COMP1021
Introduction to Computer Science

# Functions

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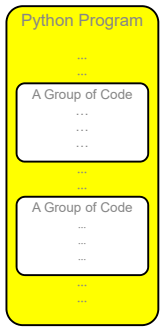
## Outcomes

- After completing this presentation, you are expected to be able to:
  1. Define and use a function in Python
  2. Pass a value to a function, and use the value appropriately



## Running a Group of Code

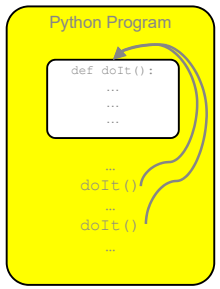
- Sometimes you may want to put the same group of code in different places in your program
- To do that, one way is to copy and paste the same code into those places inside the program
- However, the program will become very long and contain a lot of duplicated code






## Functions

- Instead of copying and pasting the group of code everywhere, the group of code is first put inside a *function*
- You can then use the function as many times as you like in appropriate places inside the program






## Functions You Have Already Used

- We have already used a lot of different functions in the course
- For example, `print()`, `input()` and `turtle.forward()` are all functions that we have used before
- These are functions made by others, i.e. the people who made the Python language
- In this presentation, we will look at making our own functions and then using them



## Defining a Function

- To make a function in Python, we use the def command (**def**ine a function)
- Here is an example:

*This is the name of the function (you need to put parentheses after the name)*

*This is the code of the function*

```
def greeting():
    name = input("What is your name? ")
    print("Welcome " + name + "!")
```

- When we define a function, we need to give it a name
- We will refer to this name when we want to use the function later

## Using a Function

- To use the function we have defined in the previous slide, we simply run it using its name, like this:

```
def greeting():
    name = input("What is your name? ")
    print("Welcome " + name + "!")

print ("I am going to ask you a question...")
greeting()
```

*The function we defined before*

*The function is used here (again, you need to put parentheses after the name)*

```
I am going to ask you a question...
What is your name? Dave
Welcome Dave!
>>>
```



## Defining and then Using Functions

- When you make functions you have to make sure that you define them before you use them
- If you don't, Python will give you an error, e.g.:

```
print ("I am going to ask you a question...")
greeting()

def greeting():
    name = input("What is your name? ")
    print("Welcome " + name + "!")
```

*Here the program tries to use the function **before** it is defined, which is not OK!*

```
I am going to ask you a question...
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "C:\greeting.py", line 2, in <module>
    greeting()
NameError: name 'greeting' is not defined
>>>
```

## Using a Function Multiple Times

- You can run a function as many times as you like
- For example, we can run a function three times in different places:

```
def response():
    print("Very good!")

print("Is it a good course?")
response()
print("Is the instructor good?")
response()
print("Do I look good?")
response()
```

```
Is it a good course?
Very good!
Is the instructor good?
Very good!
Do I look good?
Very good!
>>>
```

# Passing a Value to a Function

- Sometimes it is useful to give a value to a function so that it can do different things
- We call that 'passing values to a function' in computer science terms
- Here is an example:

*In this example, the function is expected to receive a value, stored in a variable called 'name'*

```
def show_response( name ):
    if name == "Dave":
        print("What a good name!")
    else:
        print("How are you?")
```



# Running the Function

- You can pass a value directly to the function

```
>>> show_response("Alice")
How are you?

>>>
```

- Sometimes the value that you pass to the function is first stored in a variable, like this:

```
name = input("What is your name? ")
show_response(name)
```

```
What is your name? Dave
What a good name!
>>>
```

- Both approaches are common