Introduction to *Introduction to Programming Using Python*

Hi Folks,

I'm Ray Smith, the class instructor.  I'm excited to get started.  I hope you are too.

The class is just a short time away, starting Thursday September 9 at 6:00PM and meeting each Thursday.  **The class takes place online, via Zoom**.  Your Access via Zoom is provided through the Watertown Library, which will send you instructions.  I'm including some files, used for the class, plus a simple startup task, in the hope they will aid us in getting a quick start.

***To reduce the number of files requiring saving, all files mentioned here are stored in the attached file* Introduction\_files.zip**.

As a help, I am including a PowerPoint® file, *Introduction to Programming Using Python*.pptx, which I will use as the viewing slides for the class.  Because of the Covid19 pandemic, we will not be able to provide you a hard copy.  There is no need to read this file in advance.  However, you might want to print out a hard copy of these notes in advance. It has over 100 slides. Paper saving, options, include printing multiple slides per page, printing the first 20 slides, keeping the rest as a file to browse, and keeping the whole file to browse.

While it is not necessary, for those who have the option, it might be helpful using a computer with two monitors – one for the class notes/instructor's demo and one for your own work.

I hope to have you learn by doing.  **You will need to have a computer with Zoom installed**.  **Python must be installed on this computer before the first class**.  **If you have any trouble, PLEASE email me** at *raysmith@alum.mit.edu* and I will try to help.

Installing Python, can easily be done by browsing to [www.python.org](http://www.python.org) and following the download instructions for your computer operating system.

To aid those who might desire more guidance, I have included the file *Simple Python installing instructions.doc*x. This file contains some wordy instructions, to navigate this web site and install Python. Mostly it contains steps to go through [www.python.org](http://www.python.org/), downloading the latest python (e.g., x64-64 executable installer) and run it.

**To help me obtain an indication of successes, and failures please send me email when you have downloaded and installed python**.

I'm including a group of files, some of which we will use during the class.  **You should create a directory(folder) named** intro\_prog **for your use during this course**.  Expand the compressed file Introduction\_files.zip into the intro\_prog folder. During the course you will use some these example files provided by the instructor as well as produce programing examples of your own.

NOTE: This class is intended to be for people who are new to programming, not just new to Python. While we don't turn anyone away, if you already have programming experience, but are interested in adding Python to your programming skill set, you might consider one of the many Python opportunities, including the Python Tutorial available in the Python download from [www.python.org](http://www.python.org).

If, for any reason, you decide you will not be taking our course, please let us know, as there is a waiting list.

Good luck in programming!

I hope to hear from you soon,

Ray