


Python Kick-off

Requirements

Some people may have qualms about installing software on their machines during the lock-down, especially when 'tech support' is not readily at hand. With that in mind, you have two software options with this Kick-off.

Option 1 is to use an on-line version of Python that requires nothing more than a web-browser to use. It's called Codeskulptor - py3.codeskulptor.org. If you follow that link, click  to test the default code that appears; if you see a 'Welcome' message displayed in the right-hand panel, you're good to go!

Codeskulptor's in-browser version of Python does not support all of the features of a Python installation, but it does support everything that we'll need in this Kick-off.

Option 2 is to install Python locally. To do that (Mac/Windows), go to www.python.org and download it (the latest version is 3.9.0 at the time of writing).

One of the best tutorials on installing Python on either a Mac or a Windows PC is this one - [Installing Python](#). Linux users should follow this guide - [Installing Python on Linux](#)

A Python installation comes complete with a basic text editor called IDLE. You can use that during the workshop, or install an alternative text editor, or even An *Integrated Development Environment* or *IDE*. The IDE I prefer to use is called [PyScripter](#) (Windows). Another good IDE is Microsoft's [Visual Studio Code](#) (Windows, Mac, Linux).

I will mostly be using PyScripter, but will also briefly show how to use Codeskulptor and IDLE. As I have limited experience with other environments, I will not be able to help you if you have problems with any other IDE or editor.

Whatever IDE/editor you have installed, make sure that it runs. You may want to read any basic tutorials on how to use it before the workshop begins. E.g., there is a good tutorial on [setting up VS Code for Python programming on Linked-In Learning](#).

Meet the Teacher

The day before the workshop I will invite you to join me in a group video call – this is just to say Hi and to check that you're ready to go the following day.

Teaching Materials

I will be using PowerPoint during the workshop, and at the end of each of the 1 hour sessions I will provide a link to a .pdf file containing the slides that we covered in the session.

I will also provide a model solution to each of the problems we will be tackling together via a separate link after each session.

Finally

After the workshop, if you have any further questions about Python, please feel free to email me at peet.morris@it.ox.ac.uk