Setting up Python

Downloading Python

Python

Most computers will have a version of Python already installed (normally Python 2), but this is a fairly old version!
If you want to see which version of Python your computer has installed you can run the following command in terminal (MAC/Linux) or in Windows Powershell:

```
1  python --version
```

If your computer isn't running a version of Python3, then you need to download it. You can download it from here: https://www.python.org/downloads/

IDE

Now Python is installed, we need an IDE to create our Python scripts. If you already have one downloaded please feel free to use that!

A personal favourite is VSCode, which can be downloaded here:
https://code.visualstudio.com/download

Other options are:

- Spyder: https://www.spyder-ide.org

- Jupyter Notebook: https://jupyter.org/install

If you are unsure which to use, choose VSCode! The next section will demonstrate how to run a Python file using this IDE.

Getting Started

In the zip file you will find another file 'test.py' - this should just print a message to the terminal when run.

Steps to get the Python file running (using VSCode):

1. Open 'test.py' within VSCode

2. Go to Terminal tab at the top of your screen and open a 'New Terminal'

3. Change directories to the zip folder. If you are unsure how to do this, see below.

4. To run your Python code, enter the following command inside the terminal:

```
1    python3 test.py
```

Changing directories in terminal: You can see which directory your terminal is currently in by using the following command:

```
1 pwd
```

You can list which files are currently in your directory using the following:

```
1 ls
```

To change directories to a new folder inside your current directory you can use (insert name into the command):

```
1 cd ./FolderName
```

To change directories to a completely new path, then just use (insert name into the command):

```
1 cd FolderPath
```

If you need to stop the python executor at any time throughout these upcoming worksheets then you can press 'CTRL+c'.