Python SyntaxError: Non-ASCII character '\xe2' in file

Asked 6 years, 6 months ago   Active 2 years, 6 months ago   Viewed 17k times

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I have just switched from using running a Django App under Python 3 to Using Python 2.7. I now get this error:

```
SyntaxError: Non-ASCII character '\xe2' in file /Users/user/Documents/workspace/testpro
/testpro/apps/common/models/vendor.py on line 9, but no encoding declared; see
http://www.python.org/peps/pep-0263.html for details
```

The code its referring to is just a comment:

```python
class Vendor(BaseModel):
    """
    A company manages owns one of more stores.
    """
    name = models.CharField(max_length=255)


    def __unicode__(self):
        return self.name
```
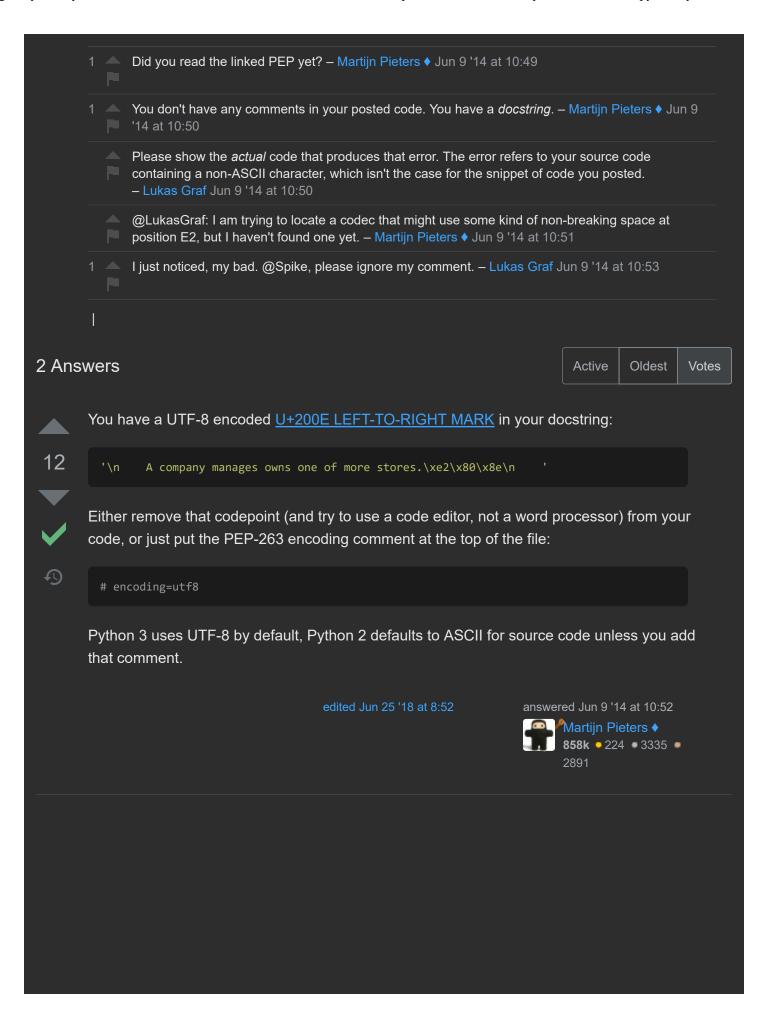
Why?

This works:

```python
class Vendor(BaseModel):
    """

    """
    name = models.CharField(max_length=255)


    def __unicode__(self):
        return self.name
```

`python` `django`

edited Jun 9 '14 at 10:52   asked Jun 9 '14 at 10:48

Prometheus
26k ● 34 ■ 127 ● 264

1 ▲ Did you read the linked PEP yet? – Martijn Pieters ♦ Jun 9 '14 at 10:49
🏴

1 ▲ You don't have any comments in your posted code. You have a *docstring*. – Martijn Pieters ♦ Jun 9
🏴 '14 at 10:50

▲ Please show the *actual* code that produces that error. The error refers to your source code
🏴 containing a non-ASCII character, which isn't the case for the snippet of code you posted.
– Lukas Graf Jun 9 '14 at 10:50

▲ @LukasGraf: I am trying to locate a codec that might use some kind of non-breaking space at
🏴 position E2, but I haven't found one yet. – Martijn Pieters ♦ Jun 9 '14 at 10:51

1 ▲ I just noticed, my bad. @Spike, please ignore my comment. – Lukas Graf Jun 9 '14 at 10:53
🏴

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2 Answers

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12

You have a UTF-8 encoded [U+200E LEFT-TO-RIGHT MARK](#) in your docstring:

```
'\n    A company manages owns one of more stores.\xe2\x80\x8e\n    '
```

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Either remove that codepoint (and try to use a code editor, not a word processor) from your
code, or just put the PEP-263 encoding comment at the top of the file:

```
# encoding=utf8
```

Python 3 uses UTF-8 by default, Python 2 defaults to ASCII for source code unless you add
that comment.

edited Jun 25 '18 at 8:52   answered Jun 9 '14 at 10:52

🥷 🎺 Martijn Pieters ♦
858k ● 224 ● 3335 ●
2891

As already [pointed out](#) by [Martijn Pieters](#), your docstring contains a UTF-8 (i.e. non-ASCII) character.

I'd like to elaborate a bit, on the proper way to declare file encoding. As it is stated in [PEP 263](#):

> To define a source code encoding, a magic comment must be placed into the source files either as first or second line in the file, such as:

```
# coding=<encoding name>
```

> or (using formats recognized by popular editors):

```
#!/usr/bin/python
# -*- coding: <encoding name> -*-
```

> or:

```
#!/usr/bin/python
# vim: set fileencoding=<encoding name> :
```

> More precisely, the first or second line must match the following regular expression:

```
^[ \t\f]*#.*?coding[:=][ \t]*([-_.a-zA-Z0-9]+)
```

What that means (as it brightly summed up in an [answer to another question](#)):

> So, you can put pretty much anything before the "coding" part, but stick to "coding" (with no prefix) if you want to be 100% python-docs-recommendation-compatible.
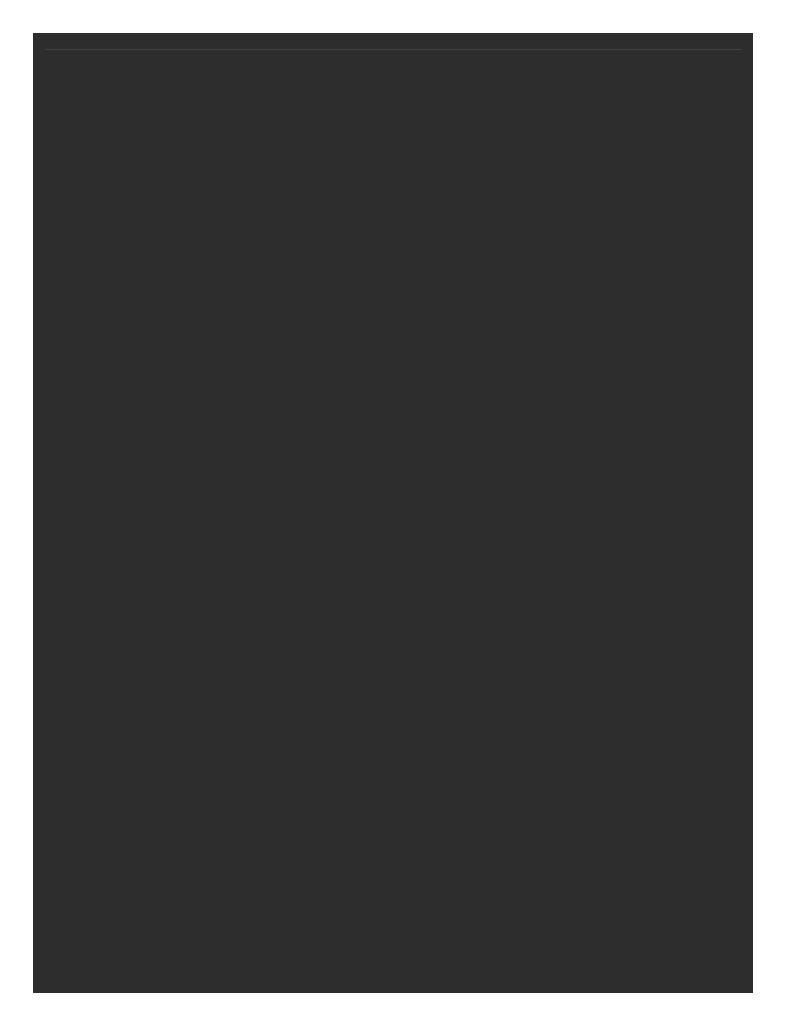
So, for the case, suggested 'magic comments', would be:

```
# coding=utf8
```

or:

```
#!/usr/bin/python
# -*- coding: utf8 -*-
```

or: