CyberStart Registration

The CyberStart program is free to community college students. Their Python modules are better than the ones I wrote, so we will use them instead.

# Registration

Please go to this link:

<https://register.cyber-fasttrack.org/student/>

You should see this:  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

They don’t spam me too much, but you can use your school address or create a throw away account to register if you like. You will need the email account to work, since they will send you an email to set your password for your CyberStart account.

Cyber FastTrack <https://www.cyber-fasttrack.org/> is an organization that makes free licenses available for the CyberStart program. CyberStart has many modules spread across the entire cyber security profession. For this class we will only use the Python modules, but I encourage you to check out the entire program.

Note that the CyberStart program itself is accessed through a different URL.  
<https://play.cyberstart.com/sign-in>

The main page for the CyberStart program is  
https://cyberstart.com/  
Note that free licenses funded by SANS Institute <https://www.sans.org/media/cyberstart/CyberStart-Brochure-US.pdf> are available for US students.  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Once you get your email, you will be logging in to CyberStart at this email: <https://play.cyberstart.com/sign-in>   
A screenshot of a computer screen

Description automatically generated

Once you are logged in to CyberStart, you should see this:  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

# Add yourself to the class group.

If you add yourself to the class group, I’ll be able to see the challenges you have created, and you won’t have to enter them in Canvas to get credit. Click on Groups at the top left of the screen, then on Join Group.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

A screenshot of a group

Description automatically generated

The access code for our group is:  
email-ocean-pilot

# Accessing the Challenges

Scroll down until you see the Moon Base, since that is where the Python modules are.  
A person in a space suit

Description automatically generated

If you click the Enter Base button, you will see the levels of the challenges. This image is scrolled down a little.  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

If you click the Enter Level button for L1, you will see this (scrolled down):  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Finally, click the Play Again button for the first challenge, Programming 101. It is also called L1C01, short for Level 1, Challenge 1.  
A screenshot of a computer program

Description automatically generated

Each challenge gives you a briefing. When you click Go to Challenge, you finally see the challenge itself.  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

When you complete that challenge, enter the flag you receive in the top left box.

Some challenges offer one or more items in the Challenge Tools, just below the flag box. You may have a web site or an email to look at.

CyberStart has Hints available. Don’t be afraid to use them. In later challenges they subtract from your overall score, but that is not being graded for this class. The Python challenges can be very picky; they Usually only accept one answer, even if you have solved a problem using a different method than the code they are looking for.

The middle panel is your Python terminal. It is not a full implementation of Python; it just knows enough to evaluate the code the challenges use. You may find it worthwhile to run your code in your own Python, especially if you are getting confusing results.

The output from the code you write appears in the panel on the left.

# The Field Manual

The Field Manual is a set of tutorials designed to help you learn.  
A close-up of a screen

Description automatically generated

The part we will be interested in is the Programming section. It will help you learn Python.  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

If you need more information about Python programming, I recommend the free online book, <https://automatetheboringstuff.com/>

If you scroll down on the Automate the Boring Stuff with Python main page, you will have access to the chapters of the book.  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated