

Reading from stdin

Getting input data directly from user

- Use 'input(...)' builtin function

```
device_name = input('Input device name: ')
```

- Use 'raw_input(...)' builtin function

```
device_name = raw_input('Input device name: ')
```

- Returns user's input in a string object, and provides a reference to it in `device_name`.

Reading input that comes from a user at a terminal running the application is simpler than reading from a file. There is no need to do an 'open' or to iterate over lines of text. In the simplest case, use the built-in 'input' function. Provide the text to print to the user to let them know what to enter, and use a variable to receive the reference to the object containing whatever the user entered.

In the example, the user will see the message **Input device name:** . Once they have done so and pressed 'enter', the value they input will be pointed to by the variable 'my_input'.

```
>>> my_input = input('Input device name: ')
Input device name: "Branch1"
>>> print my_input
Branch1
>>>
```