

# Welcome to ... Introduction to programming in Python

Suffolk One, Ipswich, 4:30 to 6:00  
Tuesday Jan 14, Jan 21, Jan 28, Feb 11



## Welcome

- Fire exits
- Toilets
- Refreshments



## Learning objectives of the course

- An introductory course to computer programming and computational thinking using the Python programming language
- Aimed at both primary and secondary teachers
- Assumes no previous knowledge of programming



## Introductions

### Nicky Hughes

- Open University Associate Lecturer in Computing Faculty
- Computer Science Teacher Bury St Edmunds County Upper School
- Involved with writing the Edexcel GCSE Computer Science Specification
- Involved with school robotics (RoboCup international competitions)
- Worked in IT industry (BT) for 10 years
- CAS “Master Teacher”



Please introduce yourself....

What is computational thinking...

- The concept of computation existed before computers ...
- Computation is about solving problems
- The formal study of computation is based on logic and mathematics and is called computer science.
- Computer science focuses on algorithms – a step by step list of instructions that solves a problem

## Algorithms we use in every day life...

- Making a sandwich
- Sorting a pack of cards
- Searching for word in a dictionary
- Adding up a list of numbers

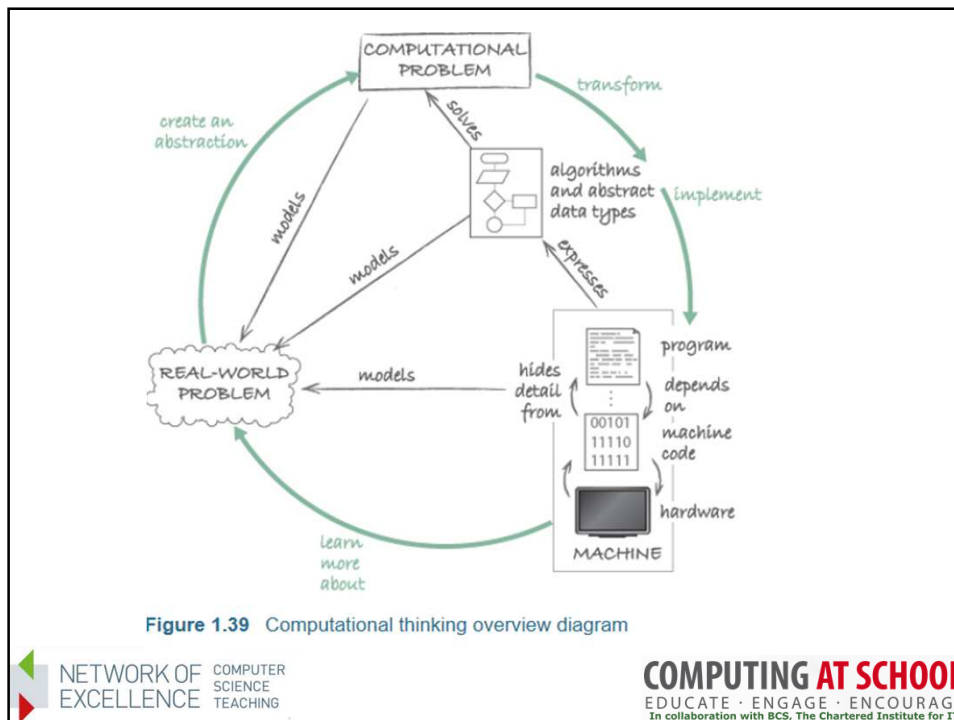


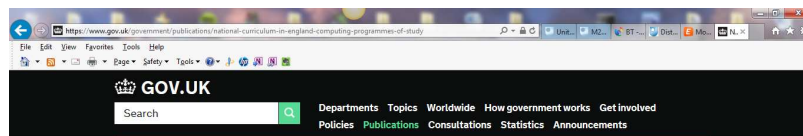
Figure 1.39 Computational thinking overview diagram

Jeanette Wing, Professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon introduced the concept of Computational Thinking

**Computational Thinking** is not just knowing how to use a particular algorithm but when faced with a problem being able to solve that problem using the techniques and skills of computer science...



## National Curriculum 2014: Computing programmes of study



Statutory guidance

### National curriculum in England: computing programmes of study

Organisation: Department for Education  
 Page history: Published 11 September 2013  
 Policy: Reforming qualifications and the curriculum to better prepare pupils for life after school  
 Applies to: England  
 Collections: National curriculum

The national curriculum programmes of study and attainment targets for computing at key stages 1 to 4.



## Aims

The national curriculum for computing aims to ensure that all pupils:

- can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation
- can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems
- can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems
- are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

## Key stage 1

Pupils should be taught to:

- understand what algorithms are, how they are implemented as programs on digital devices, and that programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions
- create and debug simple programs
- use logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs
- use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content
- recognise common uses of information technology beyond school
- use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

## Key stage 2

Pupils should be taught to:

- design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts
- use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output
- use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs
- understand computer networks, including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the World Wide Web, and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration
- use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content
- select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information
- use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact



## Key stage 3

Pupils should be taught to:

- design, use and evaluate computational abstractions that model the state and behaviour of real-world problems and physical systems
- understand several key algorithms that reflect computational thinking [for example, ones for sorting and searching]; use logical reasoning to compare the utility of alternative algorithms for the same problem
- use 2 or more programming languages, at least one of which is textual, to solve a variety of computational problems; make appropriate use of data structures [for example, lists, tables or arrays]; design and develop modular programs that use procedures or functions
- understand simple Boolean logic [for example, AND, OR and NOT] and some of its uses in circuits and programming; understand how numbers can be represented in binary, and be able to carry out simple operations on binary numbers [for example, binary addition, and conversion between binary and decimal]
- understand the hardware and software components that make up computer systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand how instructions are stored and executed within a computer system; understand how data of various types (including text, sounds and pictures) can be represented and manipulated digitally, in the form of binary digits
- undertake creative projects that involve selecting, using, and combining multiple applications, preferably across a range of devices, to achieve challenging goals, including collecting and analysing data and meeting the needs of known users
- create, reuse, revise and repurpose digital artefacts for a given audience, with attention to trustworthiness, design and usability
- understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and







## How to talk about programming

- 1 The problem to solve
- 2 Explain the problem in words
- 3 Explain the problem in “computer science speak”
- 4 Write the program code to solve the problem

As computer scientists we must be able to explain the code.

## Computational thinking – programming building blocks



Data structures (strings, arrays)

Modular programs (Functions)

Operators

Events

Variables

Repetition

Debugging and error detection

Selection

Sequence

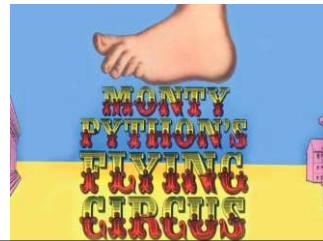
Data representation

Input and output



## Why Python?

- Python was written by Von Rossum
- first version released in 1989 in the Netherlands
- Van Rossum wanted a short name that was mysterious, so he called the language Python..
- Claim that it was named after the TV series “Monty Python Flying Circus”
- There are different versions of Python. We are using Python 3



## Why python?

- Python is **open source** which means it is being continually improved and free for anyone to contribute
- **Easy to use**
- **Powerful language** (programming constructs and data structures)
- Comes with an easy to use **development environments** (IDLE, Komodo)
- Runs on many **different computers and operating systems** eg Raspberry Pi
- **Object oriented** as well as being procedural



## What has been written in python?

- “You Tube” is written in Python
- Games eg Civilisation
- Google teaches all its programmers Python
- Many universities and schools around the world are now teaching Python.



Just a few of the companies that use Python.....

- IBM, Microsoft, NASA, Red Hat, Yahoo, Electronic Arts, 2K Games, Disney Interactive Media Games etc



Section end



## Starting to program in Python

### Learning outcomes

- Be able to run simple program in the interactive mode
- Be able to run programs in the script mode
- Use the print function
- Perform calculations
- Understand data types
- Add comments to your programs
- Use variables
- Use the input function



## Starting to program in Python

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IDLE (Integrated Development Environment)

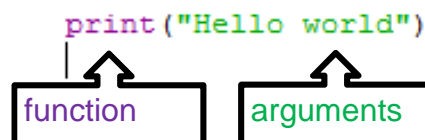
## 2 ways of running programs in IDLE:

- Use the Python interactive shell >>>
- Use the script mode which lets you save the commands in a .py file



Use the Python interactive shell >>>  
to say "hello world" using the print function

```
>>> print("hello world")
hello world
```



## Using the script mode to say “hello world!”

- Use **file/New window** to open a Python window
- Type the commands in the file
- **file/save** and give the file name with type `.py`
- **Run/Run module** will “run” the commands in the file
- Results are displayed in the python shell

The screenshot shows a Python IDE window titled 'm1.py - C:\Python27\m1.py'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'Format', 'Run', 'Options', 'Windows', and 'Help'. The code editor contains the line `print("hello world")`. Below the code, the output 'hello world' is displayed in the Python shell. The bottom of the window features logos for 'NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE' and 'COMPUTING AT SCHOOL'.

## File names in Python

- Only use standard characters for file names: letters, numbers, dash (-) and underscore (\_).
- White space (" ") should not be used at all (use underscores instead).
- Do not use anything other than a letter (particularly no numbers!) at the beginning of a file name.
- Always save the program with the extension `.py`

If your commands are not shown colour coded it is because you have not saved as a `.py` file.

The bottom of the slide features two logos. On the left is the 'NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE' logo, which includes the text 'COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHING'. On the right is the 'COMPUTING AT SCHOOL' logo, which includes the tagline 'EDUCATE · ENGAGE · ENCOURAGE' and the note 'In collaboration with BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT'.

Python is **case sensitive!**

## Using the interactive shell

Separate arguments with commas, this will inserts a space.

```
>>> print("hello", "goodbye")
hello goodbye
```

```
>>> print("hello\nhello\nhello")
hello
hello
hello
>>>
```

```
>>> print("hello" * 10)
hellohellohellohellohellohellohellohellohello
>>> |
```

## Sequences – Have a go in Python

- 1) Print on the screen your name
- 2) Print on the screen (using just one line)  
My name is <your name>  
I live in Suffolk
- 3) Print on the screen  
“hello world hello world hello world”  
“good bye good bye”

## Sequences – Have a go in Python

- 1) Print on the screen your name     `print("Nicky Hughes")`
- 2) Print on the screen  
My name is Fred  
I live in Suffolk  
I love programming!  

```

print("My name is fred")
print("I live in Suffolk")
print("I love programming")
print("My name is fred\n I live in Suffolk \n I love programming")

```
- 3) Print on the screen  
hello world hello world hello world  
good bye good bye     `print("hello world hello world hello world")`  

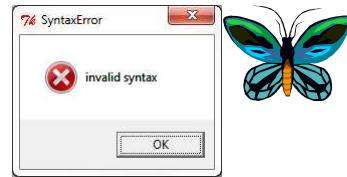
```

print("good bye")
print("hellow world "*5, "good bye " *2)

```



## Detecting and Correcting Errors in Python



- **Syntax errors** occur in Python when you make a mistake entering the language commands – it means that the language you have used does not follow the correct rules.

What is wrong with this command? Experiment with making mistakes.

```
print hello world
```

## Errors in Python appear in red

Look carefully at the error messages they try to tell you what is wrong.

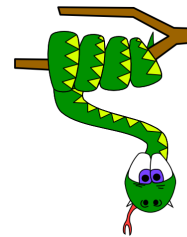
```

>>> prinn(hds)
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#60>", line 1, in <module>
    prinn(hds)
NameError: name 'prinn' is not defined

```

## DEBUGGING ....

It is OK to fail when programming –  
this is how you learn



## Calculations in Python

```
>>> 67 + 9
```

```
76
```

```
>>> 78 - 9
```

```
69
```

```
>>> 4 * 5
```

```
20
```

```
>>> 20 / 8
```

```
2.5
```

+ add

- subtract

/ divide

\* Multiple

\*\* exponential

// integer division

% modulus (remainder after  
division)

Numbers are either integer (int) or "real numbers (float)

Integer are whole numbers eg 8,98, -65

Float numbers are numbers with a fractional part eg 5.2,  
78.455

Dividing one integer by another integer gives a float

Use the interactive shell >>>> to calculate

78 plus 56 ?

89 divided by 6 ?

90 multiplied by 65 ?

76 minus 67 ?

The remainder when 13 is divided by 2 ?

How many times can 21 be divided exactly by 5?



Use the interactive shell >>>> to calculate

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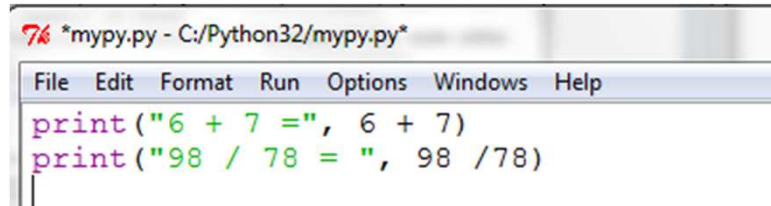
The remainder when 13 is divided by 2 ?

How many times can 21 be divided exactly by 5?

```
>>> 78 + 56
134
>>> 89 / 6
14.833333333333334
>>> 90 * 65
5850
>>> 76 - 67
9
>>> 13%2
1
>>> 21//5
4
```



Run these commands from a .py file  
Use the **print function** to display the answers



```
*mypy.py - C:/Python32/mypy.py*
File Edit Format Run Options Windows Help
print("6 + 7 =", 6 + 7)
print("98 / 78 = ", 98 / 78)
```

Brackets () can be used to control the order in which the calculation occurs.

- The precedence order is:

Brackets, ExpOnential, Division and Multiplication, Addition and Subtraction  
B E D M A S ( or BODMAS)

Experiment at the interactive prompt and explain the answers

```
>>> 6 + 5 / 2
```

```
>>> ( 6 * 5 ) / 2
```

```
>>> 3 + 2 / 2 * 5
```

```
>>> (3+2) / (2 * 5)
```

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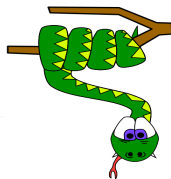
```
>>> 6 + 5 / 2          >>> 6 + 5 / 2
                        8.5
>>> ( 6 * 5) / 2      >>> (6 * 5) / 2
                        15.0

>>> 3 + 2 / 2 * 5      >>> 3 + 2 / 2 * 5
                        8.0
>>> (3+2) / (2 * 5)   >>> (3 + 2) / (2 * 5)
                        0.5
```

## Data types in Python

Every object in Python has a data type which determines what you do with it:

Type	Example
Strings	"this is a string"
Integer number	23
Floating point numbers(real)	5.6
Boolean	True or False



Use the **type** function to display the type the data.

```
>>> type (6)
<class 'int'>
>>> type(65.9)
<class 'float'>
>>> type("string")
<class 'str'>
>>> type(True)
<class 'bool'>
```

Use the interactive shell to explore data types

### Data types

Use the “type” function to find out the data types for these values.

```
>>>type("Fred")
>>>type(198)
>>>type(88.9)
>>>type(True)
>>>type(False)
```

*Hint: Remember that True and False must start with a capital letter.*

## IDLE Colour coding of commands

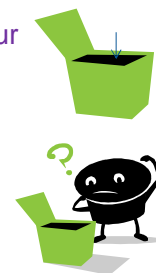
IDLE colour coding	What does it show	Example
green	strings	"hello"
purple	functions	print()
black	variables and data	myName
orange	key commands	if
Dark red	comments	# This is a comment
red	Error messages	NameError: name 'jfkd' is not defined

Python uses colour coding of commands)

## Variables

- Variable are like a box in which you can store things
- You can store values in variables to use them later in your program.
- Give the variables a meaningful **name**
- Values are assigned to variables using the equals sign

```
>>> myName = "Fred"
>>> number = 56
>>> age = 67
```





Experiment with variables at the interactive prompt.

```
>>> myName = "Nicky"
>>> myAge = 21
>>> myCat = "Roofie"
```

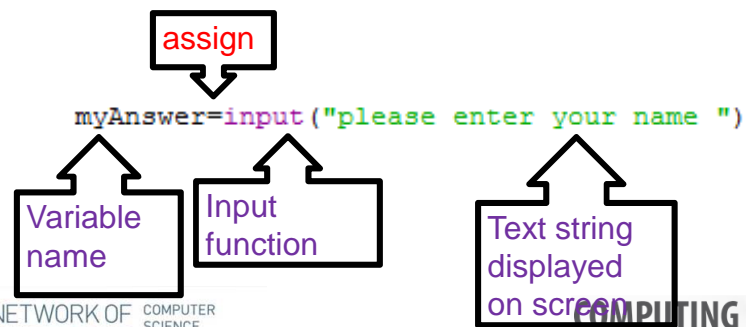
Use the print command to display the value assigned to the variables.

```
>>> print(myName, myAge, myCat)
```

Use the input function to prompt user to enter a value and assign it to a variable

```
myAnswer=input("please enter your name ")
print(myAnswer)
|
```

What does the command do?



Enter this command in the script mode.  
What does this program do?

```
myAnswer=input("please enter your name ")
myAge=input("Please enter you age ")
print("My name is ", myAnswer, " I am", myAge, "years old")
```

The input function expects a string so we have  
to change it into an **integer** using the function  
**int** when entering a number

```
number=int(input("Please enter your first number "))
print(number)
```

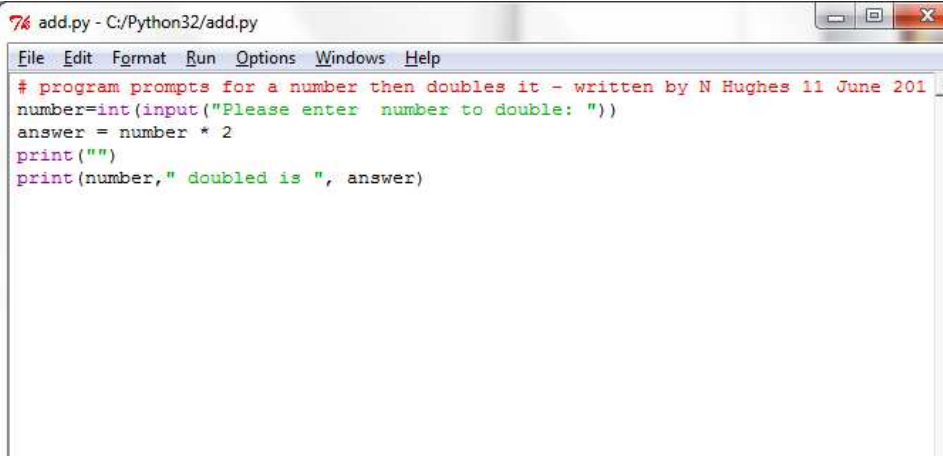
Order of evaluation: inner brackets first

What does this program do? **Have a go** in Python

```
numberOne=int(input("Please enter first number: "))
numberTwo=int(input("Please enter second number: "))
answer = numberOne + numberTwo
print("")
print("the answer is: ", answer)
```

Try it!

Write a program that asks you to enter a number then displays the number doubled.



```
add.py - C:/Python32/add.py
File Edit Format Run Options Windows Help
# program prompts for a number then doubles it - written by N Hughes 11 June 201
number=int(input("Please enter number to double: "))
answer = number * 2
print("")
print(number," doubled is ", answer)
```

## Have a go in Python

Write a program that asks you to enter a number then displays the number doubled.

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## Computational thinking – programming building blocks



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Debugging and error detection

Selection

Sequence

Data representation

Input and output

## Useful resources

<http://www.pythonschool.net/>

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse-2013/computer-science/Pages/default.aspx>

Downloadable scheme of work to teach Python (Year 10)