

Python: A Brief Introduction

Penguins Unbound

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What is Python?

"Python is a dynamic object-oriented programming language that can be used for many kinds of software development. It offers strong support for integration with other languages and tools, comes with extensive standard libraries, and can be learned in a few days. Many Python programmers report substantial productivity gains and feel the language encourages the development of higher quality, more maintainable code."

www.python.org

What can you do with Python?

Examples of programs written in Python:

1. PySolFC - A collection of over 1000 solitaire games
2. PythonCAD - A 2D CAD program
3. Chandler - Task management/Personal Organizer program
4. Web Frameworks/Application Servers such as:
 - A. Zope
 - B. Django
 - C. TurboGears

What type of program do you do?

Even though Python is an Object Oriented programming language you can program in any style: Procedural, Functional or OOP.

Python allows you to do simple things in a simple way.

Elements of Python

Whitespace counts - indenting - You'd do it anyway so why not use it to define blocks?

Weakly typed - python has no mechanism to declare variables.

Simplified Structures:

Two loop types (foreach and while).

No case, use nested if/elseif

Two built-in sequence types: List and Tuple.

One built-in mapping type: Dictionary

multiple variable assignment