

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [How long was your learning curve?](#)

Bass_Reeves - November 21, 2019, 4:53 am

Hey,

I'm completely new to computer programming. Starting with HTML, Javascript, and Python as it seems that's what most people advise.

So...I wanted to know from the more experienced coders, how long was your learning curve?

By that I mean total noob to at least intermediate level...

I'm currently dedicating 25 hours a week to my computer studies which include networking, web development and python programming.

Is this enough? Should it be more?

Thanks for reading

B_R

ajkaro_lover - November 21, 2019, 2:27 pm

Python is a quick language to learn regarding the syntax. It is designed to be close to natural language, so it lends itself to being picked up rather quickly. That said, programming is not the same as learning the syntax. It's using the tools available to you, to solve complex problems. This is a skill that you will continue to learn.

Keep challenging yourself to complete different types of projects in Python, and soon you will have a general understanding of how to tackle a problem in the general sense with the language.

Btw, first post on here for 10 years! Feels good to be back.

Lindros - November 21, 2019, 3:27 pm

I think that a few months until you can do small, useful and more enjoyable things. I think it takes a couple years to actually become proficient.

The best way to tell is to challenge yourself daily in order to see what you need to improve on.

Nonicox - November 21, 2019, 3:41 pm

tell me more about this thread

Bass_Reeves - November 21, 2019, 7:56 pm

(Nov 21, 2019 03:27 PM)ajkaro_lover Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Python is a quick language to learn regarding the syntax. It is designed to be close to natural language, so it lends itself to being picked up rather quickly. That said, programming is not the same as learning the syntax. It's using the tools available to you, to solve complex problems. This is a skill that you will continue to learn.

Keep challenging yourself to complete different types of projects in Python, and soon you will have

a general understanding of how to tackle a problem in the general sense with the language.

Btw, first post on here for 10 years! Feels good to be back.
Haha welcome back!

Yes I find that I've picked up the syntax part rather quickly but when presented with a problem I don't really know how to apply it.

Ofcourse I will just keep practicing, practicing, practicing.

Thanks for your feedback!

(Nov 21, 2019 04:27 PM)ZietzSeV Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think that a few months until you can do small, useful and more enjoyable things. I think it takes a couple years to actually become proficient.

The best way to tell is to challenge yourself daily in order to see what you need to improve on. Yes, I'm currently doing daily python exercises/problems on top of learning the syntax and commands. Applying what I've learnt seems to be my biggest hurdle so far.

Thanks for your feedback.

SIM-1866423 - November 22, 2019, 12:55 pm

At my peak, 1 project took 6 month daily 10-20h coding and 4h sleep per day.

Bass_Reeves - November 22, 2019, 1:55 pm

(Nov 22, 2019 01:55 PM)?? ?? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) At my peak, 1 project took 6 month daily 10-20h coding and 4h sleep per day.

Bloody hell, i'm in for a long ride. I can dig it though ?

netWalker - November 23, 2019, 9:03 am

Learning the syntax of python isn't too bad honestly. Especially when you compare it with languages like C. But learning how to implement the python into a working program is what takes some learning.

P.S. HTML isn't a programming language.

wiz - November 23, 2019, 9:06 am

(Nov 21, 2019 05:53 AM)Bass_Reeves Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hey,

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Thanks for reading

B_R

Buddy, I just started Javascript and I have nightmares when I go to bed...

Bass_Reeves - November 23, 2019, 11:27 am

(Nov 23, 2019 10:03 AM)netWalker Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Learning the syntax of python isn't too bad honestly. Especially when you compare it with languages like C. But learning how to implement the python into a working program is what takes some learning.

P.S. HTML isn't a programming language.
Ok great thank you.

Haha, I see. Will remember that for the future.

Thank you!

(Nov 23, 2019 10:06 AM)w00ps Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Buddy, I just started Javascript and I have nightmares when I go to bed...

Hahah, It'll be worth it in the end I hope.

Pr4wn - December 2, 2019, 2:24 pm

(Nov 22, 2019 01:55 PM)?? ?? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) At my peak, 1 project took 6 month daily 10-20h coding and 4h sleep per day.

Truth. I still don't know wtf I'm doing half the time.

Invisible - December 2, 2019, 4:46 pm

If you want to challenge yourself daily: <https://adventofcode.com/2019>

A new challenge every day till christmas. The problems become harder and harder as the month goes on.

Bass_Reeves - December 2, 2019, 4:50 pm

(Dec 2, 2019 05:46 PM)Invisible Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you want to challenge yourself daily: <https://adventofcode.com/2019>

A new challenge every day till christmas. The problems become harder and harder as the month goes on.

Great idea! Thanks.

magicparty - December 4, 2019, 1:18 pm

Get a good Python textbook, and a good algorithms and data structures book...Read both cover to cover and create projects along the way re-enforcing your skills.

OR

Attend class at either a University or Coding Bootcamp

As for how long...You never stop learning...I consider where I'm at right now thousands of miles above where I was 5-10 years ago yet there is still so much to be learned still.

Sajuuk - December 4, 2019, 2:41 pm

From noob to intermediate... that's a very generic outline. I guess I'll associate it with never before programmed to being able to efficiently utilize basic algorithmic encryption. Maybe not necessarily understand how the algorithm itself works, but rather knowing how and when to use certain methods (in terms of security).

I'd say whilst learning C++ I probably used up a good thousand hours among an entire year before implementing a self-encrypting archive tool for a game I used to play. The program itself didn't take more than a week to make, hour-wise maybe around 20, three or so hours per day.

That being said, everyone is different. It will take some people less time than others to grasp certain, select concepts. I had a particularly difficult time for two years prior to actually learning C and C++. One day I just caught on out of nowhere and everything made sense. Now, I say C and C++ because I began learning and utilizing Python long after the fact. I will say it's always seemed much easier to understand from the start, but I can't speak from experience solely because of that.

Bass_Reeves - December 4, 2019, 3:00 pm

(Dec 4, 2019 03:41 PM)Sajuuk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) From noob to intermediate... that's a very generic outline. I guess I'll associate it with never before programmed to being able to efficiently utilize basic algorithmic encryption. Maybe not necessarily understand how the algorithm itself works, but rather knowing how and when to use certain methods (in terms of security).

That was put way more eloquently than what I said hahaha. Yes you summed it up perfectly in that brilliant quote.

(Dec 4, 2019 03:41 PM)Sajuuk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'd say whilst learning C++ I probably used up a good thousand hours among an entire year before implementing a self-encrypting archive tool for a game I used to play. The program itself didn't take more than a week to make, hour-wise maybe around 20, three or so hours per day.

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Thanks for your insight.

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(Dec 4, 2019 02:18 PM)magicparty Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Get a good Python textbook, and a good algorithms and data structures book...Read both cover to cover and create projects along the way re-enforcing your skills.

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As for how long...You never stop learning...I consider where I'm at right now thousands of miles above where I was 5-10 years ago yet there is still so much to be learned still.

Thanks for the advice magicparty! Any particular books you'd recommend? Downloaded a pdf of "Learn Python 3 The Hard Way". Its quite drill orientated which suits me, but would like to actually do somethings with python as well like you advised.

w1l5t3r - December 16, 2019, 12:56 am

I found the quickest way to learn is using the method "teaching" take what you have learned so far and pretend you're in a classroom and teaching others by speaking out loud and demonstrating it on paper, laptop etc... I thought this was strange at first when lecturer at university suggested that

method, I gave it a go and worked for me. Go at your own pace, what you learn by memory isn't enough I would suggest looking up the fundamentals and seeing what each syntax actually does (don't learn to remember - learn to understand) and makes life a whole lot easier. My first project was a python lottery picker (command line then GUI) and I had to draw a thought process (diagram) of what it would actually do, like a flow chart and what was needed, having that outline does help instead of just going for it and typing away. I wish you all the best and good luck

Burnzy - December 16, 2019, 1:18 am

I started learning java, i currently have a job and a vineyard at home which requires alot of work daily. Should i even bother learning if i cant take atleast 3-4 hours daily?

Bass_Reeves - December 16, 2019, 2:27 am

(Dec 16, 2019 01:56 AM)w115t3r Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I found the quickest way to learn is using the method "teaching" take what you have learned so far and pretend you're in a classroom and teaching others by speaking out loud and demonstrating it on paper, laptop etc... I thought this was strange at first when lecturer at university suggested that method, I gave it a go and worked for me. Go at your own pace, what you learn by memory isn't enough I would suggest looking up the fundamentals and seeing what each syntax actually does (don't learn to remember - learn to understand) and makes life a whole lot easier. My first project was a python lottery picker (command line then GUI) and I had to draw a thought process (diagram) of what it would actually do, like a flow chart and what was needed, having that outline does help instead of just going for it and typing away. I wish you all the best and good luck

Great advice, sounds similar to the "Feynman Method" that I recently stumbled upon.

Will definitely give this a try.

Thanks!

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Flash7475 - December 25, 2019, 10:50 am

if you want practice in applying the concepts you've learnt over the past little bit, a site I can direct you to that I have personally used is [hackerrank.com](https://www.hackerrank.com). They provide little challenges that will help you with elements you've learned.

Learning the language isn't so much "I put in x amount of hours". Its like others have said, how proficiently you can apply them. The easy way I've found is trying to solve everyday medial tasks by writing a script to automate the process.

My learning curve was about a year to really cement the concepts python has to offer and become pretty good at the language. Everyone learns at different rates though.

Bass_Reeves - December 25, 2019, 11:14 am

(Dec 25, 2019 11:50 AM)Flash7475 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) if you want practice in applying the concepts you've learnt over the past little bit, a site I can direct you to that I have personally used is [hackerrank.com](https://www.hackerrank.com). They provide little challenges that will help you with elements you've learned.

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My learning curve was about a year to really cement the concepts python has to offer and become pretty good at the language. Everyone learns at different rates though.

Thanks for the heads up. Merry Christmas!

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elChungusFungus - December 27, 2019, 4:03 pm

Honestly man, I've been coding for about 4-5 years now and while I utilize Python a lot I can definitely say that I am competent with it I am nowhere near what I would call good with it. I personally am more of what I call a "duct tape engineer" which is what I think a lot of coders are, where they just use generic stuff to make their programs. Once you start using programming languages a lot you wind up knowing more how to put stuff together and the ways to certain tasks and it just becomes a matter of looking up the syntax.

The learning curve isn't really about time its more about you understanding the concepts that are there.

Sorry if that went off a bit on a tangent with that but as a word of advice just work on projects that interest you and understand what you are actually doing and it will be a good learning process.

Bass_Reeves - December 27, 2019, 4:31 pm

(Dec 27, 2019 05:03 PM)elChungusFungus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Honestly man, I've been coding for about 4-5 years now and while I utilize Python a lot I can definitely say that I am competent with it I am nowhere near what I would call good with it. I personally am more of what I call a "duct tape engineer" which is what I think a lot of coders are, where they just use generic stuff to make their programs. Once you start using programming languages a lot you wind up knowing more how to put stuff together and the ways to certain tasks and it just becomes a matter of looking up the syntax.

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Sorry if that went off a bit on a tangent with that but as a word of advice just work on projects that interest you and understand what you are actually doing and it will be a good learning process.

No thats great advice thank you :)

Defintiely need to start building some projects, but I'm interested in pentesting / red team so I would like to start developing tools in that area (obvs they're gonna be sh*t at first lol).

elChungusFungus - December 27, 2019, 4:37 pm

(Dec 27, 2019 05:31 PM)Bass_Reeves Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No thats great advice thank you :)

Defintiely need to start building some projects, but I'm interested in pentesting / red team so I would like to start developing tools in that area (obvs they're gonna be sh*t at first lol).

So if you want to start making tools, I am pretty certain that one of the most couple of tools, nmap and SQLMap are both coded in Python and those might be a good place to start if you wanted to start somewhere with you acutally creating your own tools.

I don't know how helpful that is, but there you go.

Charger - December 28, 2019, 1:16 pm

The hardest part for me is just data types between languages. Going from php arrays to python dictionary's to JSON to objects is a bit confusing when using both at the same time.

Bass_Reeves - December 29, 2019, 12:07 pm

(Dec 28, 2019 02:16 PM)Charger Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The hardest part for me is just data types between

languages. Going from php arrays to python dictionary's to JSON to objects is a bit confusing when using both at the same time.

Yeah, I'm focusing on Python, PowerShell and C/C++ at the moment. I don't want to confuse myself too much. Luckily C/C++ share similar syntax and data types. Plan on learning some PHP for web hacking and Assembly so I can understand exploits better in the near future.