Best Practices Cheat Sheet Krakenberg 18, 2025

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1

. Docstrings

Use triple quotes to explain what a function, class, or script does.

```
def scan_ports(ip):
    """Scan all TCP ports on a given IP and return open ports."""
```

2

. Meaningful Names

Avoid vague names like x, y, data. Be descriptive.

```
def get_user_credentials():
    ...
```

3

. Comments

Explain why something is done, not what is obviously being done.

```
# Retry the request if it times out
response = send_request(retry=True)
```

4

. Formatting

Follow PEP 8: 4 spaces per indent, and keep lines under 79 characters. Use auto-formatting tools like Black or autopep8.

5

. Constants

Use ALL_CAPS for values that should n't change.

```
MAX ATTEMPTS = 5
```

6

. Avoid Magic Numbers

Give important numbers a name so the code is readable.

```
DEFAULT_TIMEOUT = 10
```

```
7
```

```
. List Comprehensions
   Use list comprehensions for concise loops.
ports = [p for p in range(1024) if is_open(p)]
8
. Use 'with' for File Access
   Using 'with' ensures the file is closed automatically.
with open("log.txt") as f:
     data = f.read()
9
. Try/Except for Error Handling
   Handle errors without crashing your script.
try:
     connect_to_db()
except ConnectionError:
    print("DB unreachable.")
1
0. 'if _{name_{=='_{main,.}}}
   Keeps your script modular and reusable.
def main():
     run_scan()
if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```