

Text

Running Python Programs

Section 21.5

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Running Python Programs

We'll provide you with an online editor for running Python programs throughout this course, but it's also important to know how you would run these programs on your own.

First, you'll need the Python interpreter, which you can find here: <https://www.python.org/>. Alternatively, Linux users can install Python using their package manager, and a version of Python comes with Mac OS X by default.

You'll notice that there are two versions of Python: Python 2 and Python 3. Which one you use is very important, because there are minor differences which could cause problems. We'll be teaching you Python 2, so make sure you get the correct version of the interpreter. Python 3 is newer than Python 2, but people have been very slow to adopt it because it isn't backwards compatible with Python 2. That means a lot of popular Python libraries aren't available on Python 3, therefore adoption of Python 3 has slowed significantly.

Once you have the interpreter installed, you can open up your command line and run a Python script using:

```
$ python script.py
```

Where `script.py` is the filename of the Python program you want to run. Notice the file extension for Python scripts is '.py'.

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