

09-python-files and data

Files

For this section, we'll learn how to open and read text files.

When we open up files, we need to consider the location or **path** to the file.

The path to the file is where the **text file** is with respect to the **python file**. This includes information about the file's **name** and the **folder** that the file lives in.

Opening Files

To open a file, we use the `open()` function.

The `open()` function returns a **file stream**.

Once open, the **file stream** is like a pipe that we can get information from.

```
# information.txt is a file we want to connect to (same folder)
file = open("information.txt")
```

Reading their contents

When reading a file stream, you receive the first part of the file first. Then the second, ..., all the way to the end.

To read a part of the file stream, we use the `readline()` method. It gives one line of information. If you call it again, you'll get the next line.

```
# omitted code above
# read a line of text from file
line = file.readline() # returns string
second_line = file.readline() # next line
```

If you want to read all lines, you can iterate over the file stream.

```
# omitted code above
# read every line until the end
for line in file:
    # do something with that line's data
    print(line)
```

Managing File Streams

When we open a file stream, we should always close it when we finish. This helps to lower the risk of corrupting any data in the file.

To close a file stream, use the `close()` method

```
# omitted code above
file.close() #closes stream safety
```

Use the `with` expression to deal with closures

```
with open("information.txt") as file:
    line = file.readline()
    for line in file:
        print(line)
file.readline() #this will break
```

Lists

Lists are a type of data that are helpful in storing more than one piece of information that is related. With lists, order matters. To create a list that we `use{}` called brackets.

```
some_list=[]
```

Converting a string to a list

There are times where we want to get information from a string. One use case where this is applicable is the example of a `.csv` or comma-separated values file.

```
Name, Age, Favourite Superhero
Mr.ubail, 67, Batman
Bruce Wayne, 32, Superman
You here, 32, Planter Facilities Man
# omitted code above
info = "Mr.ubail, 67, Batman"
# Split the string wherever there's a ,
info_list = info.split(",")
# ["Mr.ubail", "67", "Batman"]
```

Getting a Specific Item from a List

To access a specific element inside the list, we use `[]` bracket notation. To get a certain thing from inside the list, we need to "know" the address, which we call the **index Indices** are always integers.

```
# omitted code above
### Getting a Specific Item from a List
To access a specific element inside the list, we use the `[]` bracket notation. To get a certain thing from inside the list, we need to "know" the address, which we call the index.
Indices are always integers.
```python
omitted code above
```

```
index -> 0 2 3
info_list -> ["Mr. Ubial", "67", "Batman"]
access age?
print(f"Mr. Ubial's age is {info_list[1]}.")
how do we access fave superhero? ----> -1
print(f"Mr. Ubs' fave hero is {info_list[-1]}.")
```