



# Scripting Languages

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## Lab #10

- downloading webpages
- JSON serialization

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# Downloading webpages

```
4 import urllib.request
5
6 def main():
7     response = urllib.request.urlopen("http://python.org")
8     raw = response.read()
9     print(type(raw))      # bytes ←
10    # print(raw)
11
12    html = raw.decode("utf-8")
13    print(type(html))    # str ←
14    # print(html)
```

Since it's a common operation, let's put it in our `pylab.py` module in a function called `get_page()`. We want to use it like this:

```
3 from pylab import get_page
4
5 url = 'http://python.org'
6
7 def main():
8     print(get_page(url))
```

Downloading a URL (it can be an HTML, an image, etc.).

The downloaded object will appear in the filesystem:

```
4 import urllib.request  
5  
6 url = "http://www.nhdfl.org/uploads/NHB%20photos/HB0P2.jpg"  
7  
8 def main():  
9     urllib.request.urlretrieve(url, "/tmp/forest.jpg")
```

---

Or, you can also use an external program to download something, e.g. `wget` :

```
3 import os  
4  
5 url = 'http://wallpapers.leovacity.be/images/Forrest_wallpaper.jpg'  
6 to = '/tmp/forrest.jpg'  
7  
8 def main():  
9     cmd = 'wget {url} -O {output}'.format(url=url, output=to)  
10    print(cmd)  
11    os.system(cmd)
```



calling an external program in another process

# The **requests** module

The Python standard library has the following modules for downloading URLs:

- `urllib` (<https://docs.python.org/3/library/urllib.html>)
- `urllib.request` (<https://docs.python.org/3/library/urllib.request.html>)
- ...

However, if you want to do something more complex, they are not that easy to use :(

There is a very useful module called **requests** ([link](#)). It's not part of the standard library, you need to install it separately. But it's much simpler to use than the two modules mentioned above...

[Presentation from its author.](#)

Installation:

```
sudo apt-get install python3-pip  
sudo pip3 install pip -U  
sudo pip3 install requests -U
```

Run it once (if the package manager pip is not yet installed).

Update the pip package manager to the newest version.

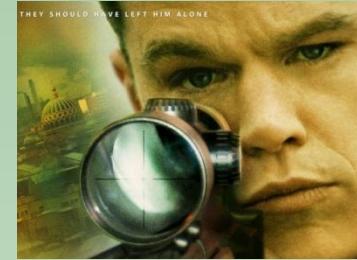
install/update requests

# How to use the `requests` module

```
>>> import requests
>>>
>>> url = "http://python.org"
>>> r = requests.get(url)
>>> print(r.text)
```

# JSON serialization

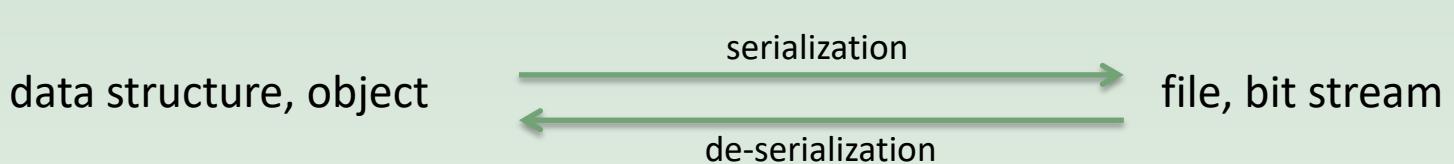
- <http://json.org/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Json>



With the help of the **json** module you can serialize Python objects residing in the memory to JSON format.

## Serialization

Converting a data structure or object to a format that can be stored in a file (or can be transmitted through network), and later either in the same, or in a different computing environment it can be „resurrected”.



Formats: XML, JSON, YAML, stb.

JSON can be often used as an alternative of XML

- also text-based, easily readable for humans
- also hierarchical
- can also be used for communication between applications
- simpler than XML
- not as verbose, shorter
- can be written / read faster

## XML:

```
<Person>
  <FirstName>Homer</FirstName>
  <LastName>Simpson</LastName>
  <Relatives>
    <Relative>Grandpa</Relative>
    <Relative>Marge</Relative>
    <Relative>The Boy</Relative>
    <Relative>Lisa</Relative>
  </Relatives>
</Person>
```

## JSON:

```
{
  "firstName": "Homer",
  "lastName": "Simpson",
  "relatives": [ "Grandpa", "Marge", "The Boy", "Lisa" ]
}
```

## XML:

```
<persons>
  <person>
    <name>Ford Prefect</name>
    <gender>male</gender>
  </person>
  <person>
    <name>Arthur Dent</name>
    <gender>male</gender>
  </person>
  <person>
    <name>Tricia McMillan</name>
    <gender>female</gender>
  </person>
</persons>
```

## JSON:

```
[
  {
    "name": "Ford Prefect",
    "gender": "male"
  },
  {
    "name": "Arthur Dent",
    "gender": "male"
  },
  {
    "name": "Tricia McMillan",
    "gender": "female"
  }
]
```

## XML:

```
<settings>
  <path>/home/luke/Dropbox/Public</path>
  <user_id>123456</user_id>
  <auto_sync>True</auto_sync>
</settings>
```

(source: [Dropbox Publicus](#))

## JSON:

```
{
  "path": "/home/luke/Dropbox/Public",
  "user_id": 123456,
  "auto_sync": true
}
```

# JSON Syntax Rules

JSON syntax is a subset of the JavaScript object notation syntax.

- Data is in name/value pairs
- Data is separated by comma
- Curly brackets holds objects
- Square brackets holds arrays

# JSON Values

JSON values can be:

- A number (integer or floating point)
- A string (in double quotes)
- A Boolean (true or false)
- An array (in square brackets)
- An object (in curly brackets)
- null

# loading a JSON file

input file ([person.json](#))

```

1   {
2     "last": "Doe",
3     "first": "John",
4     "age": 39,
5     "sex": "M",
6     "registered": true,
7     "salary": 70000
8 }
```

pretty print  
(data structures are printed in a nicer way)

json module  
(writing / reading json files)

```

3 from pprint import pprint
4 import json
5
6
7 def read_file():
8     f = open('person.json', 'r')
9     d = json.load(f)
10    f.close()
11
12    print(type(d))
13    pprint(d, indent=4)
```

returned value: Python data structure  
(here in the example: dictionary)

```
{
  'age': 39,
  'first': 'John',
  'last': 'Doe',
  'registered': True,
  'salary': 70000,
  'sex': 'M'}
```

output (dictionary)

# loading a JSON string

```
7 def read_string():
8     s = """
9         "path": "/home/luke/Dropbox/Public",
10        "user_id": 123456,
11        "auto_sync": true
12    """
13
14    d = json.loads(s) ←
15
16    print(d)
```

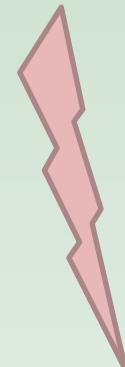
(see [settings.py](#))

loads

(**s** stands for string)

## Summary

The *json* module takes a string (either from a file or from a normal string) and **builds a Python object** (e.g. list, dictionary). That is, we don't need to **parse the string manually**, the module performs this task for us!



# Exercises

Asking my own IP address

Link: <https://arato.inf.unideb.hu/szathmary.laszlo/pmwiki/index.php?n=EnPy3.20120920g>

Downloading an image from Reddit

Link: <https://arato.inf.unideb.hu/szathmary.laszlo/pmwiki/index.php?n=EnPy3.20121126a>

# Writing data structures to file in JSON format

```

3 import json
4
5 def write_file():
6     person = {
7         'last': 'Doe',
8         'first': 'John',
9         'age': 39,
10        'sex': 'M',
11        'registered': True,
12        'salary': 70000,
13    }
14
15    f = open('employee.json', 'w')
16    json.dump(person, f)
17    f.close()

```

(see [write\\_person.py](#))

Python dictionary

json.dump(data\_structure, file\_handler)

print(json.dumps(person))

it creates a JSON string from the data structure and returns this JSON string

json.dump(person, f, indent=4)

pretty print

json.dump(person, f,  
 indent=4, sort\_keys=True)

pretty print,  
ordered by keys



homework



# Exercises

1.

[[20120815k](#)] prison break