

Python Inner Working Explained

How Python works internally, step by step — covering the **compiler**, **interpreter**, **bytecode**, **CPython**, **PVM**, and more. I'll keep it structured and easy to follow.

□ Python Internal Architecture - Detailed Breakdown

□ 1. Source Code (.py File)

You begin by writing your Python code like this:

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

This code is just plain text — nothing has been executed yet.

⊗ 2. Compilation Phase (to Bytecode)

When you run a Python program, it **first compiles** your .py file into **bytecode**.

◆ What is Bytecode?

- A **low-level, platform-independent** set of instructions.
- It's **not machine code**, but more optimized than raw source code.
- Python does this to speed up execution for future runs.

◆ Where is Bytecode Stored?

It is stored as .pyc files in the `__pycache__` folder.

For example:

hello.py → Compiled → `__pycache__/hello.cpython-313.pyc`

3. CPython – The Default Implementation

- **CPython** is the **official and most widely used Python interpreter**, written in **C**.
- When you install Python from python.org, you're using **CPython**.

CPython does two things:

1. **Compiles** Python code to bytecode.
 2. **Runs** that bytecode using the **PVM (Python Virtual Machine)**.
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□ 4. PVM – Python Virtual Machine

- The **PVM** is the heart of the Python interpreter.
- It **executes bytecode** line-by-line, translating it into actual machine instructions.
- It handles:
 - Memory management
 - Variable references
 - Control flow (loops, conditions)
 - Exception handling
 - Function calling and more

🔥 Example:

Let's say this line is compiled:

```
print("Hello")
```

The bytecode may look something like:

```
LOAD_NAME    print
LOAD_CONST   "Hello"
CALL_FUNCTION
```

The **PVM** interprets and runs this sequence.

🔄 Summary of the Whole Process:

Step 1: You write code → hello.py

Step 2: Python compiles it to → Bytecode (.pyc file)

Step 3: Bytecode is fed into → Python Virtual Machine (PVM)

Step 4: PVM executes it → You see output on screen

❑ Optional: Other Python Implementations

Implementation	Description
CPython	Default implementation, written in C.
PyPy	Fast Python with Just-In-Time (JIT) Compiler.
Jython	Runs on Java Virtual Machine (JVM).
IronPython	Runs on .NET/Mono platform.
MicroPython	Lightweight version for microcontrollers.

❑ 5. Garbage Collection

Python has **automatic memory management** using a technique called **Reference Counting** and **Garbage Collection (GC)**.

- Objects are removed from memory when no variable refers to them anymore.
 - The GC also handles *cyclic references*.
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✓ Advantages of This System

- Easy to run Python code on any machine.
 - Quick execution using bytecode + interpreter.
 - Code reusability via .pyc files.
 - Clean memory handling using GC.
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Visual Flow

Your Code (.py)

↓ [Compiler]

Bytecode (.pyc)

↓ [Interpreter → PVM]

Executed Instructions

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Output + Memory Managed