Home (/) >> Command line arguments (sys.argv)

Oct. 14, 2012

```
argv (/argv/)
System (/system/)
```

System & OS (/systems-programming/)

Command line arguments (sys.argv)

They sys module in Python is one of many available modules of library code.

What is sys.argv?

sys.argv is the list of commandline arguments passed to the Python program. argv represents all the items that come along via the command line input, it's basically an array holding the command line arguments of our program. Don't forget that the counting starts at zero (0) not one (1).

How do I use it?

To use it, you will first have to import it (import sys) The first argument, sys.argv[0], is always the name of the program as it was invoked, and sys.argv[1] is the first argument you pass to the program. It's common that you slice the list to access the actual command line argument:

```
import sys
program_name = sys.argv[0]
arguments = sys.argv[1:]
count = len(arguments)
```

This is an example on how to read the argument from the command line

```
import sys
for x in sys.argv:
    print "Argument: ", x
```

```
len(sys.argv) , checks how many arguments that have been entered.
len(sys.argv) != 2 just checks whether you entered at least two elements
```

```
import sys
if len (sys.argv) != 2 :
    print "Usage: python ex.py "
    sys.exit (1)
```

To run it, simple type:

>python ex.py
Argument: ex.py

>python ex.py hello
Argument: ex.py
Argument: hello

>python ex.py hello world
Argument: ex.py
Argument: hello

Recommended Python Training – DataCamp (https://www.datacamp.com/?tap_a=5644-dce66f&tap_s=75426-9cf8ad&tm_source=recommended)

For Python training (https://www.datacamp.com/?tap_a=5644-dce66f&tap_s=75426-9cf8ad&tm_source=recommended), our top recommendation is DataCamp.

Datacamp (https://www.datacamp.com/?tap_a=5644-dce66f&tap_s=75426-9cf8ad&tm_source=recommended) provides online interactive courses that combine interactive coding challenges with videos from top instructors in the field.

Datacamp has beginner to advanced Python training that programmers of all levels benefit from.

Tweet

Argument: world

Like 0 Share

Read more about:

argv (/argv/)
System (/system/)

System & OS (/systems-programming/)

Did You Know?

Unloach the Tachy in Van

Unleasifule recity in rou

Marco Bonomo

- 3

Sponsored

3 Comments Pythonforbeginners.com



○ Recommend 2





Sort by Best ▼



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name



voolver • 6 days ago

there is typo in line 2 in the second paragraph, just trading for value you brought with this explanation



pythonforbeginners Mod → voolver • 6 days ago

Thank you, updated.



Jaison Working • 5 months ago

Thanks a ton for this Wiki page. I only signup on this website just to show my appreciation for this post. Whoever created this, thanks a ton.

Have a great day ahead.

Jaison.

Disclosure of Material Connection: Some of the links in the post above are "affiliate links." This means if you click on the link and purchase the item, I will receive an affiliate commission. Regardless, PythonForBeginners.com only recommend products or services that we try personally and believe will add value to our readers.

Search SEARCH

Categories

Basics (/basics/)

Cheatsheet (/cheatsheet/)

Code snippets (/code-snippets-source-code/)

Development (/development/)

Dictionary (/dictionary/)

Error Handling (/error-handling/)

Lists (/lists/)

Loops (/loops/)

Modules (/modules-in-python/)

Strings (/python-strings/)

System & OS (/systems-programming/)

Web & Internet (/python-on-the-web/)

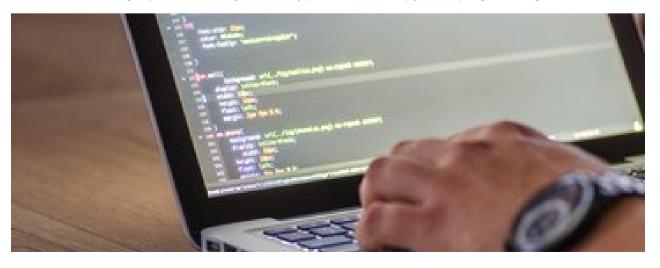
Tweets by @pythonbeginners



pythonforbeginners

@pythonbeginners

Common Dictionary Operations in Python ow.ly/pKcJ30o4USd#python #programming





Mar 20, 2019



pythonforbeginners @pythonbeginners

Ready to learn python? Start here ---> ow.ly/eevq30o4UQH#python #learntocode



Mar 19, 2019

© Python For Beginners (https://www.pythonforbeginners.com) 2012-2019 | Privacy Policy (/privacy-policy/) | Write For Us (/write/) | Contact Us (/contact-us/)