Scripts and Modules

Exercises

Week 5

Prior to attempting these exercises ensure you have read the lecture notes and/or viewed the video, and followed the practical. You may wish to use the Python interpreter in interactive mode to help work out the solutions to some of the questions.

Download and store this document within your own filespace, so the contents can be edited. You will be able to refer to it during the test in Week 6.

Enter your answers directly into the highlighted boxes.

For more information about the module delivery, assessment and feedback please refer to the module within the MyBeckett portal.

©2021 Mark Dixon / Tony Jenkins

When a Python program is stored within a text file (i.e. a *script*), what suffix should be used for the filename?

*Answer:*

.py

Is it necessary to use a special Integrated Development Environment (IDE) to write Python code in text files?

*Answer:*

No, it is not necessary to use IDE

When a *script* is executed from a file, are the results of evaluating expressions automatically displayed on the screen without the need of a print() function call?

*Answer:*

No

What command would need to be typed in an operating system terminal window in order to execute a Python script called PrintNames.py?

*Answer:*

python PrintName.py

What command would need to be typed in a terminal in order to pass the values "John", "Eric", "Graham" as *command line arguments* to the PrintNames.py script?

*Answer:*

python PrintName.py John Eric Graham

When a Python script wishes to access *command line arguments*, what **module** needs to be imported?

*Answer:*

sys

What is the data-type of the sys.argv variable?

*Answer:*

list

What is stored within the first element of the sys.argv variable?

*Answer:*

File name of the script is sorted in the first element of the sys.argv.

Use a text editor to write the *script* called PrintNames.py. This should display any

*command line arguments* that were passed during execution. Once complete, place your solution in the answer box below. *Answer:*

import sys

for i in sys.argv[0:]:

    print(i)

Improve the solution so it uses an if statement to check that at least one name was passed, or otherwise print a message saying “no names provided”. Place your improved solution in the answer box below.

*Answer:*

import sys

if len(sys.argv) > 1:

    for i in sys.argv[1:]:

        print(i)

else:

    print('no name provided')

When using an import statement it is possible to provide an *alias* that can be used as an alternative name to access module content.

Write an **import** statement that imports the whole of the sys module, and renames it to

my\_system.

*Answer:*

import sys as my\_system

Write a **from..import** statement that imports only the math.floor function, and renames it to lower

*Answer:*

from math import floor as lower

What is stored in a *symbol-table*? *Answer:*

contains all of the essential information about each identifier found in the source code of the program.

Why is the following type of import statement generally not recommended?

from math import \*

*Answer:*

This is not recommended, since there is high chance that clashes

between imported and existing variable names will occur

When working in *interactive-mode* what convenient function can be used to list all names defined within a module?

*Answer:*

dir() fuction

What is the value stored within the sys.path variable used for?

*Answer:*

includes the directory from which the input script was loaded, or the current directory if

no script was specified

When a program is being executed as a *script* what value is assigned to the special variable

name ?

*Answer:*

\_\_main\_\_

What value is assigned to the name variable when a program has been imported as a

*module*? *Answer:*

Name of the module will be assigned.

Why is it useful for a program to be able to detect whether it is running as a *script*, or whether it has been imported as a *module*?

*Answer:*

a program can use this information to be flexible enough to be used

as either an executable script or an as imported module

**Exercises are complete**

Save this logbook with your answers. Then ask your tutor to check your responses to each question.