

Python Reference Manual

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ABSTRACT

Python is a simple, yet powerful, interpreted programming language that bridges the gap between C and shell programming, and is thus ideally suited for “throw-away programming” and rapid prototyping. Its syntax is put together from constructs borrowed from a variety of other languages; most prominent are influences from ABC, C, Modula-3 and Icon.

The Python interpreter is easily extended with new functions and data types implemented in C. Python is also suitable as an extension language for highly customizable C applications such as editors or window managers.

Python is available for various systems, amongst which most common flavors of UNIX (including Linux), the Apple Macintosh, MS-DOS, MS-Windows 3.1(1), Windows 95, Windows NT, and OS/2.

This reference manual describes the syntax and “core semantics” of the language. It is terse, but attempts to be exact and complete. The semantics of non-essential built-in object types and of the built-in functions and modules are described in the Python Library Reference. For an informal introduction to the language, see the Python Tutorial.

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