}` is the placeholder fc variables. If no format is specified, it will insert and format as a string.

```
s1 = "so much depends upon {}".format("a red wheel barrow")
s2 = "glazed with {} water beside the {} chickens".format("rain", "white
```

You can also use the numeric position of the variables and change them in the string some flexibility when doing the formatting, if you made a mistake in the order you ca without shuffling all variables around.

```
s1 = " {0} is better than {1} ".format("emacs", "vim")
```

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