

Python Lab 3.2: Reading and Extracting Information from Files

The purpose of this practice is to help you apply the concepts discussed up to **now**:

- open a file
- read the contents of the file
- search inside strings for data
- parse data

In `lab3_2.py` in the text editor at top-right, write a program which will: Search in a file named `datafile.txt` for all values in the `xmax` attribute, add them and display the sum. Open the datafile to observe the structure of the data...

The basic algorithm of the steps you have to perform is as follows:

1. Open the "datafile.txt"(included in your workspace)
2. Read the file contents for the file into a string variable
3. Split the file into 'lines' for processing
4. Loop through each line to search for `xmax`
 - if the line contains `xmax`
 - extract the number
 - add the number to the sum
5. Print the sum

{% next %}

To open the file and read the contents into a string variable use the `open(filename)` function. Remember that the open function returns a file handler... which you use to `read()`

► Hint 1 : Open and Read

```
fileh = open("datafile.txt")
data = fileh.read()
```

Of course you can also use `readlines()` instead of `read()` which will read and split at the same time... but in this example, we will split the string in the next step...

use the method `splitlines()` on the data and assign it to a lines collection

► Hint 2 : Split data into lines

```
lines = data.splitlines()
```

The next step is to write a loop to find the lines with `xmax` and print them

► Hint 3 : Loop, Search and print

```
for line in lines:
    if "xmax" in line:
        print(line)
```

At this point you can run your code and see the output...

Your output should look like the following:

```
"xmax": 451,
"xmax": 732,
"xmax": 984,
"xmax": 399,
...
```

Now you need to think of a way to slice this string from the position after the colon `:` and before the comma `,`. Think how you can find the position of the colon, and store it in a variable. then think how you can find the position of the comma, and store it in a variable. `int()` method to extract the number, but strip also the white spaces. Before adding the extracted number to the sum, convert it to an integer.

► Solution

```
fileh = open("datafile.txt")
data = fileh.read()
print(type(data))
lines = data.splitlines()
sum=0
for line in lines:
    if "xmax" in line:
        colon = line.find(':')
        comma = line.find(',')
        number = int(line[colon+1:comma].strip())
        sum += number
print(sum)
```

Execute your program

Remember in order to execute your code you type in the terminal:

```
python lab3_2.py
```

Check that your code produces correct results.

For the sample datafile provides the sum of all xmax should be 13487.

{% next %}

Check Your Code

Execute the below to evaluate the correctness of your code using `check50`, but be sure to test it yourself also.

```
check50 mkotsovoulou/ods6001a/main/labs/lab3_2
```

Execute the below to evaluate the style of your code using `style50`.

```
style50 lab3_2.py
```

{% next %}

Submit your code

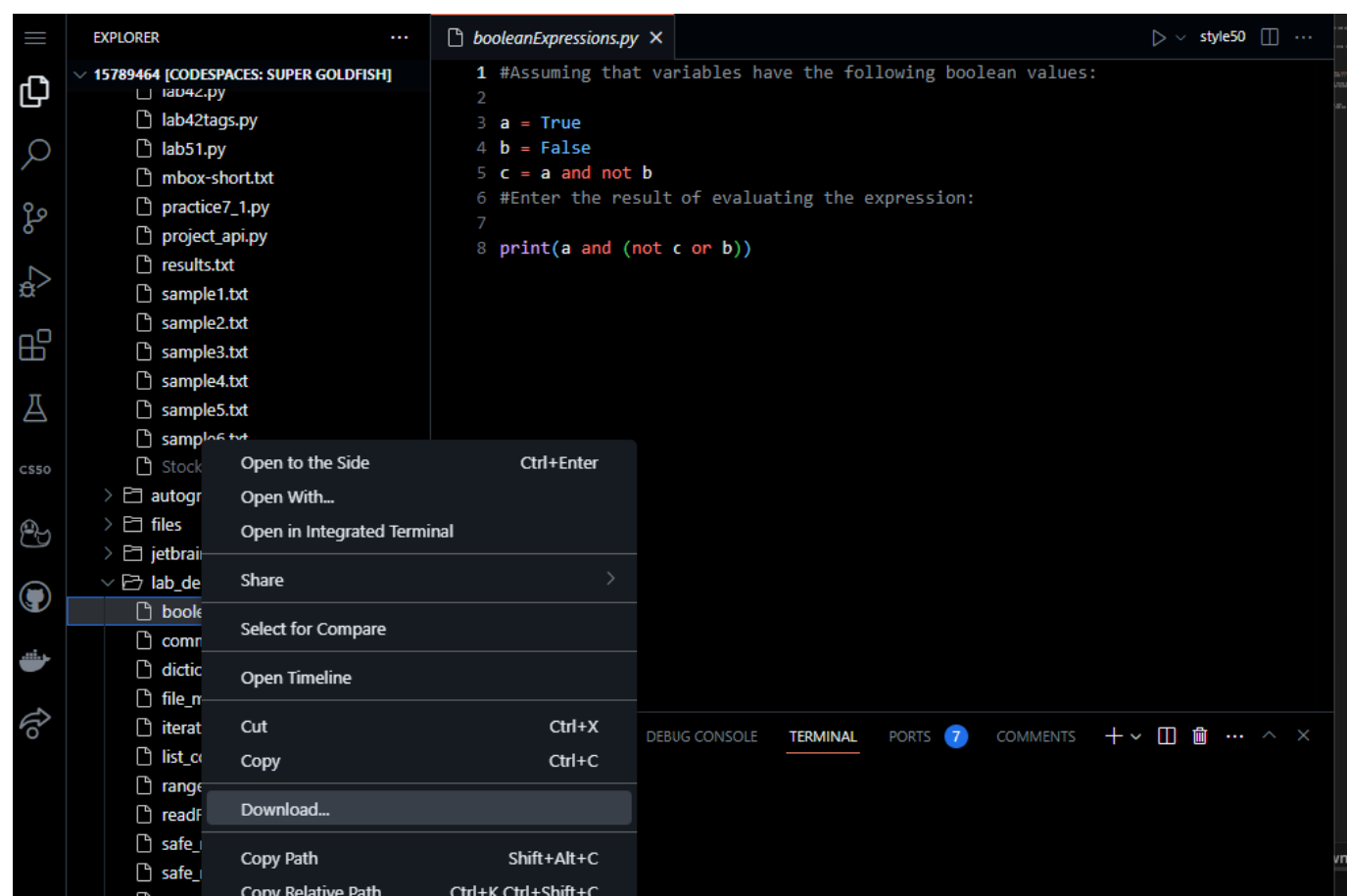
Execute the command below, logging in with your `GitHub username` and `Personal Access Token` when prompted. For security, you'll see asterisks (*) instead of the actual characters in your token.

If you do not have generated a Personal Access Token follow the instructions:

<https://docs.github.com/en/authentication/keeping-your-account-and-data-secure/creating-a-personal-access-token>

```
submit50 mkotsovoulou/ods6001a/main/labs/lab3_2
```

You can re-submit your solution as many times as you want. When you are happy with your solution, download the code and upload it to Canvas.



Done!

