**Data Hiding in Python**

An object's attributes may or may not be visible outside the class definition. You need to name attributes with a double underscore prefix, and those attributes then are not be directly visible to outsiders.

## Example

#!/usr/bin/python

class JustCounter:

   \_\_secretCount = 0

   def count(self):

      self.\_\_secretCount += 1

      print self.\_\_secretCount

counter = JustCounter()

counter.count()

counter.count()

print counter.\_\_secretCount

## Output

When the above code is executed, it produces the following result −

1

2

Traceback (most recent call last):

   File "test.py", line 12, in <module>

      print counter.\_\_secretCount

AttributeError: JustCounter instance has no attribute '\_\_secretCount'

Python protects those members by internally changing the name to include the class name. You can access such attributes as object.\_className\_\_attrName. If you would replace your last line as following, then it works for you −

.........................

print counter.\_JustCounter\_\_secretCount

When the above code is executed, it produces the following result −

1

2

2