

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

Introduction to Python  
Exercises, Session 10

Ex. 10.1 Create a class called `ThisClass` with the statement `class ThisClass(object):` and create one method inside the class with the statement `def report(self):`. Inside this method, the instance/object (which is labeled `self`) should call the special `id()` function to report its own reference id, i.e. `print id(self)`. Create three instances using the constructor (for example, `a = ThisClass()`) and then call the `report()` method on each of them.

Lastly, print `id()` on each of your objects in the calling code, for example `print id(a)`. Note that the id numbers are the same as those found when calling `report()`.

Expected calls and output:

```
a = ThisClass()
b = ThisClass()
c = ThisClass()

a.report()          # 4299790736 [your ids will of
                    #           course differ]
b.report()          # 4299790544
c.report()          # 4299790800
print()             # [blank line]

print(id(a))        # 4299790736 (same as a.report() above)
print(id(b))        # 4299790544 (same as b.report() above)
print(id(c))        # 4299790800 (same as c.report() above)
```

Ex. 10.2 Create a class, `TimeStamp(object):` that can store the current timestamp in an instance attribute.

`set_time(self):` will set the timestamp. It can do this by setting the attribute in `self` this way (you will need to import `datetime` at the top of your script containing class `TimeStamp`):

```
self.t = str(datetime.datetime.now())
```

where `t` is the attribute label (you could call it whatever you prefer). (Of course, you'll also need to import `datetime` at the top of your module.)

`get_time(self):` this returns the timestamp. It simply returns the object attribute time, i.e. `return self.t`.

Expected calls and output (your timestamp will be different of course, but note when the object time is repeated and when it is different):

```
var1 = TimeStamp()
var2 = TimeStamp()
var1.set_time()
var2.set_time()
print(var1.get_time()) # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.762220
print(var2.get_time()) # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.956881
print()               # [blank line]
var1.set_time()       # change timestamp for var1
print(var1.get_time()) # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.956941
                    # (diff from var1 above)
print(var2.get_time()) # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.956881
                    # (same as var2 above)
```

Ex. 10.3 Copy the above code, and this time replace the `set_time()` method with the constructor, `__init__(self)`, which does the same work - sets the attribute to the current timestamp. Now the method has only an `__init__(self)` method and a `get_time(self)` method which returns the timestamp.

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Expected calls and output (your timestamp will differ of course, but note when the object time is repeated and when it is different):

```
var1 = TimeStamp()  
var2 = TimeStamp()  
print(var1.get_time())    # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.762220  
print(var2.get_time())    # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.956881  
print()  
print(var1.get_time())    # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.762220  
                           # (same as previous var1)  
print(var2.get_time())    # 2013-04-07 15:19:31.956881  
                           # (same as previous var2)
```

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