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Python Introduction

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What **is** Python?

Python **is** a popular programming language. It was created by Guido van Rossum, **and** released

It **is** used **for**:

web development (server-side),
software development,
mathematics,
system scripting.

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What can Python do?

Python can be used on a server to create web applications.
Python can be used alongside software to create workflows.
Python can connect to database systems. It can also read **and** modify files.
Python can be used to handle big data **and** perform **complex** mathematics.
Python can be used **for** rapid prototyping, **or for** production-ready software development.

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Why Python?

Python works on different platforms (Windows, Mac, Linux, Raspberry Pi, etc).
Python has a simple syntax similar to the English language.
Python has syntax that allows developers to write programs **with** fewer lines than some other programming languages.
Python runs on an interpreter system, meaning that code can be executed **as soon as** it **is** written.
This means that prototyping can be very quick.
Python can be treated **in** a procedural way, an **object-oriented** way **or** a functional way.

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Python Syntax compared to other programming languages

Python was designed **for** readability, **and** has some similarities to the English language **with** influence **from** mathematics.

Python uses new lines to complete a command, **as** opposed to other programming languages which use semicolons **or** parentheses.

Python relies on indentation, using whitespace, to define scope; such **as** the scope of loops functions **and** classes. Other programming languages often use curly-brackets **for** this purpose.

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Good to know

The most recent major version of Python **is** Python 3, which we shall be using **in** this tutorial. However, Python 2, although **not** being updated **with** anything other than security updates, **is** still quite popular.

In this tutorial Python will be written **in** a text editor.

It **is** possible to write Python **in** an Integrated Development Environment, such **as** Thonny, Pycharm, Netbeans **or** Eclipse which are particularly useful when managing larger collections of Python files.

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Python Variables

variables are created when you assign a value

In [2]:

```
x = 5
y = "Hello, World!"

print(x)
print(y)

print(type(x))
print(type(y))
```

```
5
Hello, World!
<class 'int'>
<class 'str'>
```

In [2]:

```
print("Hello, World!")
```

Hello, World!

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Python Comments

Comments can be used to explain Python code.

Comments can be used to make the code more readable.

Comments can be used to prevent execution when testing code.

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Creating a Comment

Comments starts **with** a **#**

In [3]:

```
#This is a comment.  
print("Hello, World!")
```

Hello, World!

In [4]:

```
"""  
This is a comment  
written in  
more than just one line  
"""  
print("Hello, World!")
```

Hello, World!