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**Topic 34 - Creating a List of Dictionaries in Python**

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**What**

In Python, you can create a **list** that contains multiple **dictionaries**. Each dictionary can store data for an individual entity, such as a customer’s information, and the list then groups these dictionaries together.

**Why**

A list of dictionaries is a powerful structure for managing collections of similar data objects, like a group of customers, students, or products. By organizing data this way, you can loop through the list to access each dictionary’s information, making it efficient for handling and processing multiple data entries at once.

**How**

To create a list of dictionaries, define each dictionary with key-value pairs and then enclose them in square brackets as elements of the list. Here’s an example:

python

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# Define a list of customer dictionaries

customers = [

{

"customer id": 0,

"first name": "John",

"last name": "Ogden",

"address": "301 Arbor Rd.",

},

{

"customer id": 1,

"first name": "Ann",

"last name": "Sattermyer",

"address": "PO Box 1145",

},

{

"customer id": 2,

"first name": "Jill",

"last name": "Somers",

"address": "3 Main St.",

},

]

In this code:

1. **List Definition**: customers is a list containing three dictionaries.
2. **Dictionary Elements**: Each dictionary in the list contains customer information, such as "customer id", "first name", "last name", and "address".
3. **Structure**: Square brackets [] enclose the list, and each dictionary is enclosed in curly brackets {}, with key-value pairs separated by commas.

**Summary**

Creating a list of dictionaries allows you to manage collections of similar data objects, with each dictionary representing an individual entity's attributes. This structure is ideal for handling grouped data where each item has multiple associated attributes.

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