

New York University
School of Continuing and Professional Studies
Division of Programs in Information Technology

Introduction to Python
Homework Discussion, Session 9

-
- 9.1 Create a module called `filelib.py` that has three functions. Part of what we want to accomplish in writing functions for a module is to begin thinking in terms of library development, considering the experience and options of the user of our code -- i.e., another developer using our code, or even ourselves using this code another time.
-

One consideration in this vein is how the module should respond to bad input. Our errors have often been fatal -- resulting in an `exit()` of the program. Certainly many of the errors that a user of the `filelib.py` functions could commit (principally, names of files that can't be accessed) should probably result in `exit`, however, as library designers we don't want to be responsible for halting the execution of the calling program, because we don't know anything about what it is trying to do. Instead, we should raise an exception, which can be handled by the calling code (i.e., with `try/except`), but which will be fatal if not handled.

In this way, exceptions allow us to pass errors to the context (i.e., the places in our code) that need to take action.

Your module will simply consist of functions that can be used by the calling code, and needs to respond as indicated in the sample test program given in the assignment.
