Python From Scratch

Python Scope & Modules & Datetime

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Python Scope

A variable is only available from inside the region it is created. This is called **scope**.

Local Scope

A variable created inside a function belongs to the local scope of that function, and can only be used inside that function.

Example

A variable created inside a function is available inside that function:

```
def myfunc():
  x = 300
  print(x)

myfunc()
```

Function Inside Function

As explained in the example above, the variable x is not available outside the function, but it is available for any function inside the function:

Example

The local variable can be accessed from a function within the function:

```
def myfunc():
  x = 300
  def myinnerfunc():
    print(x)
  myinnerfunc()

myfunc()
```

Global Scope

A variable created in the main body of the Python code is a global variable and belongs to the global scope.

Global variables are available from within any scope, global and local.

Example

A variable created outside of a function is global and can be used by anyone:

```
x = 300

def myfunc():
  print(x)

myfunc()

print(x)
```

Naming Variables

If you operate with the same variable name inside and outside of a function, Python will treat them as two separate variables, one available in the global scope (outside the function) and one available in the local scope (inside the function):

Example

The function will print the local x, and then the code will print the global x:

```
x = 300

def myfunc():
  x = 200
  print(x)

myfunc()

print(x)
```

Global Keyword

If you need to create a global variable, but are stuck in the local scope, you can use the global keyword. The global keyword makes the variable global.

Example

If you use the global keyword, the variable belongs to the global scope:

```
def myfunc():
  global x
  x = 300

myfunc()

print(x)
```

Also, use the global keyword if you want to make a change to a global variable inside a function.

Example

To change the value of a global variable inside a function, refer to the variable by using the global keyword:

```
x = 300

def myfunc():
  global x
  x = 200

myfunc()

print(x)
```

Python Modules

What is a Module?

Consider a module to be the same as a code library.

A file containing a set of functions you want to include in your application.

Create a Module

To create a module just save the code you want in a file with the file extension .py:

Example

Save this code in a file named mymodule.py

```
def greeting(name):
  print("Hello, " + name)
```

Use a Module

Now we can use the module we just created, by using the import statement:

Example

Import the module named mymodule, and call the greeting function:

```
import mymodule

mymodule.greeting("Jonathan")
```

Note: When using a function from a module, use the syntax: *module_name.function_name*.

Variables in Module

The module can contain functions, as already described, but also variables of all types (arrays, dictionaries, objects etc):

Example

Save this code in the file mymodule.py

```
person1 = {
  "name": "John",
  "age": 36,
  "country": "Norway"
}
```

Example

Import the module named mymodule, and access the person1 dictionary:

```
import mymodule

a = mymodule.person1["age"]
print(a)
```

Naming a Module

You can name the module file whatever you like, but it must have the file extension .py

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Re-naming a Module

You can create an alias when you import a module, by using the as keyword:

Example

Create an alias for mymodule called mx:

```
import mymodule as mx

a = mx.person1["age"]
print(a)
```

Built-in Modules

There are several built-in modules in Python, which you can import whenever you like.

Example

Import and use the platform module:

```
import platform

x = platform.system()
print(x)
```

Using the dir() Function

There is a built-in function to list all the function names (or variable names) in a module.

The dir() function:

Example

List all the defined names belonging to the platform module:

```
import platform
x = dir(platform)
print(x)
```

Note: The dir() function can be used on *all* modules, also the ones you create yourself.

Import From Module

You can choose to import only parts from a module, by using the from keyword.

Example

The module named mymodule has one function and one dictionary:

```
def greeting(name):
  print("Hello, " + name)
person1 = {
  "name": "John",
  "age": 36,
  "country": "Norway"
}
```

Example

Import only the person1 dictionary from the module:

```
from mymodule import person1
print (person1["age"])
```

Note: When importing using the from keyword, do not use the module name when referring to elements in the module. Example: person1["age"], **not** ~~mymodule.person1["age"]~~

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

What is the correct syntax to import a module named "mymodule"?

_____ mymodule

Python Datetime

Python Dates

A date in Python is not a data type of its own, but we can import a module named datetime to work with dates as date objects.

Example

Import the datetime module and display the current date:

```
import datetime

x = datetime.datetime.now()
print(x)
```

Date Output

When we execute the code from the example above the result will be:

2023-01-28 13:47:51.369249

The date contains year, month, day, hour, minute, second, and microsecond.

The datetime module has many methods to return information about the date object.

Here are a few examples, you will learn more about them later in this chapter:

Example

Return the year and name of weekday:

```
import datetime

x = datetime.datetime.now()

print(x.year)
print(x.strftime("%A"))
```

Creating Date Objects

To create a date, we can use the datetime() class (constructor) of the datetime module.

The datetime() class requires three parameters to create a date: year, month, day.

Example

Create a date object:

```
import datetime

x = datetime.datetime(2020, 5, 17)

print(x)
```

The datetime() class also takes parameters for time and timezone (hour, minute, second, microsecond, tzone), but they are optional, and has a default value of 0, (None for timezone).
