

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Newbie to Python](#)

kplishere - September 8, 2017, 2:46 pm

Hi guys

I'm considering learning Python, I'm forced to choose a new programming language to learn for my spring exam (basic programming). Learning Javascript for a year, but my damned school doesn't accept it. Don't ask why, our system is completely fucked up. Nevermind, I always wanted to start Python sooner or later.

How did you get into Python programming? Where did you start?

What are the advantages of Python over C++/C#? Is it a good way to learn basics from online courses?(codecademy.com, etc.)

I much appreciate your answers ?

Lucifer's Inferno - September 8, 2017, 2:49 pm

I really recommend you check out the MIT Programming lectures on Youtube if you have the time. They will really show you the ropes & the depth of Python so simply.

NOTHING MATTERS - September 8, 2017, 2:53 pm

If you like following along with videos, I'd recommend

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6gx4Cwl9DGAcbMi1sH6oAMk4JHw91mC_

Good luck with Python. Sucks they won't let you do JS, but there's nothing wrong with getting familiar with multiple languages.

koolkid - September 8, 2017, 3:09 pm

Youtube, other videos and practice coding by writing simple programs, simple math, input output

EnhancedMobi - September 8, 2017, 8:10 pm

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Good luck with Python. Sucks they won't let you do JS, but there's nothing wrong with getting familiar with multiple languages.

what if i use python 3 with his tutorials cause i think he uses python 2 since its an older video. Any difference in code?

Fudster - September 8, 2017, 8:15 pm

(Sep 8, 2017 08:10 PM)EnhancedMobi Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) what if i use python 3 with his tutorials cause i think he uses python 2 since its an older video. Any difference in code?

There are a few differences....

In python 2 There is a print statement.

Code print "Hello World!"

In Python 3 There is a print function

Code print("Hello World!")

Here's a read if you are interested

http://sebastianraschka.com/Articles/2014_python_2_3_key_diff.html

Nomad.Null - September 8, 2017, 8:52 pm

Python is very flexible and powerful as a rapid-development programming language and prototyping more complex programs. Most of its advantages are in the simplicity and readability of its syntax. Python does not perform as well as a compiled language simply because that is the nature of an interpreted language. Perhaps Python's largest disadvantage is that its design makes it extremely inefficient for multi-thread processing, but that is where the disadvantages end in my opinion.

As I said, Python has a very simplistic syntax. It is designed to be readable, even elegant. The extensive standard libraries, as well as the massive amount of open-source libraries available for Python, will be a powerful ally for you. The best way to get started with Python, in my opinion, is to just grab a few projects and get to work with them. Below are some of the resources I've used to learn Python and grow my skillset, but above all I recommend Codewars.com. It is a website where you can practice programming by taking on code challenges in a language of your choice. It is an awesome, free learning tool that will test your ability to apply logic to real programming situations and make you think adaptively to problems you'll face as a developer.

www.codecademy.com - basic syntax

www.learnpythonthehardway.org - the hardway = the right way

www.pluralsight.com (paid)

www.lynda.com (paid)

www.codeschool.com

[YouTube - The New Boston](#)

[YouTube - SentDex](#)

www.codewars.com - for practice

If you are in college, your school likely already provides access to Lynda.com or pluralsight/codeschool, but these are not necessary. I've had great success with both TheNewBoston and SentDex's tutorials. Above all, I suggest sticking to Python 3.x. Python 2 is inevitably dying, and although you will likely run into projects and programs that were written in Python 2.x that needs editing, you should never learn from the predecessor version of the language. Always work with the most recent version and get used to the newer designs. Python 2 will eventually fade into obscurity as it should.

sw0p - September 8, 2017, 11:39 pm

(Sep 8, 2017 08:52 PM)True Demon Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Python is very flexible and powerful as a rapid-development programming language and prototyping more complex programs. Most of its advantages are in the simplicity and readability of its syntax. Python does not perform as well as a compiled language simply because that is the nature of an interpreted language. Perhaps Python's largest disadvantage is that its design makes it extremely inefficient for multi-thread processing, but that is where the disadvantages end in my opinion.

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hey, i could not more agree with this!

im a beginner myself and started first watching

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and i bought me the book

Learn python the Hard way from Zed A. Shaw and i have to say this book is actually amazing. Im not anywhere good at pyhton but i like that i get started and im exited to learn more and more!
Have fun learning it!!!

vortalbox - September 9, 2017, 3:10 am

(Sep 8, 2017 08:52 PM)True Demon Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Python does not perform as well as a compiled language simply because that is the nature of an interpreted language. Perhaps Python's largest disadvantage is that its design makes it extremely inefficient for multi-thread processing, but that is where the disadvantages end in my opinion.

CPU time has for a while now not been the most expensive resource, where the most expensive resource is your time AKA development which is much faster in Python than most other languages.

As you can see from this image [Source](#) C++, java and C had over twice the amount of time to solve

the same problem so assuming you paid all the developers the same per hour a Python or Perl implementation would cost you half the price of a C, C++ or java one.

This is a great read about it

<https://hackernoon.com/yes-python-is-slow-and-i-dont-care-13763980b5a1>

But yeah Python is slow but that's hardly a problem.

nOrr - September 9, 2017, 4:16 am

I get -3 trigger happy whenever I see a recommendation to The New Boston... >_>

On topic:

I learned Python when I was forced to switch to it at work from Java. Because of that it wasn't that big a deal. Syntactically JS is different from Python, moreso than java, but some ideas will be more familiar with JS than with Java, e.g. your ability to pass along anything as input and store anything in variables.

The advantages I will be you 20 bucks nobody on this board will be able to truly outline for you, based on own experience and facts. Don't worry about this. You need to ask yourself different questions:

- Will a cross-platform script be nice for my task?
- Do I want to script along and not care much about coding ethics and principles?
- Do I need to utilize the differences in the languages, e.g. do I need to be able to control memory freely?

In your case I bet python is a good choice. It's a simple language, easy to learn yet hard to really (beyond HF median level) master, and is popular enough that all your questions you may have will already have been asked and answered more than once, and are just a Google search query away.

NOTHING MATTERS - September 9, 2017, 6:07 am

(Sep 8, 2017 11:39 PM)sw0p Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) hey, i could not more agree with this!

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Oh yeah another great channel I forgot to recommend is Sentdex. Amazing Python scripts, robotics, and Machine Leadning tutorials.

I remember when learnpythonthehardway was a free website. Do you now have to buy the book?

sw0p - September 9, 2017, 10:10 am

(Sep 9, 2017 06:07 AM)NOTHING MATTERS Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh yeah another great channel I forgot to recommend is Sentdex. Amazing Python scripts, robotics, and Machine Leadning tutorials.

I remember when learnpythonthehardway was a free website. Do you now have to buy the book?

hey, yeah sentdex is realy really nice.

About the book, i dont know i dont use the website but i think it is possible to use the videos for free? im not sure.

I just bought the book because i like to have soemthing in my hands while learning.

inv3ctus - September 10, 2017, 8:22 am

I would really advise codecademy for the basics, if you know another language you'll fly through it!

sw0p - September 10, 2017, 10:04 am

(Sep 10, 2017 08:22 AM)PyAssassin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I would really advise codecademy for the basics, if you know another language you'll fly through it!

to be honest as iam a newbie and learner myself i dont liked codeacademy at all to be honest.

first of all it is python 2.7 and i wanted to learn 3.x which is for a guy who already know some programming maybe not that bad but for me it felt confusing so i stoped codedacademy and used other websites and social media.

websites: Sololearn

youtube: Sentdex <--- this guy is amazing and easy to follow

books: learn python the hard way

for me at least i did not only one of them instead i did all 3 of them and for me atleast it felt pretty good since i got a book as reasource , a website and some videos to follow.

and as soon as i have all basics i want to start at a website called "www.codewars.com" this must be really fun!

kplishere - September 13, 2017, 8:10 am

Thanks for your answer guys!!! Helped me a lot

vorticalbox - September 13, 2017, 8:40 am

(Sep 10, 2017 10:04 AM)sw0p Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) first of all it is python 2.7 and i wanted to learn 3.x which is for a guy who already know some programming maybe not that bad but for me it felt confusing so i stoped codedacademy and used other websites and social media.

That just adds to the fun, it;s liek using learn pythont he hard way but only using python3 you have convert all the code :)

xero925 - September 13, 2017, 12:29 pm

YouTube is the best resource for anything code related.