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Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 3:14 PM
To: sydasif78@hotmail.com
Subject: [PyNet Learning Python] - Introduction

Before we start, I have a request for you: tell me a bit about yourself; tell me why you care about learning Python? I can say reasons, "why I think a network engineer should care", but it is valuable to hear your reasons straight from you.

This course starts on Tuesday, December 6th. You should receive the first lesson on that day around 8AM PST. If you signed up on or after December 6th, then you should receive the first lesson about an hour after you receive the 'Introduction' email.

A lot of people taking this course will fall into one of three categories. Here are some recommendations:

Case1 - You have never programmed before

I strongly recommend that you check out [Learn Python3 the Hard Way](#). It is a good resource for individuals that are new to programming and it is free online. Note, the learning/teaching style of Learn Python the Hard Way is not for everyone. The first eight weeks are free and after that there is a nominal cost for the rest of the book.

You can then either participate in my course after you have completed some of LPTHW or in parallel with my course.

Case2 - Network engineer with some programming familiarity

You should be good to go for this course.

Case3 - You are a programmer with extensive experience

This course is probably not for you. It will be too slow and will cover too many basics.

Python2 vs Python3

This course uses Python3. **In general, I will try to write code that is compatible with both Python2 and Python3.** The differences between Python2 and Python3 (in the context of this course) are relatively minor, however.

Note, I will discuss this issue some more at the beginning of the course.

Note, I strongly recommend that you use Python3 (given that Python2 support ended on Jan 1, 2020).

Getting Python Installed

You will need a system that has either Python3.x on it (with a strong preference for Python3.6 or newer).

MacOS

If you want to use Python3 on MacOS, then I recommend following the process specified here (up to the point where you can execute 'python3').

<http://docs.python-guide.org/en/latest/starting/install3/osx/>

Linux

Just type 'python3' from the shell and verify your system has Python3.X installed.

If that doesn't work, type 'python' and verify the version is Python 2.7. If Python3 is not installed (and you want to use Python3), then it should be pretty easy to get it installed for most major versions of Linux (as long as you are using a reasonably up to date version of the operating system).

For Fedora-based systems, I did the following:

```
yum install python36 python36-devel python36-setuptools  
python36-virtualenv
```

For Ubuntu, python3 should be installed at least as of Ubuntu 16.04.

Windows

If you are running on Windows, then use the below link to install Python3:

<https://www.python.org/downloads/windows/>

Then select the "Latest Python3 Release". On this next page, the 'Windows x86 executable installer' is probably the right choice in most cases.

You might also want to update your Windows system Path so that your computer knows how to find the Python interpreter.

Regards,

Kirk Byers

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