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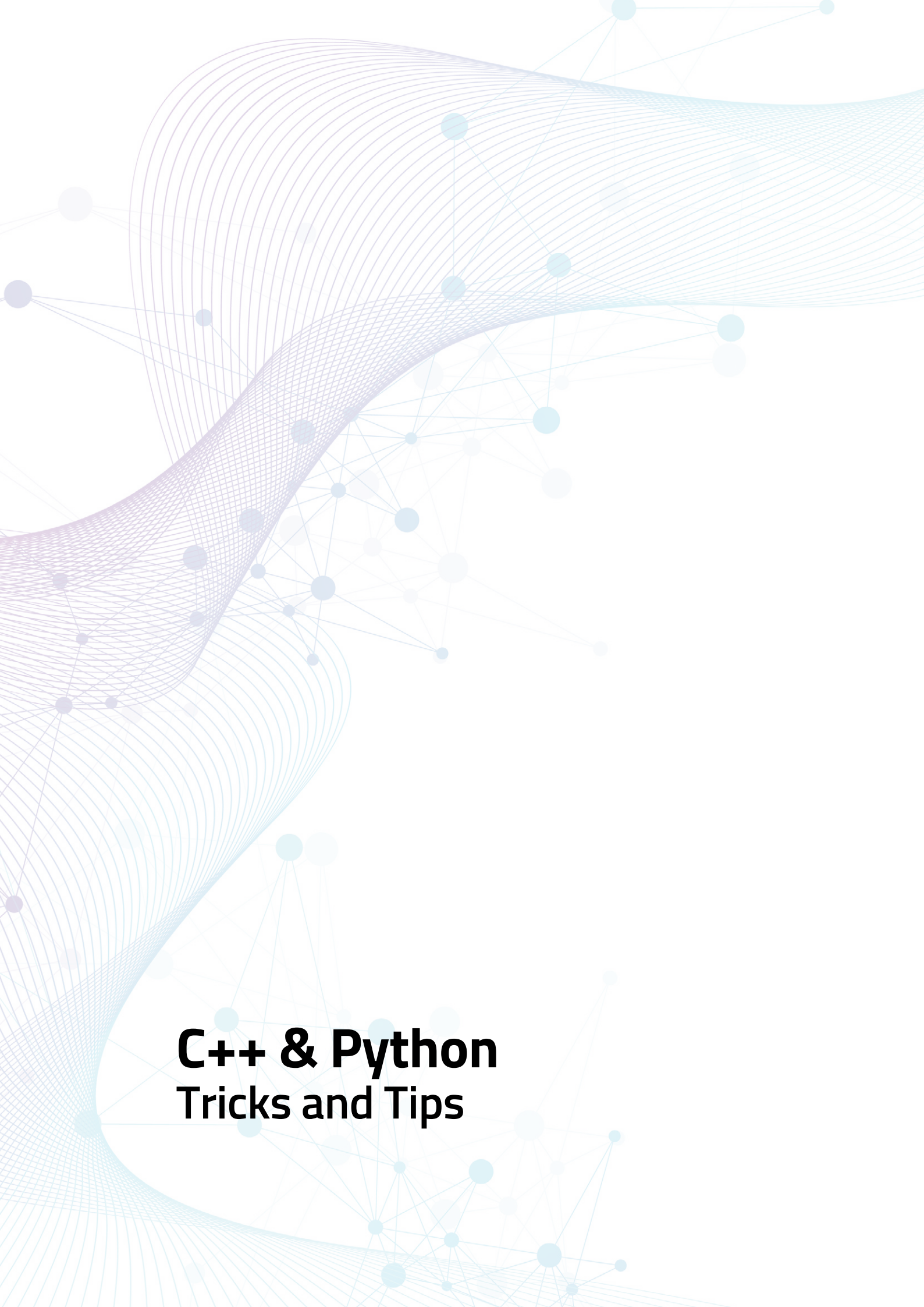


C++ & Python
Tricks and Tips

Python & C++ Tricks and Tips
ISBN: 978-1-912847-54-9

Foreword

Welcome back...

Having completed our exclusive For Beginners digital guidebook, we have taught you all you need to master the basics of your new device, software or hobby. Yet that's just the start!

Advancing your skill set is the goal of all users of consumer technology and our team of long term industry experts will help you achieve exactly that. Over this extensive series of titles we will be looking in greater depth at how you make the absolute most from the latest consumer electronics, software, hobbies and trends!

We will guide you step-by-step through using all the advanced aspects of the technology that you may have been previously apprehensive at attempting. Let our expert guide help you build your understanding of technology and gain the skills to take you from a confident user to an experienced expert.

Over the page our journey continues and we will be with you at every stage to advise, inform and ultimately inspire you to go further.

About the Publisher

From its humble beginnings in 2004, the BDM brand has quickly grown from a single publication produced by a team of just two to one of the biggest names in global tech print and digital publishing, for one simple reason. Our passion and commitment to deliver the very best product to the marketplace.

While the company has grown with a portfolio of over 500 publications crafted by our international staff of respected industry veterans, the foundation that it has been built upon remains the same. That being to create the best quality, fully independent, user friendly and, most essentially, 100% up-to-date content possible.

Delivering not only market leading publications but also piece of mind to our readers, so that they have the very best foundation to build their knowledge, confidence and understanding of their new software and hardware. Our regular readers trust BDM, as should you.

How to use this book

This book has been designed for you to progress through the coreconcepts and fundamentals of use, through to more advanced elements, projects, and ideas. There's something for every style of reader, and for every type of user; there's probably even a few terrible jokes dotted within the pages. So here's how to get the best from it.

Step 1

Don't skip - While it's fun to see what's coming up later in the book, it does make understanding what you're reading more difficult. After all, you wouldn't start reading a book on speaking French, then skip further in without first learning proper grammar, sentence structure and so on. The same applies here. Take your first read-through page by-page, once you've mastered the book, then you can return to key concepts whenever you need.

Step 2

Ever-Changing - While every effort has been made to ensure that this book is up to date, there's no knowing what updates may occur over time. While some companies do offer an accurate roadmap of their future development of a product, it's not always written in stone. For example, an app available for Windows 10 now may not be available with the next update of the operating system. It's up to Microsoft to decide whether they want to drop it for one reason or another. The same, to some extent, applies here. However, we continually update the content in this title, so it's as accurate as possible.

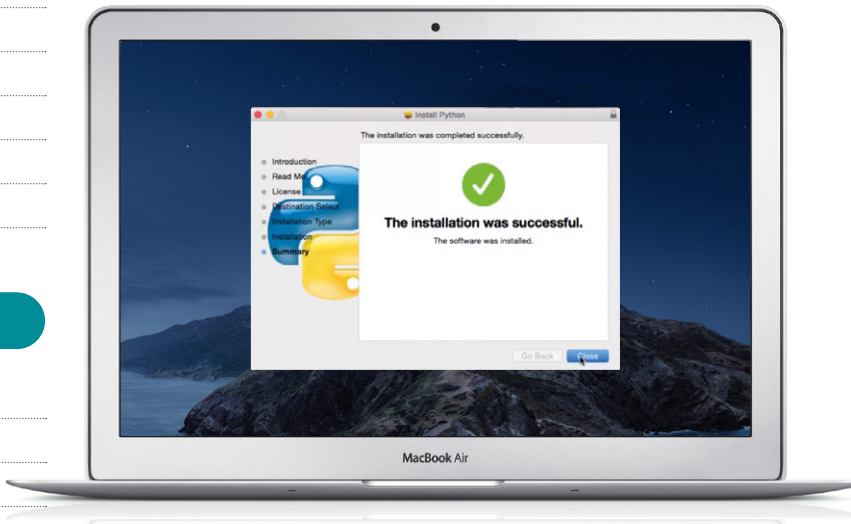
Step 3

Follow the Steps - An obvious one, this. Following the steps from one onwards, in most tutorials in this book, will ensure that you get the result that's intended. If you skip steps, then you may miss out on something important, and not understand how it works later in the book. The temptation to skip something you already know is often too much, but stick with the logical progression of the steps and you'll get the most from what's on offer.

Step 4

Have Fun - Learning a new skill is supposed to be fun. We had fun writing the book, and hopefully you'll have fun reading it and applying new skills. Everyone learns at a different pace, so take your time, digest the tutorials, and keep returning to key concepts if you feel the need to master any element within these pages. The content in this book isn't something we're going to be testing you on, so have fun and enjoy the art of learning something new. And if you create something amazing after reading this book, then let us know.

Contents

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"...We've taken two of the most powerful and versatile programming languages available, Python and C++ and broken them down into bite-sized tutorials and guides to help you learn how they work, and how to make them work for you..."

Working with Data

Data is everything. With it you can display, control, add, remove, create and manipulate Python to your every demand. Over these coming pages we look at how you can create lists, tuples, dictionaries and multi-dimensional lists; and see how to use them to forge exciting and useful programs.

Then, you can learn how to use date and time functions, write to files in your system and even create graphical user interfaces that take your coding skills to new levels and into new project ideas.

Lists

Lists are one of the most common types of data structures you will comes across in Python. A list is simply a collection of items, or data if you prefer, that can be accessed as a whole, or individually if wanted.

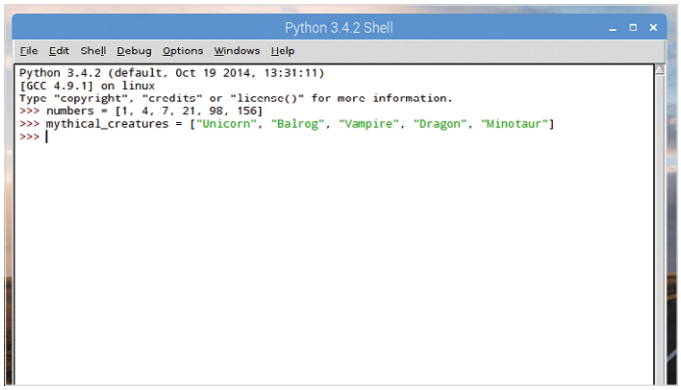
WORKING WITH LISTS

Lists are extremely handy in Python. A list can be strings, integers and also variables. You can even include functions in lists, and lists within lists.

STEP 1

A list is a sequence of data values called items. You create the name of your list followed by an equals sign, then square brackets and the items separated by commas; note that strings use quotes:

```
numbers = [1, 4, 7, 21, 98, 156]
mythical_creatures – [“Unicorn”, “Balrog”, “Vampire”, “Dragon”, “Minotaur”]
```



STEP 2

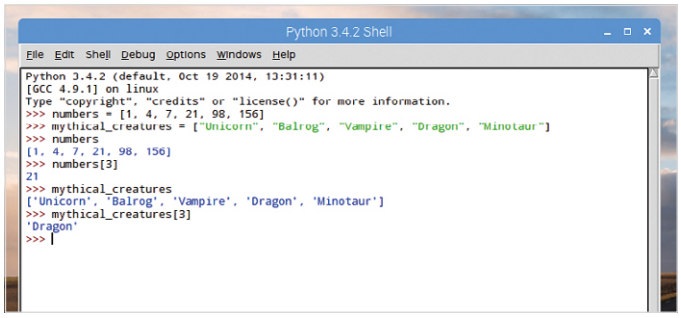
Once you’ve defined your list you can call each by referencing its name, followed by a number. Lists start the first item entry as 0, followed by 1, 2, 3 and so on. For example:

```
numbers
```

To call up the entire contents of the list.

```
numbers[3]
```

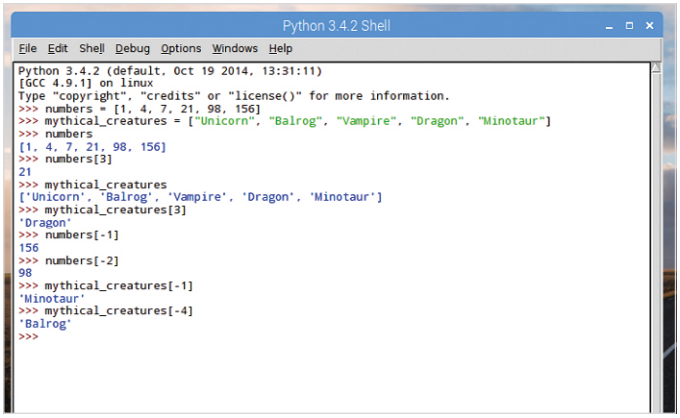
To call the third from zero item in the list (21 in this case).



STEP 3

You can also access, or index, the last item in a list by using the minus sign before the item number [-1], or the second to last item with [-2] and so on. Trying to reference an item that isn’t in the list, such as [10] will return an error:

```
numbers[-1]
mythical_creatures[-4]
```

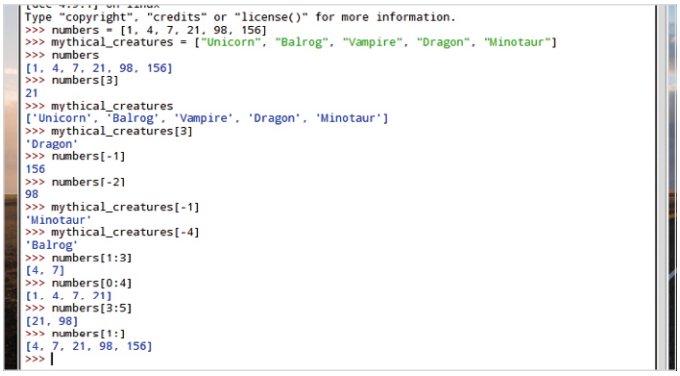


STEP 4

Slicing is similar to indexing but you can retrieve multiple items in a list by separating item numbers with a colon. For example:

```
numbers[1:3]
```

Will output the 4 and 7, being item numbers 1 and 2. Note that the returned values don’t include the second index position (as you would numbers[1:3] to return 4, 7 and 21).

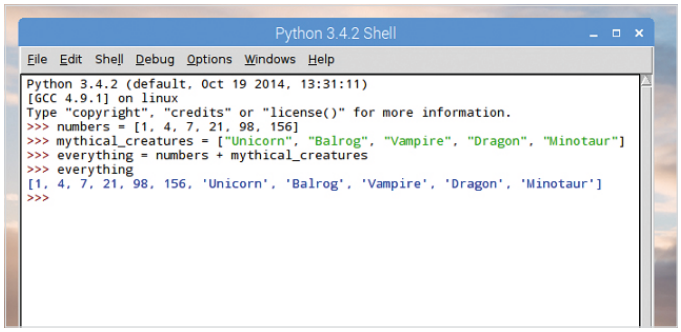


STEP 5 You can update items within an existing list, remove items and even join lists together. For example, to join two lists you can use:

```
everything = numbers + mythical_creatures
```

Then view the combined list with:

```
everything
```



STEP 6 Items can be added to a list by entering:

```
numbers=numbers+[201]
```

Or for strings:

```
mythical_creatres=mythical_creatures+["Griffin"]
```

Or by using the append function:

```
mythical_creatures.append("Nessie")
numbers.append(278)
```

STEP 7 Removal of items can be done in two ways. The first is by the item number:

```
del numbers[7]
```

Alternatively, by item name:

```
mythical_creatures.remove("Nessie")
```

STEP 8 You can view what can be done with lists by entering dir(list) into the Shell. The output is the available functions, for example, insert and pop are used to add and remove items at certain positions. To insert the number 62 at item index 4:

```
numbers.insert(4, 62)
```

To remove it:

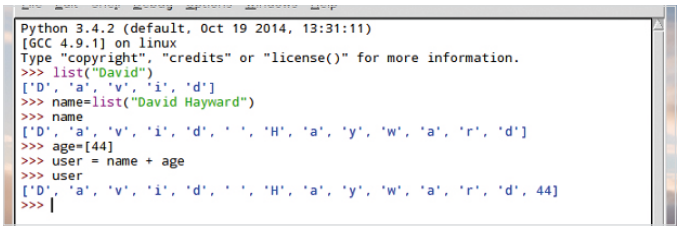
```
numbers.pop(4)
```

STEP 9 You also use the list function to break a string down into its components. For example:

```
list("David")
```

Breaks the name David into 'D', 'a', 'v', 'i', 'd'. This can then be passed to a new list:

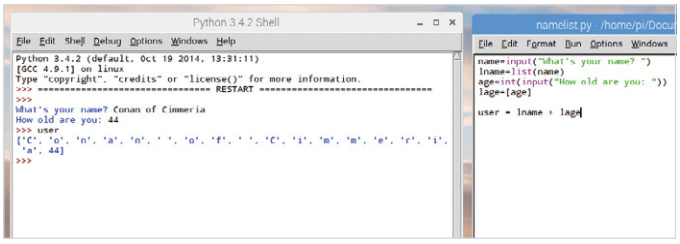
```
name=list("David Hayward")
name
age=[44]
user = name + age
user
```



STEP 10 Based on that, you can create a program to store someone's name and age as a list:

```
name=input("What's your name? ")
lname=list(name)
age=int(input("How old are you: "))
lage=[age]

user = lname + lage
```

The combined name and age list is called user, which can be called by entering user into the Shell. Experiment and see what you can do.



Tuples

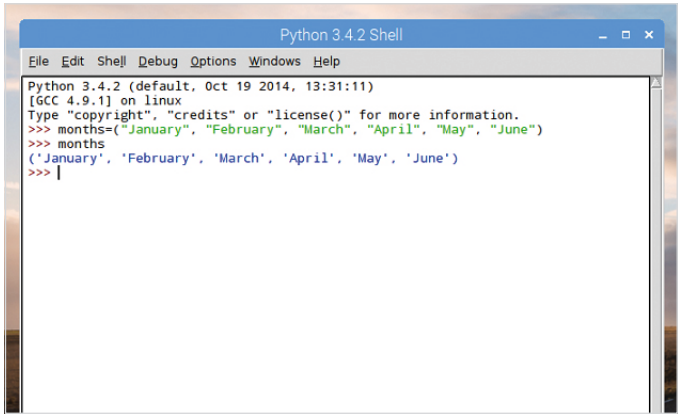
Tuples are very much identical to lists. However, where lists can be updated, deleted or changed in some way, a tuple remains a constant. This is called immutable and they're perfect for storing fixed data items.

THE IMMUTABLE TUPLE

Reasons for having tuples vary depending on what the program is intended to do. Normally, a tuple is reserved for something special but they're also used for example, in an adventure game, where non-playing character names are stored.

STEP 1 A tuple is created the same way as a list but in this instance you use curved brackets instead of square brackets. For example:

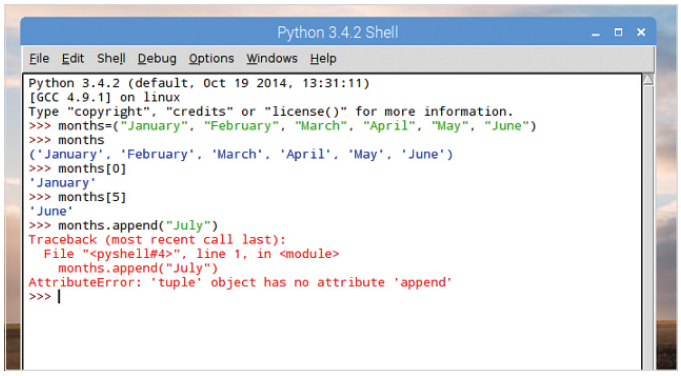
```
months=("January", "February", "March", "April", "May", "June")
months
```



STEP 2 Just as with lists, the items within a named tuple can be indexed according to their position in the data range, i.e.:

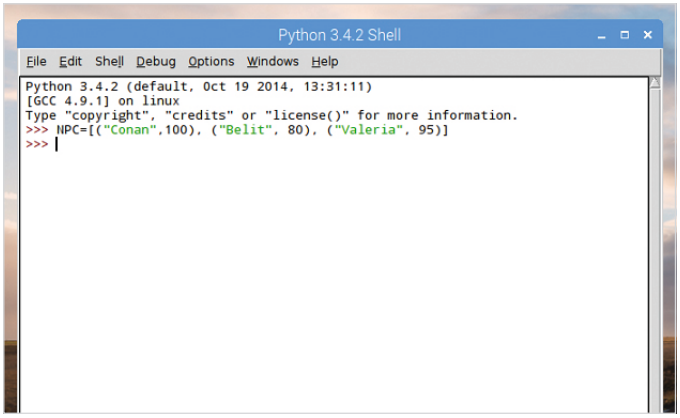
```
months[0]
months[5]
```

However, any attempt at deleting or adding to the tuple will result in an error in the Shell.



STEP 3 You can create grouped tuples into lists that contain multiple sets of data. For instance, here is a tuple called NPC (Non-Playable Characters) containing the character name and their combat rating for an adventure game:

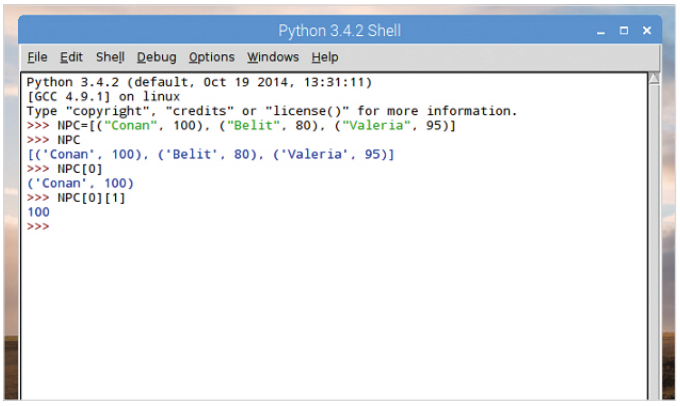
```
NPC=[("Conan", 100), ("Belit", 80), ("Valeria", 95)]
```



STEP 4 Each of these data items can be accessed as a whole by entering NPC into the Shell; or they can be indexed according to their position NPC[0]. You can also index the individual tuples within the NPC list:

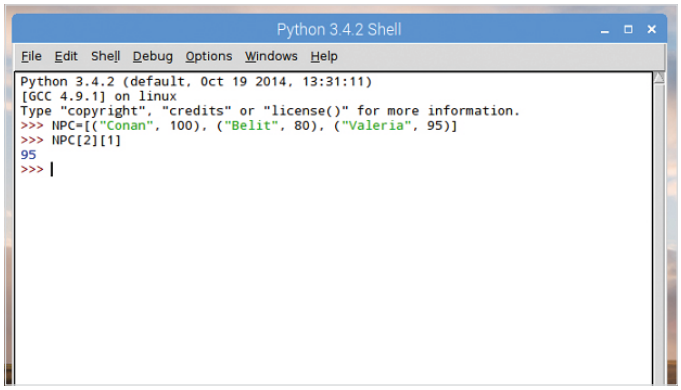
```
NPC[0][1]
```

Will display 100.



STEP 5 It's worth noting that when referencing multiple tuples within a list, the indexing is slightly different from the norm. You would expect the 95 combat rating of the character Valeria to be NPC[4][5], but it's not. It's actually:

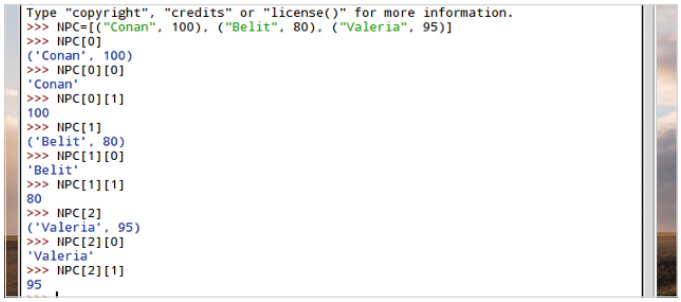
```
NPC[2][1]
```



STEP 6 This means of course that the indexing follows thus:

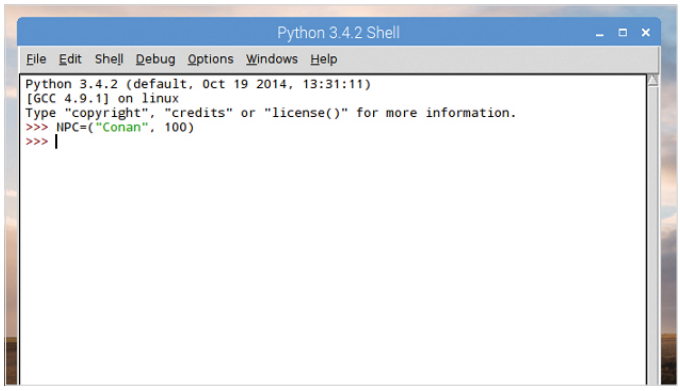
```
0                1, 1
0, 0             2
0, 1             2, 0
1                2,1
1, 0
```

Which as you can imagine, gets a little confusing when you've got a lot of tuple data to deal with.



STEP 7 Tuples though utilise a feature called unpacking, where the data items stored within a tuple are assigned variables. First create the tuple with two items (name and combat rating):

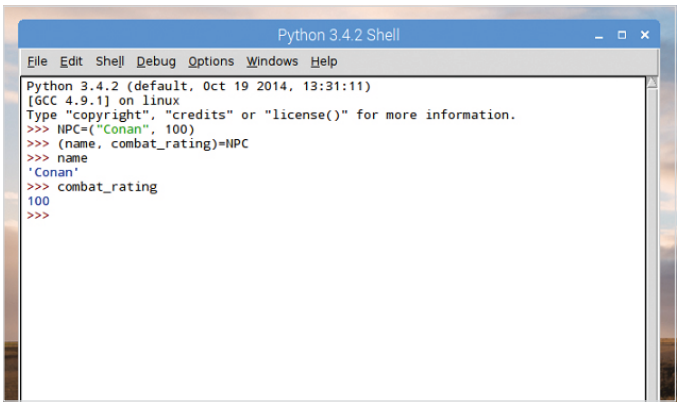
```
NPC=("Conan", 100)
```



STEP 8 Now unpack the tuple into two corresponding variables:

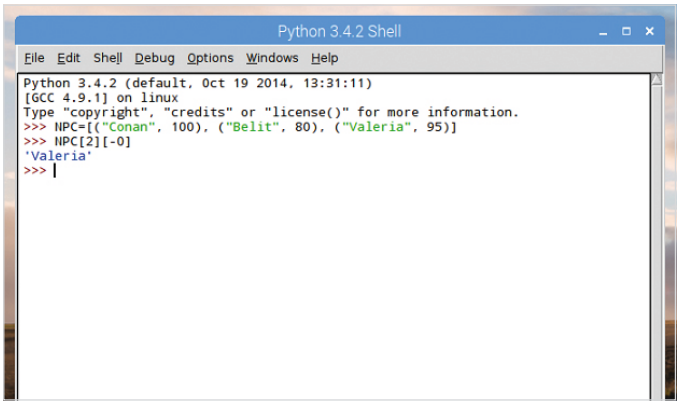
```
(name, combat_rating)=NPC
```

You can now check the values by entering name and combat_rating.



STEP 9 Remember, as with lists, you can also index tuples using negative numbers which count backwards from the end of the data list. For our example, using the tuple with multiple data items, you would reference the Valeria character with:

```
NPC[2][-0]
```

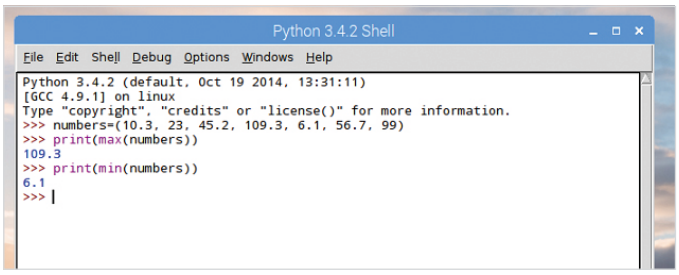


STEP 10 You can use the max and min functions to find the highest and lowest values of a tuple composed of numbers. For example:

```
numbers=(10.3, 23, 45.2, 109.3, 6.1, 56.7, 99)
```

The numbers can be integers and floats. To output the highest and lowest, use:

```
print(max(numbers))
print(min(numbers))
```



Dictionaries

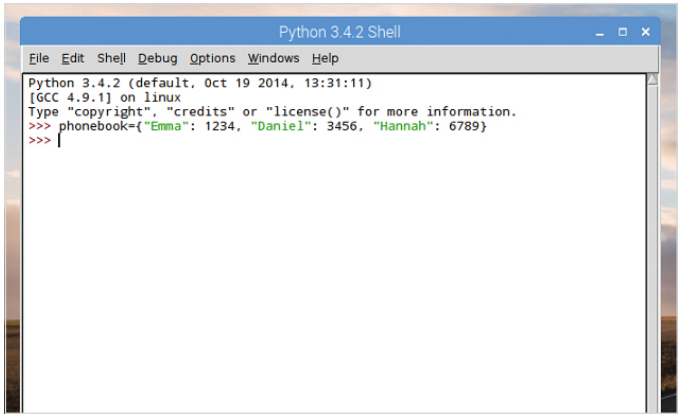
Lists are extremely useful but dictionaries in Python are by far the more technical way of dealing with data items. They can be tricky to get to grips with at first but you'll soon be able to apply them to your own code.

KEY PAIRS

A dictionary is like a list but instead each data item comes as a pair, these are known as Key and Value. The Key part must be unique and can either be a number or string whereas the Value can be any data item you like.

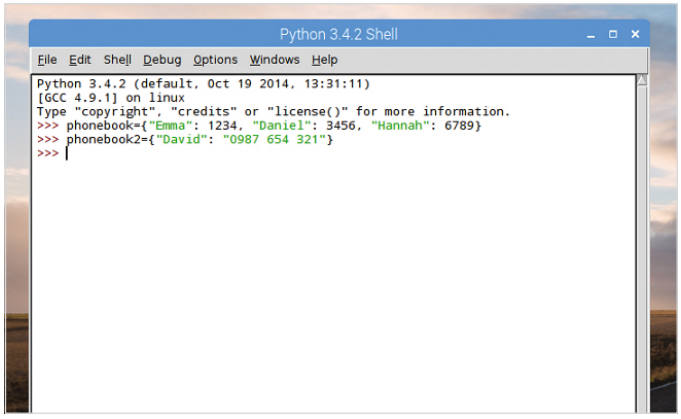
STEP 1 Let's say you want to create a phonebook in Python. You would create the dictionary name and enter the data in curly brackets, separating the key and value by a colon `Key:Value`. For example:

```
phonebook={"Emma": 1234, "Daniel": 3456, "Hannah": 6789}
```

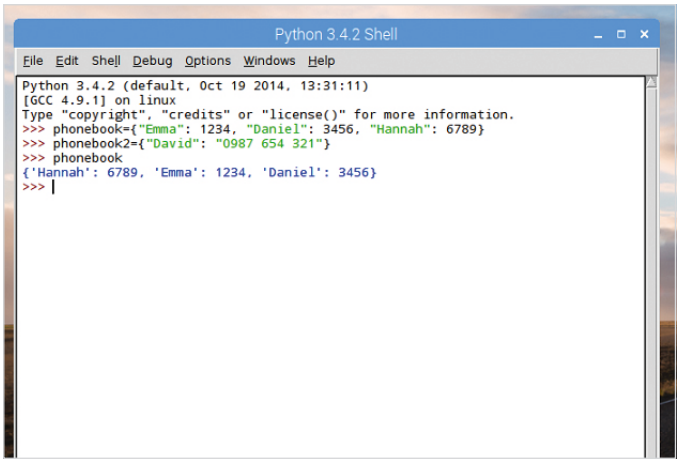


STEP 2 Just as with most lists, tuples and so on, strings need be enclosed in quotes (single or double), whilst integers can be left open. Remember that the value can be either a string or an integer, you just need to enclose the relevant one in quotes:

```
phonebook2={"David": "0987 654 321"}
```

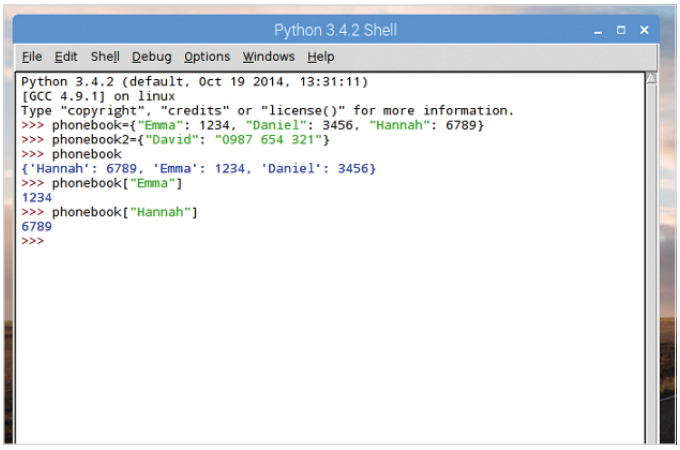


STEP 3 As with lists and tuples, you can check the contents of a dictionary by giving the dictionary a name: phonebook, in this example. This will display the data items you've entered in a similar fashion to a list, which you're no doubt familiar with by now.



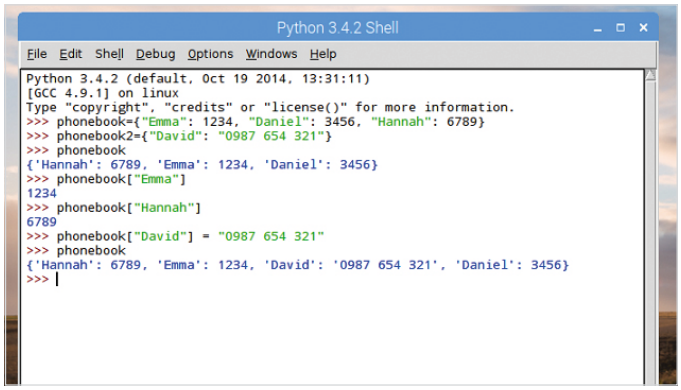
STEP 4 The benefit of using a dictionary is that you can enter the key to index the value. Using the phonebook example from the previous steps, you can enter:

```
phonebook["Emma"]
phonebook["Hannah"]
```



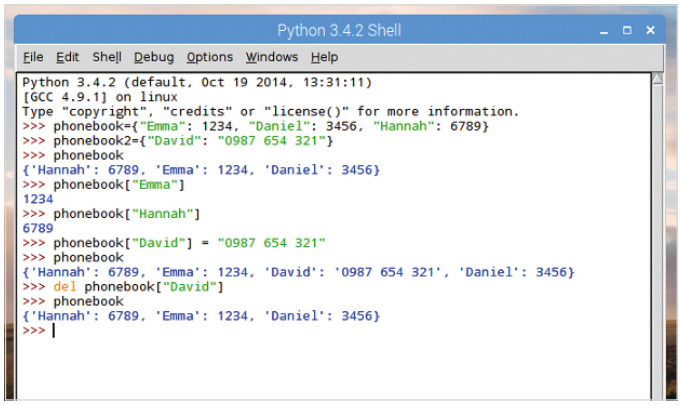
STEP 5 Adding to a dictionary is easy too. You can include a new data item entry by adding the new key and value items like:

```
phonebook["David"] = "0987 654 321"
phonebook
```



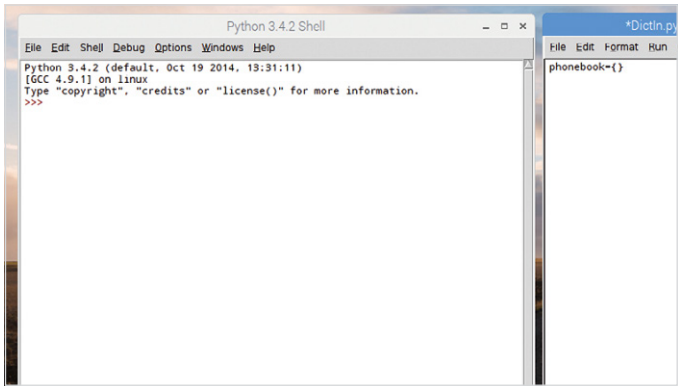
STEP 6 You can also remove items from a dictionary by issuing the del command followed by the item's key; the value will be removed as well, since both work as a pair of data items:

```
del phonebook["David"]
```



STEP 7 Taking this a step further, how about creating a piece of code that will ask the user for the dictionary key and value items? Create a new Editor instance and start by coding in a new, blank dictionary:

```
phonebook={}
```



STEP 8 Next, you need to define the user inputs and variables: one for the person's name, the other for their phone number (let's keep it simple to avoid lengthy Python code):

```
name=input("Enter name: ")
number=int(input("Enter phone number: "))
```

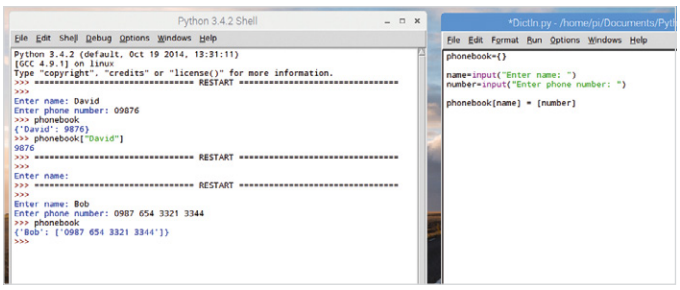
STEP 9 Note we've kept the number as an integer instead of a string, even though the value can be both an integer or a string. Now you need to add the user's inputted variables to the newly created blank dictionary. Using the same process as in Step 5, you can enter:

```
phonebook[name] = number
```

STEP 10 Now when you save and execute the code, Python will ask for a name and a number. It will then insert those entries into the phonebook dictionary, which you can test by entering into the Shell:

```
phonebook
phonebook["David"]
```

If the number needs to contain spaces you need to make it a string, so remove the int part of the input.



Splitting and Joining Strings

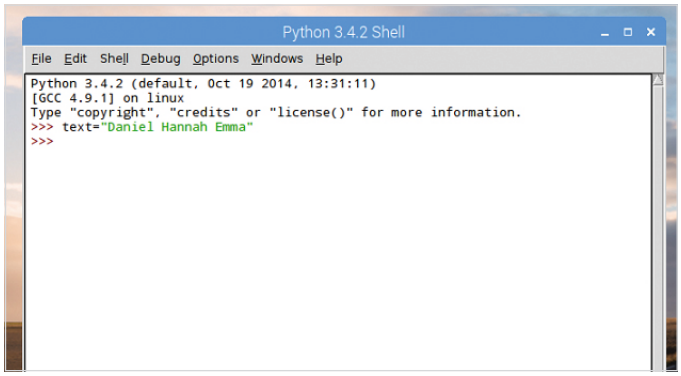
When dealing with data in Python, especially from a user's input, you will undoubtedly come across long sets of strings. A useful skill to learn in Python programming is being able to split those long strings for better readability.

STRING THEORIES

You've already looked at some list functions, using .insert, .remove, and .pop but there are also functions that can be applied to strings.

STEP 1 The main tool in the string function arsenal is .split(). With it you're able to split apart a string of data, based on the argument within the brackets. For example, here's a string with three items, each separated by a space:

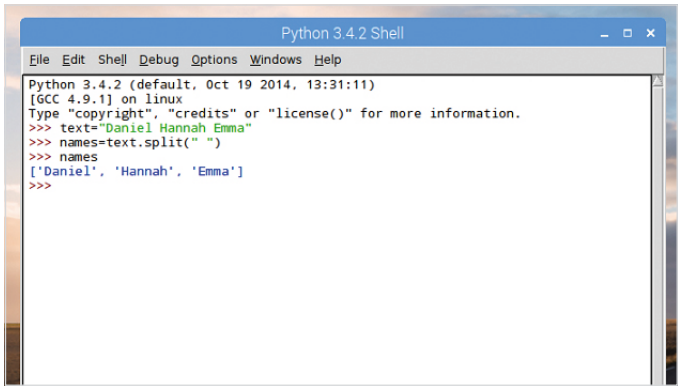
```
text="Daniel Hannah Emma"
```



STEP 2 Now let's turn the string into a list and split the content accordingly:

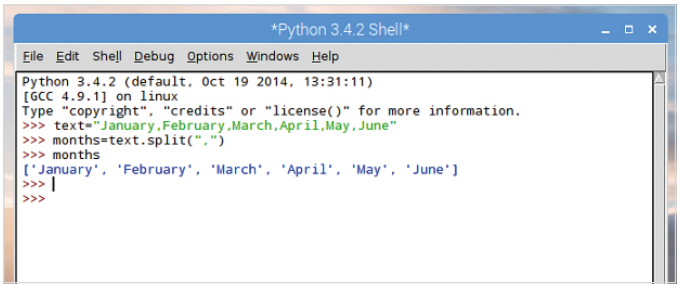
```
names=text.split(" ")
```

Then enter the name of the new list, names, to see the three items.



STEP 3 Note that the text.split part has the brackets, quotes, then a space followed by closing quotes and brackets. The space is the separator, indicating that each list item entry is separated by a space. Likewise, CSV (Comma Separated Value) content has a comma, so you'd use:

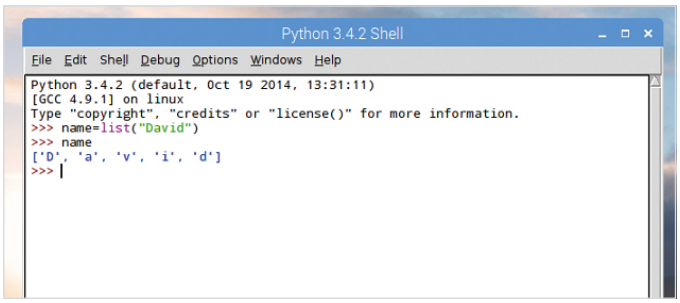
```
text="January,February,March,April,May,June"
months=text.split(",")
months
```



STEP 4 You've previously seen how you can split a string into individual letters as a list, using a name:

```
name=list("David")
name
```

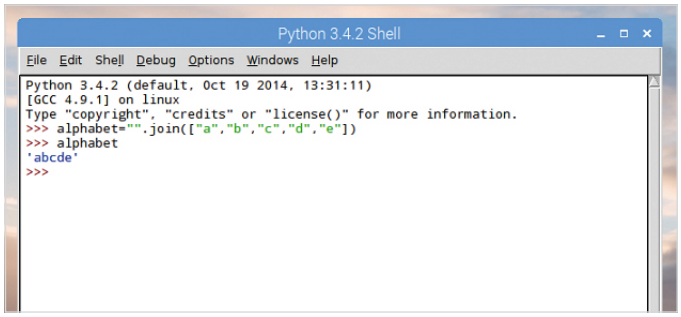
The returned value is 'D', 'a', 'v', 'i', 'd'. Whilst it may seem a little useless under ordinary circumstances, it could be handy for creating a spelling game for example.



STEP 5 The opposite of the .split function is .join, where you will have separate items in a string and can join them all together to form a word or just a combination of items, depending on the program you're writing. For instance:

```
alphabet="".join(["a","b","c","d","e"])
alphabet
```

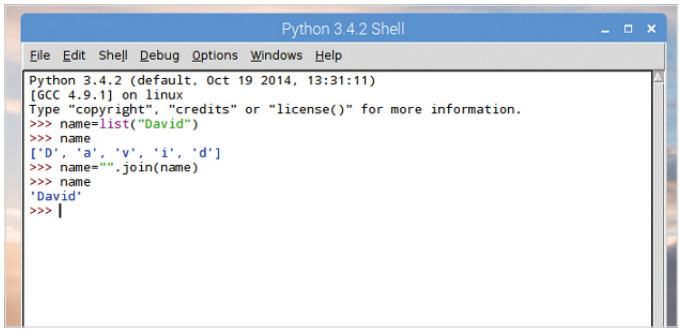
This will display 'abcde' in the Shell.



STEP 6 You can therefore apply .join to the separated name you made in Step 4, combining the letters again to form the name:

```
name="".join(name)
name
```

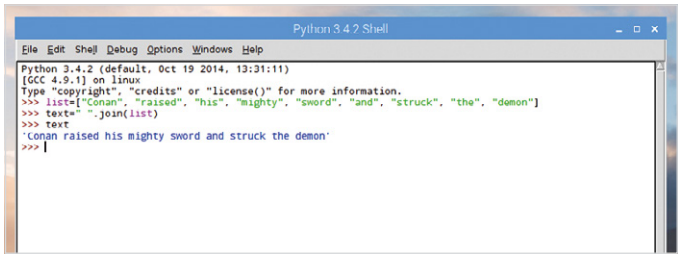
We've joined the string back together, and retained the list called name, passing it through the .join function.



STEP 7 A good example of using the .join function is when you have a list of words you want to combine into a sentence:

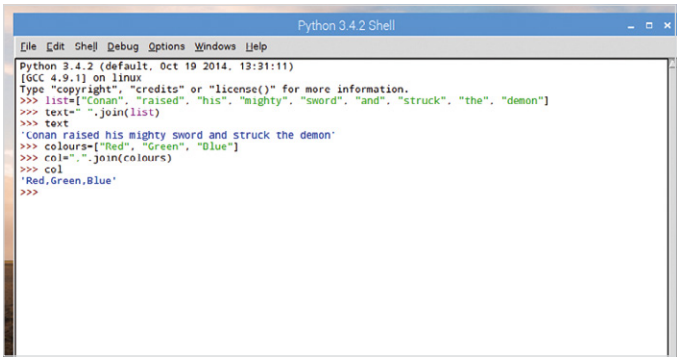
```
list=["Conan", "raised", "his", "mighty", "sword",
"and", "struck", "the", "demon"]
text=" ".join(list)
text
```

Note the space between the quotes before the .join function (where there were no spaces in the Step 6's join)



STEP 8 As with the .split function, the separator doesn't have to be a space, it can also be a comma, a full stop, a hyphen or whatever you like:

```
colours=["Red", "Green", "Blue"]
col=",".join(colours)
col
```

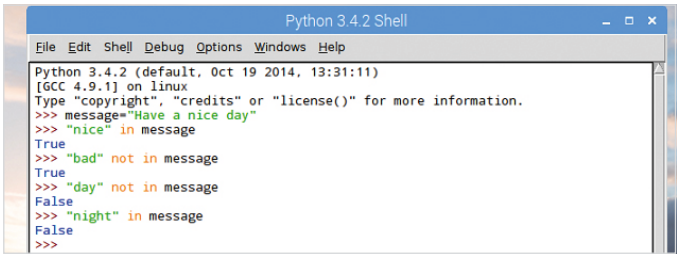


STEP 9 There's some interesting functions you apply to a string, such as .capitalize and .title. For example:

```
title="conan the cimmerian"
title.capitalize()
title.title()
```

STEP 10 You can also use logic operators on strings, with the 'in' and 'not in' functions. These enable you to check if a string contains (or does not contain) a sequence of characters:

```
message="Have a nice day"
"nice" in message

"bad" not in message
"day" not in message
"night" in message
```



Formatting Strings

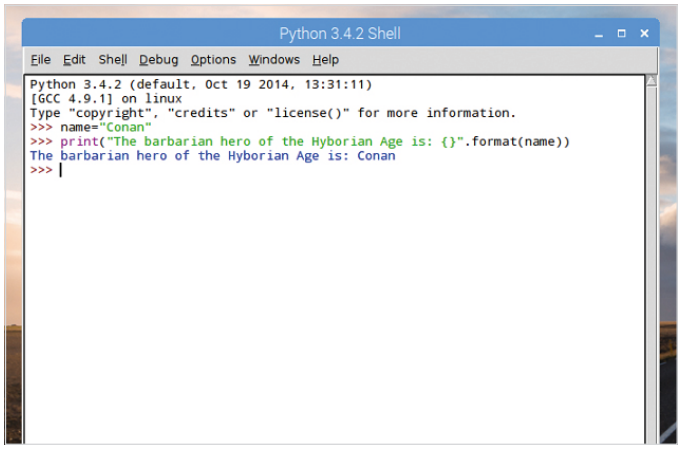
When you work with data, creating lists, dictionaries and objects you may often want to print out the results. Merging strings with data is easy especially with Python 3, as earlier versions of Python tended to complicate matters.

STRING FORMATTING

Since Python 3, string formatting has become a much neater process, using the .format function combined with curly brackets. It's a more logical and better formed approach than previous versions.

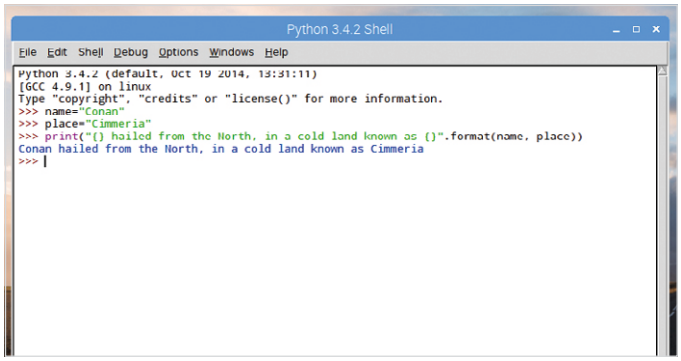
STEP 1 The basic formatting in Python is to call each variable into the string using the curly brackets:

```
name="Conan"
print("The barbarian hero of the Hyborian Age is: {}".format(name))
```



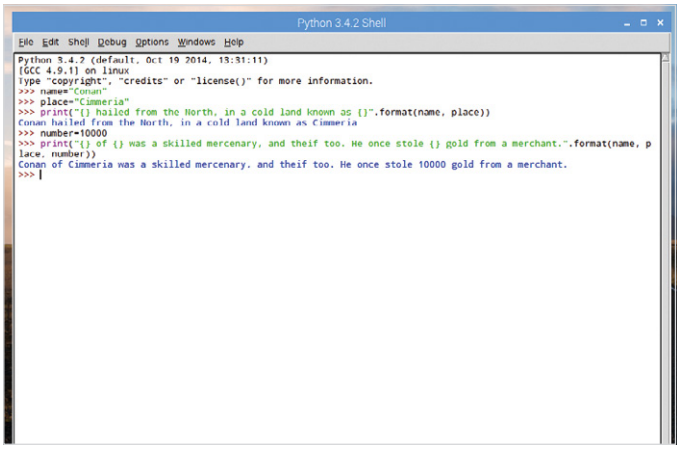
STEP 2 Remember to close the print function with two sets of brackets, as you've encased the variable in one, and the print function in another. You can include multiple cases of string formatting in a single print function:

```
name="Conan"
place="Cimmeria"
print("{} hailed from the North, in a cold land known as {}".format(name, place))
```

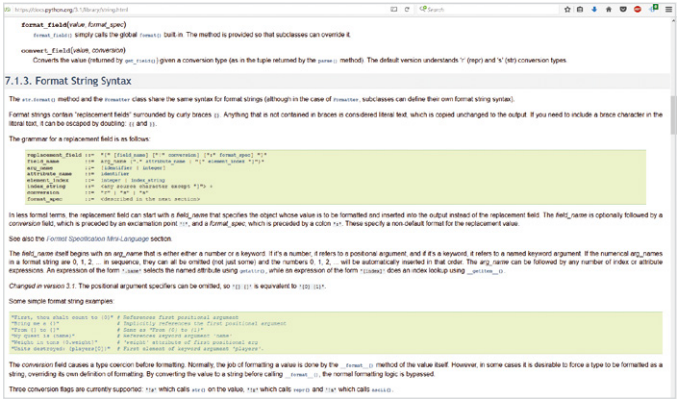


STEP 3 You can of course also include integers into the mix:

```
number=10000
print("{} of {} was a skilled mercenary, and thief too. He once stole {} gold from a merchant.".format(name, place, number))
```

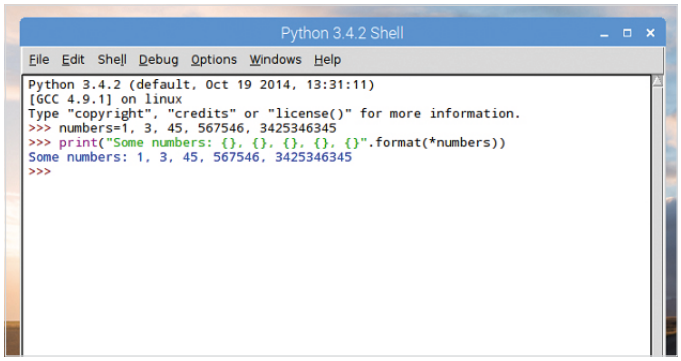


STEP 4 There are many different ways to apply string formatting, some are quite simple, as we've shown you here; others can be significantly more complex. It all depends on what you want from your program. A good place to reference frequently regarding string formatting is the Python Docs webpage, found at **www.docs.python.org/3.1/library/string.html**. Here, you will find tons of help.



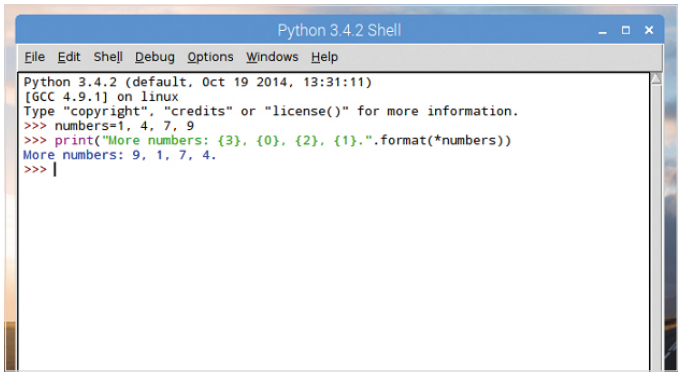
STEP 5 Interestingly you can reference a list using the string formatting function. You need to place an asterisk in front of the list name:

```
numbers=1, 3, 45, 567546, 3425346345
print("Some numbers: {}, {}, {}, {}, {}".
format(*numbers))
```



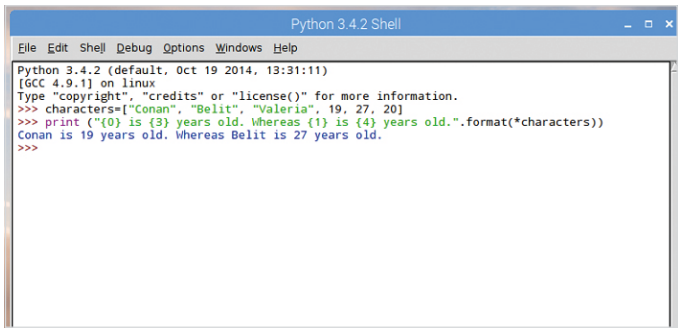
STEP 6 With indexing in lists, the same applies to calling a list using string formatting. You can index each item according to its position (from 0 to however many are present):

```
numbers=1, 4, 7, 9
print("More numbers: {3}, {0}, {2},
{1}.".format(*numbers))
```



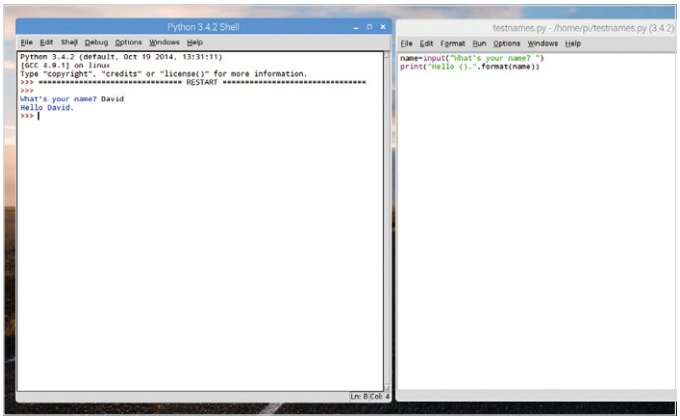
STEP 7 And as you probably suspect, you can mix strings and integers in a single list to be called in the .format function:

```
characters=["Conan", "Belit", "Valeria", 19, 27,
20]
print ("{0} is {3} years old. Whereas {1} is {4}
years old.".format(*characters))
```



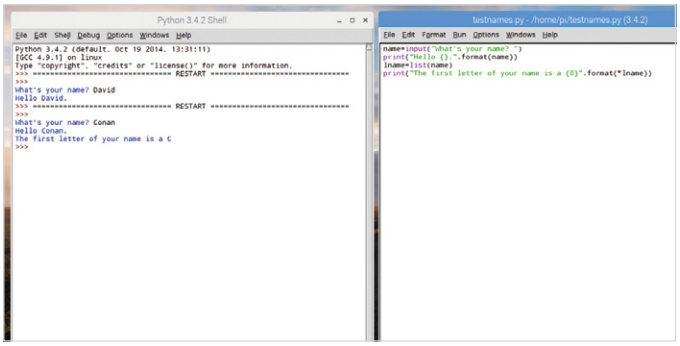
STEP 8 You can also print out the content of a user's input in the same fashion:

```
name=input("What's your name? ")
print("Hello {}.".format(name)
```



STEP 9 You can extend this simple code example to display the first letter in a person's entered name:

```
name=input("What's your name? ")
print("Hello {}.".format(name))
lname=list(name)
print("The first letter of your name is a {0}".
format(*lname))
```

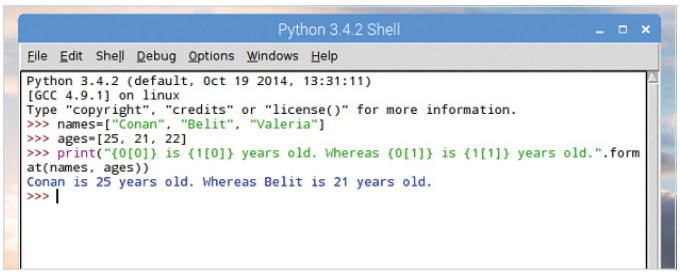


STEP 10 You can also call upon a pair of lists and reference them individually within the same print function. Looking back the code from Step 7, you can alter it with:

```
names=["Conan", "Belit", "Valeria"]
ages=[25, 21, 22]
```

Creating two lists. Now you can call each list, and individual items:

```
print("{0[0]} is {1[0]} years old. Whereas {0[1]}
is {1[1]} years old.".format(names, ages))
```



Date and Time

When working with data it's often handy to have access to the time. For example, you may want to time-stamp an entry or see at what time a user logged into the system and for how long. Luckily acquiring the date and time is easy, thanks to the Time module.

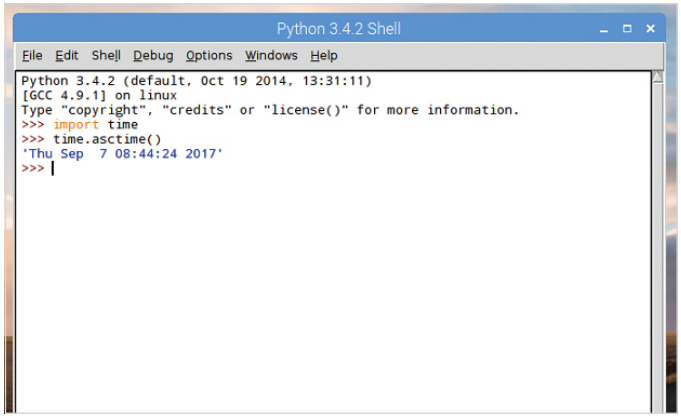
TIME LORDS

The time module contains functions that help you retrieve the current system time, reads the date from strings, formats the time and date and much more.

STEP 1

First you need to import the time module. It's one that's built-in to Python 3 so you shouldn't need to drop into a command prompt and pip install it. Once it's imported, you can call the current time and date with a simple command:

```
import time
time.asctime()
```



STEP 2

The time function is split into nine tuples, these are divided up into indexed items, as with any other tuple, and shown in the screen shot below.

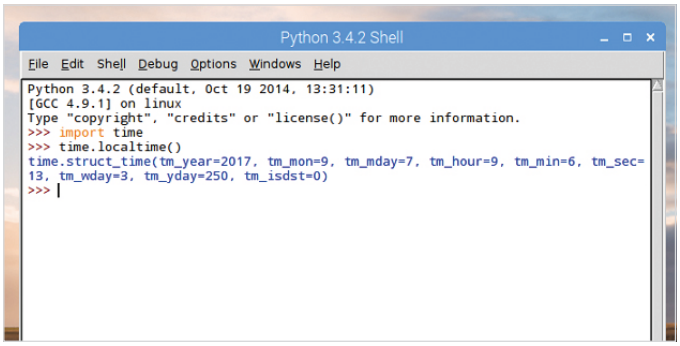
Index	Field	Values
0	4-digit year	2016
1	Month	1 to 12
2	Day	1 to 31
3	Hour	0 to 23
4	Minute	0 to 59
5	Second	0 to 61 (60 or 61 are leap-seconds)
6	Day of Week	0 to 6 (0 is Monday)
7	Day of year	1 to 366 (Julian day)
8	Daylight savings	-1, 0, 1, -1 means library determines DST

STEP 3

You can see the structure of how time is presented by entering:

```
time.local.time()
```

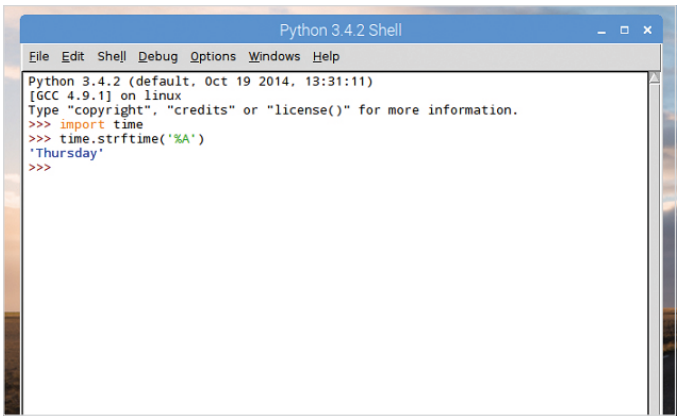
The output is displayed as such: `'time.struct_time(tm_year=2017, tm_mon=9, tm_mday=7, tm_hour=9, tm_min=6, tm_sec=13, tm_wday=3, tm_yday=250, tm_isdst=0)'`; obviously dependent on your current time as opposed to the time shown above.



STEP 4

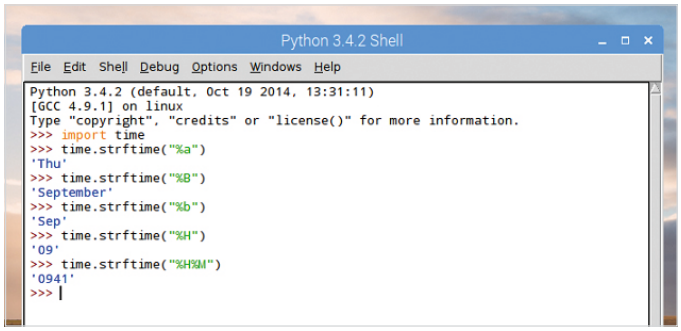
There are numerous functions built into the time module. One of the most common of these is .strftime(). With it, you're able to present a wide range of arguments as it converts the time tuple into a string. For example, to display the current day of the week you can use:

```
time.strftime('%A')
```



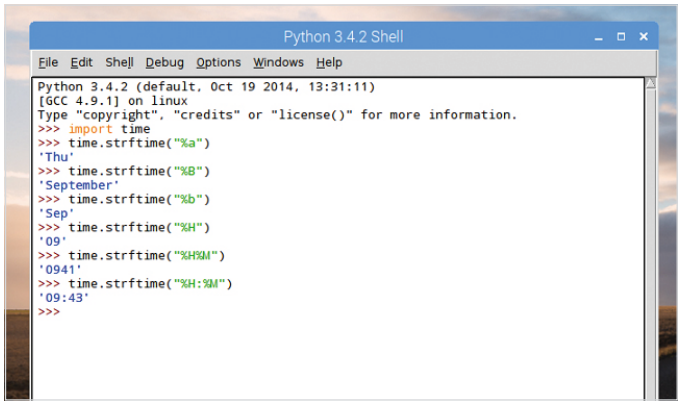
STEP 5 This naturally means you can incorporate various functions into your own code, such as:

```
time.strftime("%a")
time.strftime("%B")
time.strftime("%b")
time.strftime("%H")
time.strftime("%H%M")
```



STEP 6 Note the last two entries, with %H and %H%M, as you can see these are the hours and minutes and as the last entry indicates, entering them as %H%M doesn't display the time correctly in the Shell. You can easily rectify this with:

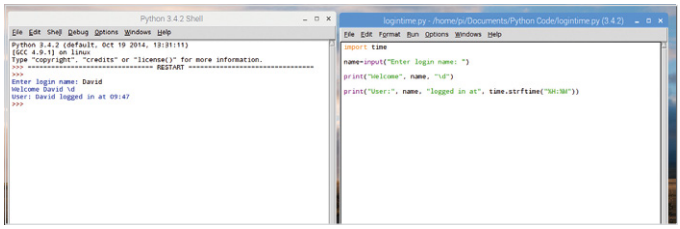
```
time.strftime("%H:%M")
```



STEP 7 This means you're going to be able to display either the current time or the time when something occurred, such as a user entering their name. Try this code in the Editor:

```
import time
name=input("Enter login name: ")
print("Welcome", name, "\d")
print("User:", name, "logged in at", time.
strftime("%H:%M"))
```

Try to extend it further to include day, month, year and so on.



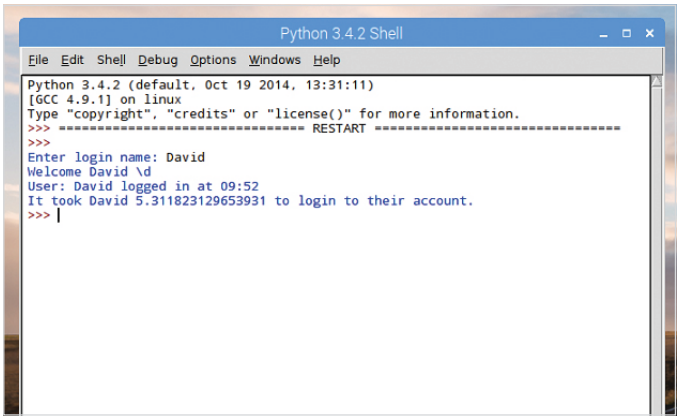
STEP 8 You saw at the end of the previous section, in the code to calculate Pi to however many decimal places the users wanted, you can time a particular event in Python. Take the code from above and alter it slightly by including:

```
start_time=time.time()
```

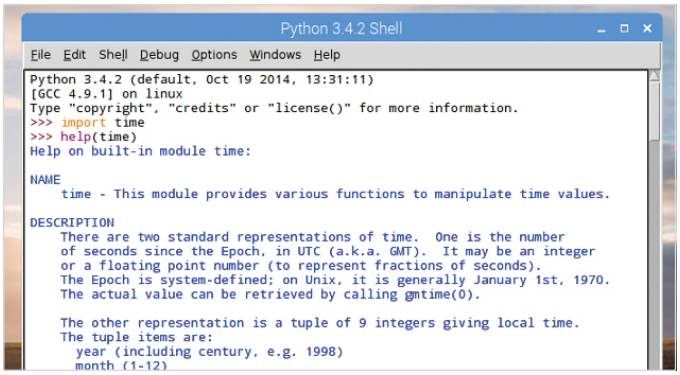
Then there's:

```
endtime=time.time()-start_time
```

STEP 9 The output will look similar to the screenshot below. The timer function needs to be either side of the input statement, as that's when the variable name is being created, depending on how long the user took to log in. The length of time is then displayed on the last line of the code as the `endtime` variable.



STEP 10 There's a lot that can be done with the time module; some of it is quite complex too, such as displaying the number of seconds since January 1st 1970. If you want to drill down further into the time module, then in the Shell enter: `help(time)` to display the current Python version help file for the time module.



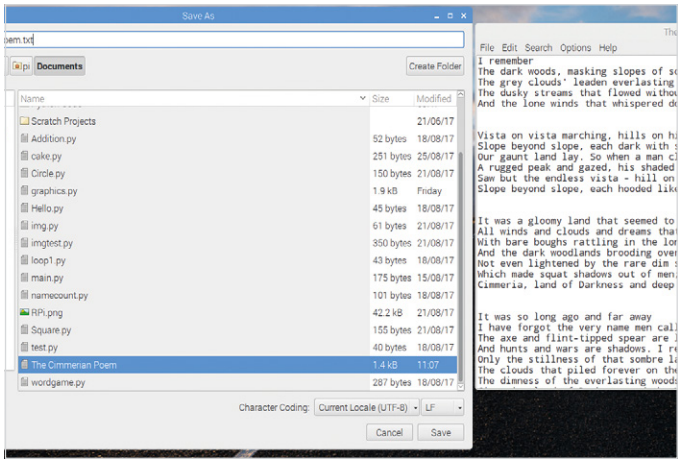
Opening Files

In Python you can read text and binary files in your programs. You can also write to file, which is something we will look at next. Reading and writing to files enables you to output and store data from your programs.

OPEN, READ AND WRITE

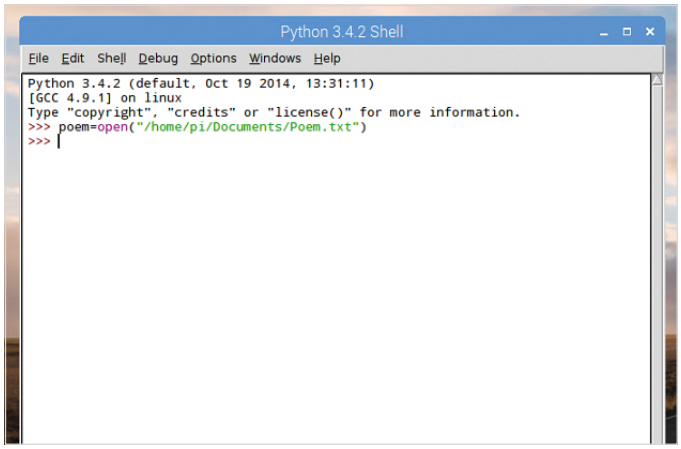
In Python you create a file object, similar to creating a variable, only pass in the file using the open() function. Files are usually categorised as text or binary.

STEP 1 Start by entering some text into your system's text editor. The text editor is best, not a word processor, as word processors include background formatting and other elements. In our example, we have the poem The Cimmerian, by Robert E Howard. You need to save the file as poem.txt.



STEP 2 You use the open() function to pass the file into a variable as an object. You can name the file object anything you like, but you will need to tell Python the name and location of the text file you're opening:

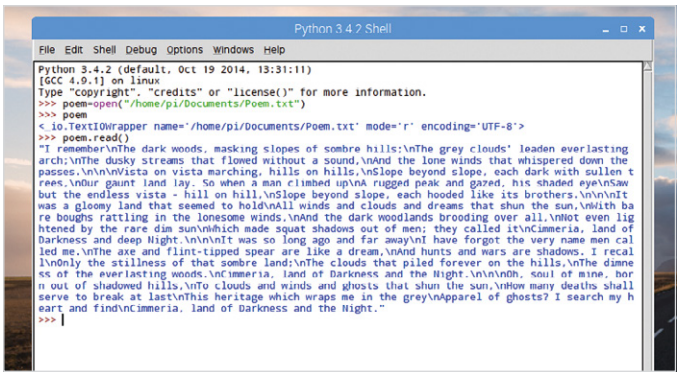
```
poem=open("/home/pi/Documents/Poem.txt")
```



STEP 3 If you now enter poem into the Shell, you will get some information regarding the text file you've just asked to be opened. You can now use the poem variable to read the contents of the file:

```
poem.read()
```

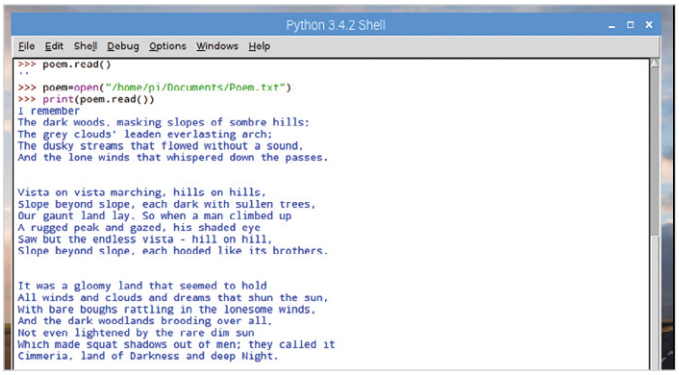
Note than a /n entry in the text represents a new line, as you used previously.



STEP 4 If you enter poem.read() a second time you will notice that the text has been removed from the file. You will need to enter: `poem=open("/home/pi/Documents/Poem.txt")` again to recreate the file. This time, however, enter:

```
print(poem.read())
```

This time, the /n entries are removed in favour of new lines and readable text.



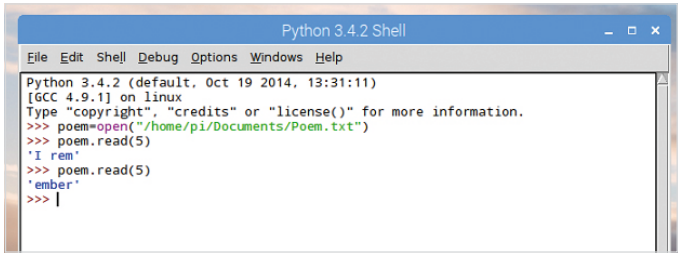
STEP 5 Just as with lists, tuples, dictionaries and so on, you're able to index individual characters of the text. For example:

```
poem.read(5)
```

Displays the first five characters, whilst again entering:

```
poem.read(5)
```

Will display the next five. Entering (1) will display one character at a time.



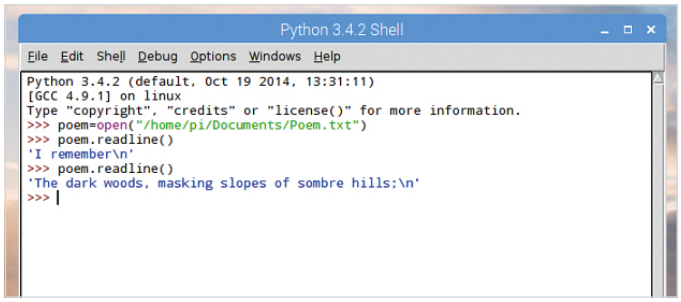
STEP 6 Similarly, you can display one line of text at a time by using the readline() function. For example:

```
poem=open("/home/pi/Documents/Poem.txt")
poem.readline()
```

Will display the first line of the text with:

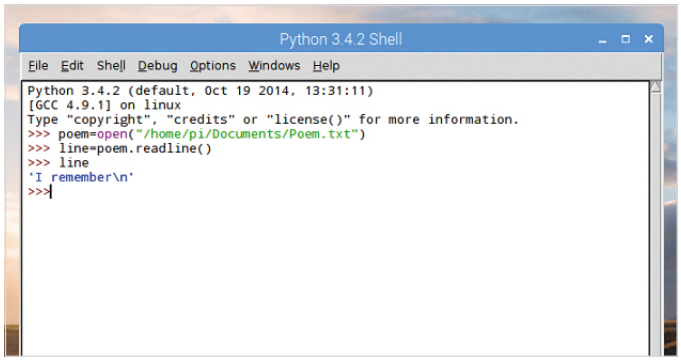
```
poem.readline()
```

Displaying the next line of text once more.



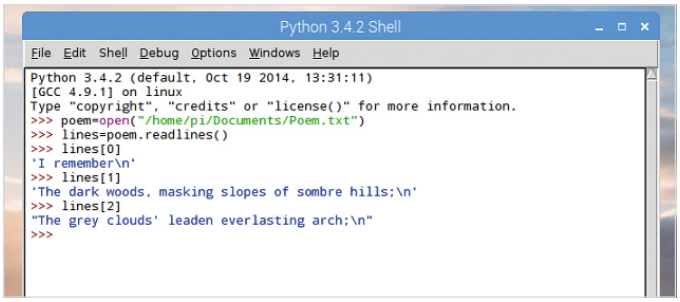
STEP 7 You may have guessed that you can pass the readline() function into a variable, thus allowing you to call it again when needed:

```
poem=open("/home/pi/Documents/Poem.txt")
line=poem.readline()
line
```



STEP 8 Extending this further, you can use readlines() to grab all the lines of the text and store them as multiple lists. These can then be stored as a variable:

```
poem=open("/home/pi/Documents/Poem.txt")
lines=poem.readlines()
lines[0]
lines[1]
lines[2]
```

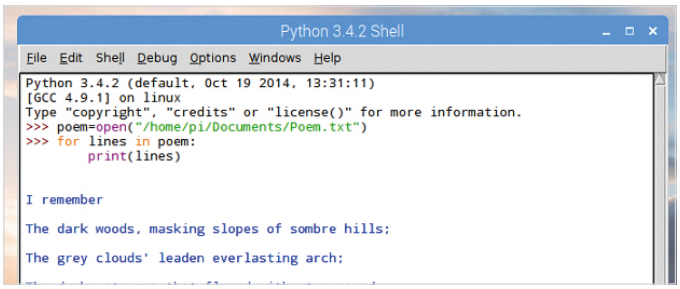


STEP 9 You can also use the for statement to read the lines of text back to us:

```
for lines in lines:
   print(lines)
```

Since this is Python, there are other ways to produce the same output:

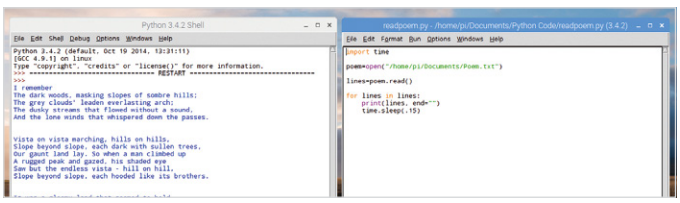
```
poem=open("/home/pi/Documents/Poem.txt")
for lines in poem:
   print(lines)
```



STEP 10 Let's imagine that you want to print the text one character at a time, like an old dot matrix printer would. You can use the time module mixed with what you've looked at here. Try this:

```
import time
poem=open("/home/pi/Documents/Poem.txt")
lines=poem.read()
for lines in lines:
  print(lines, end="")
  time.sleep(.15)
```

The output is fun to view, and easily incorporated into your own code.



Writing to Files

The ability to read external files within Python is certainly handy but writing to a file is better still. Using the write() function, you're able to output the results of a program to a file, that you can then read() back into Python.

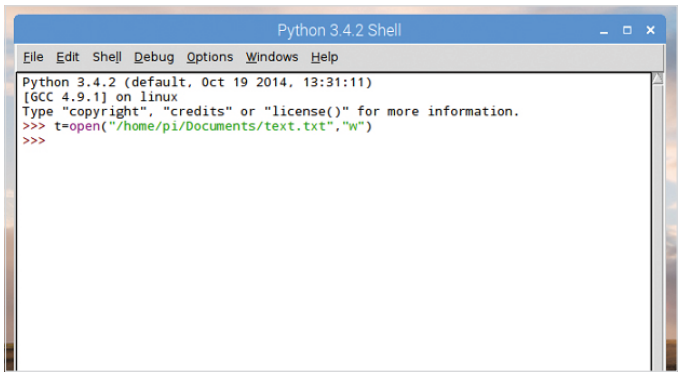
WRITE AND CLOSE

The write() function is slightly more complex than read(). Along with the filename you must also include an access mode which determines whether the file in question is in read or write mode.

STEP 1 Start by opening IDLE and enter the following:

```
t=open("/home/pi/Documents/text.txt","w")
```

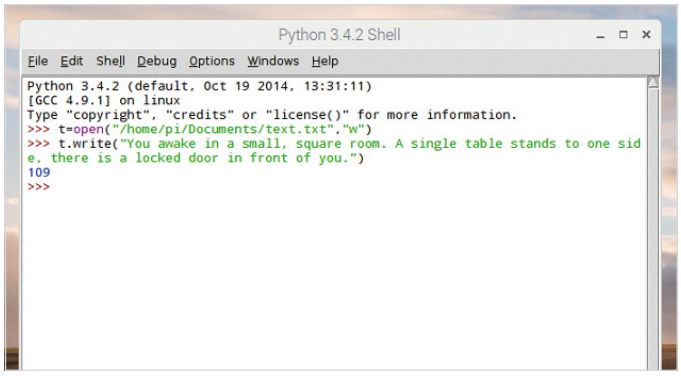
Change the destination from /home/pi/Documents to your own system. This code will create a text file called text.txt in write mode using the variable 't'. If there's no file of that name in the location, it will create one. If one already exits, it will overwrite it, so be careful.



STEP 2 You can now write to the text file using the write() function. This works opposite to read(), writing lines instead of reading them. Try this:

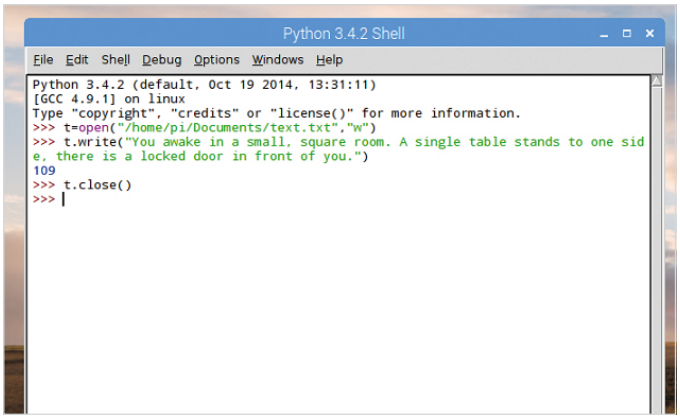
```
t.write("You awake in a small, square room. A single table stands to one side, there is a locked door in front of you.")
```

Note the 109. It's the number of characters you've entered.

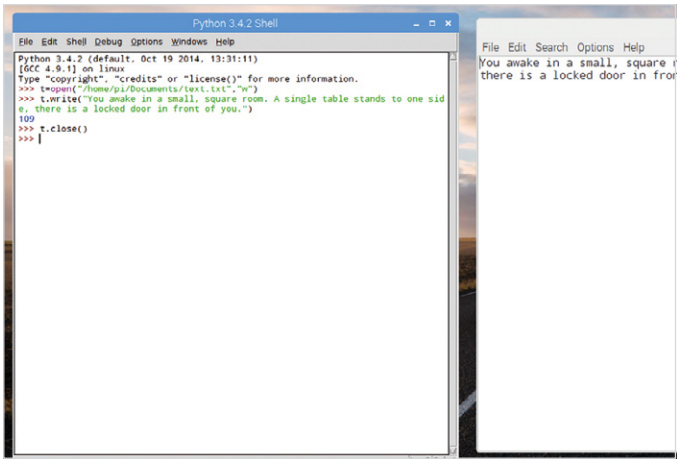


STEP 3 However, the actual text file is still blank (you can check by opening it up). This is because you've written the line of text to the file object but not committed it to the file itself. Part of the write() function is that you need to commit the changes to the file; you can do this by entering:

```
t.close()
```

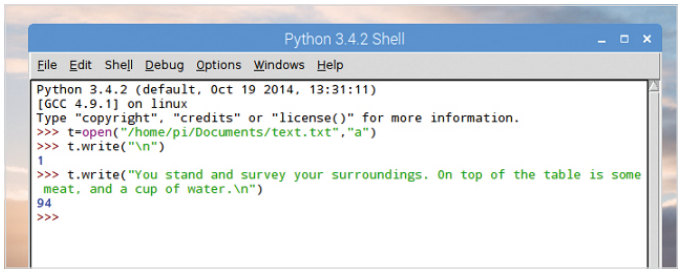


STEP 4 If you now open the text file with a text editor, you can see that the line you created has been written to the file. This gives us the foundation for some interesting possibilities: perhaps the creation of your own log file or even the beginning of an adventure game.



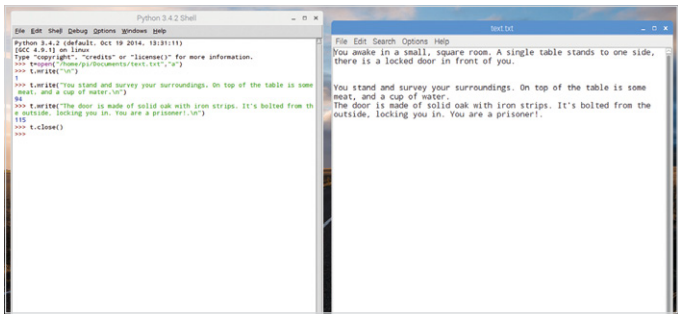
STEP 5 To expand this code, you can reopen the file using 'a', for access or append mode. This will add any text at the end of the original line instead of wiping the file and creating a new one. For example:

```
t=open("/home/pi/Documents/text.txt","a")
t.write("\n")
t.write(" You stand and survey your surroundings. On top of the table is some meat, and a cup of water.\n")
```

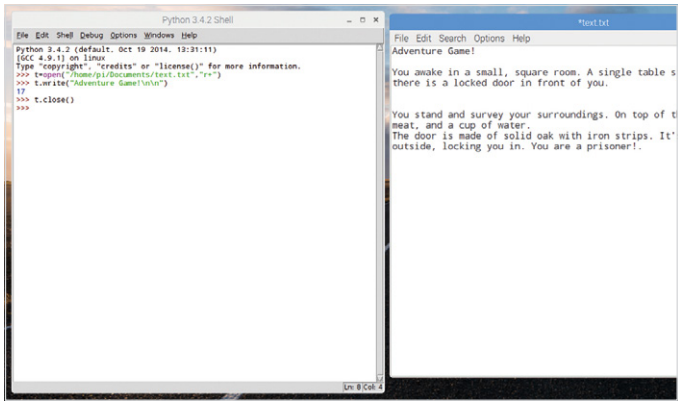


STEP 6 You can keep extending the text line by line, ending each with a new line (\n). When you're done, finish the code with t.close() and open the file in a text editor to see the results:

```
t.write("The door is made of solid oak with iron strips. It's bolted from the outside, locking you in. You are a prisoner!.\n")
t.close()
```

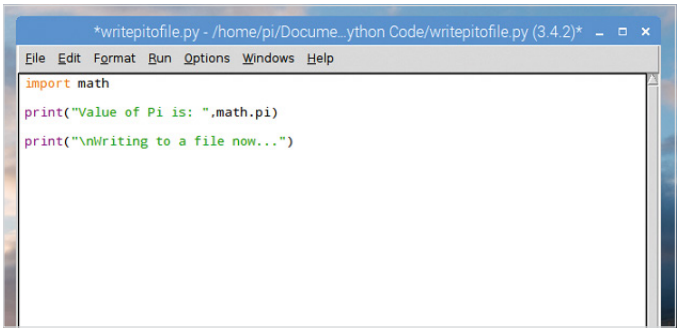


STEP 7 There are various types of file access to consider using the open() function. Each depends on how the file is accessed and even the position of the cursor. For example, r+ opens a file in read and write and places the cursor at the start of the file.



STEP 8 You can pass variables to a file that you've created in Python. Perhaps you want the value of Pi to be written to a file. You can call Pi from the math module, create a new file and pass the output of Pi into the new file:

```
import math
print("Value of Pi is: ",math.pi)
print("\nWriting to a file now…")
```



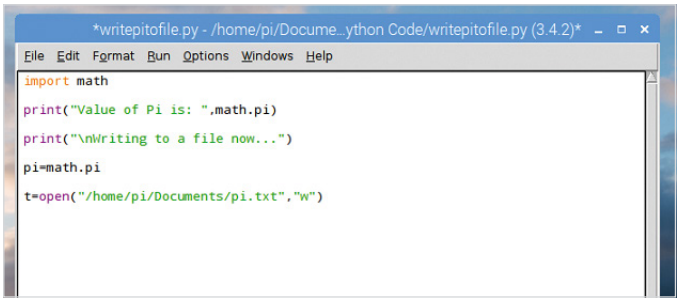
STEP 9 Now let's create a variable called pi and assign it the value of Pi:

```
pi=math.pi
```

You also need to create a new file in which to write Pi to:

```
t=open("/home/pi/Documents/pi.txt","w")
```

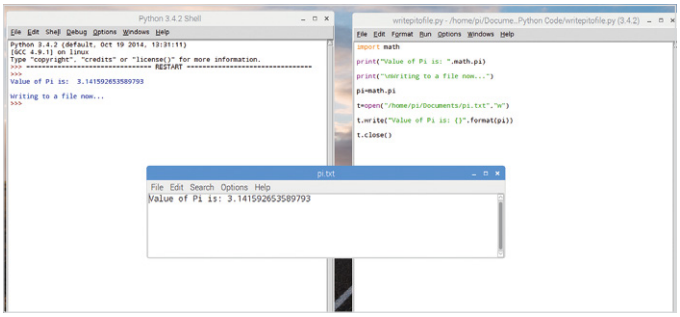
Remember to change your file location to your own particular system setup.



STEP 10 To finish, you can use string formatting to call the variable and write it to the file, then commit the changes and close the file:

```
t.write("Value of Pi is: {}".format(pi))
t.close()
```

You can see from the results that you're able to pass any variable to a file.



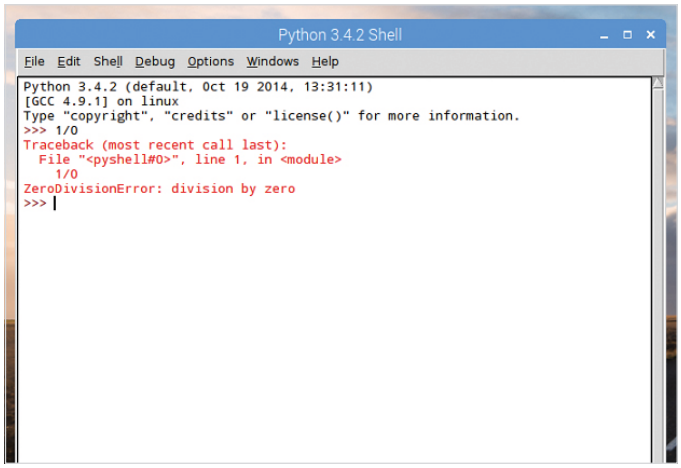
Exceptions

When coding, you'll naturally come across some issues that are out of your control. Let's assume you ask a user to divide two numbers and they try to divide by zero. This will create an error and break your code.

EXCEPTIONAL OBJECTS

Rather than stop the flow of your code, Python includes exception objects which handle unexpected errors in the code. You can combat errors by creating conditions where exceptions may occur.

STEP 1 You can create an exception error by simply trying to divide a number by zero. This will report back with the ZeroDivisionError: Division by zero message, as seen in the screenshot. The ZeroDivisionError part is the exception class, of which there are many.

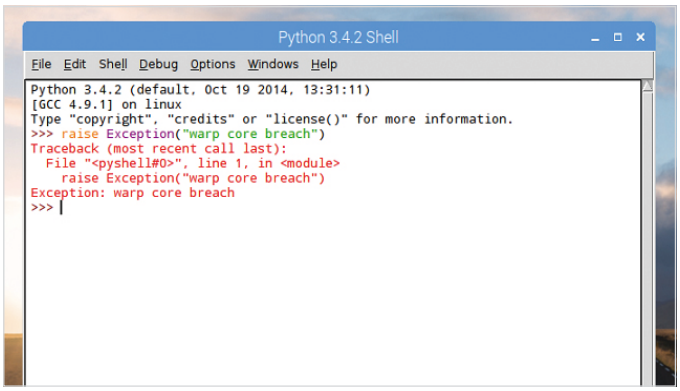


STEP 2 Most exceptions are raised automatically when Python comes across something that's inherently wrong with the code. However, you can create your own exceptions that are designed to contain the potential error and react to it, as opposed to letting the code fail.

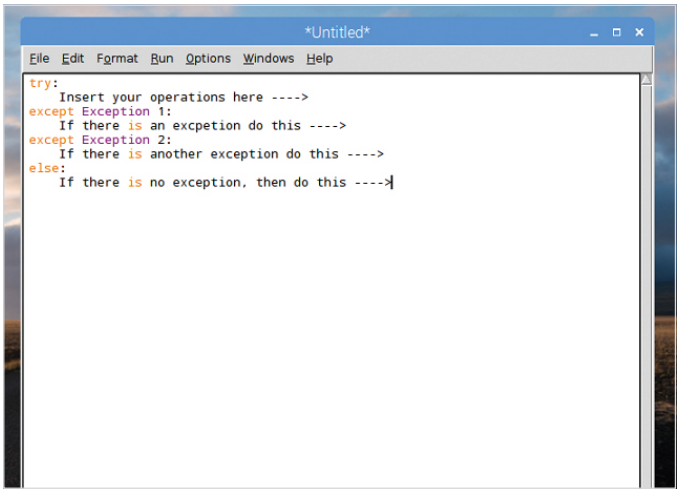
```
BaseException
 +-- SystemExit
 +-- KeyboardInterrupt
 +-- GeneratorExit
 +-- Exception
      +-- StopIteration
      +-- StopAsyncIteration
      +-- ArithmeticError
      |    +-- FloatingPointError
      |    +-- OverflowError
      |    +-- ZeroDivisionError
      +-- AssertionError
      +-- AttributeError
      +-- BufferError
      +-- EOFError
      +-- ImportError
      |    +-- ModuleNotFoundError
      +-- LookupError
      |    +-- IndexError
      |    +-- KeyError
      +-- MemoryError
      +-- NameError
      |    +-- UnboundLocalError
      +-- OSError
      |    +-- BlockingIOError
      |    +-- ChildProcessError
      |    +-- ConnectionError
      |    |    +-- BrokenPipeError
      |    |    +-- ConnectionAbortedError
      |    |    +-- ConnectionRefusedError
      |    |    +-- ConnectionResetError
      |    +-- FileExistsError
      |    +-- FileNotFoundError
      |    +-- InterruptedError
      |    +-- IsADirectoryError
      |    +-- NotADirectoryError
      |    +-- PermissionError
      |    +-- ProcessLookupError
      |    +-- TimeoutError
      +-- ReferenceError
      +-- RuntimeError
```

STEP 3 You can use the functions raise exception to create our own error handling code within Python. Let's assume your code has you warping around the cosmos, too much however results in a warp core breach. To stop the game from exiting due to the warp core going supernova, you can create a custom exception:

```
raise Exception("warp core breach")
```

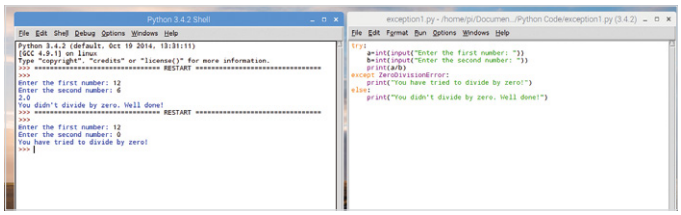


STEP 4 To trap any errors in the code you can encase the potential error within a try: block. This block consists of try, except, else, where the code is held within try:, then if there's an exception do something, else do something else.



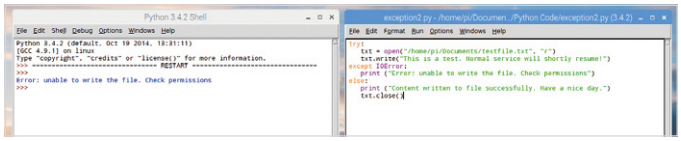
STEP 5 For example, use the divide by zero error. You can create an exception where the code can handle the error without Python quitting due to the problem:

```
try:
  a=int(input("Enter the first number: "))
  b=int(input("Enter the second number: "))
  print(a/b)
except ZeroDivisionError:
  print("You have tried to divide by zero!")
else:
  print("You didn't divide by zero. Well done!")
```

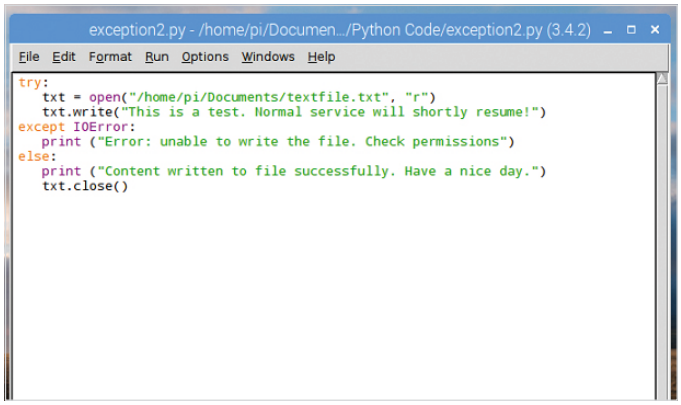


STEP 6 You can use exceptions to handle a variety of useful tasks. Using an example from our previous tutorials, let's assume you want to open a file and write to it:

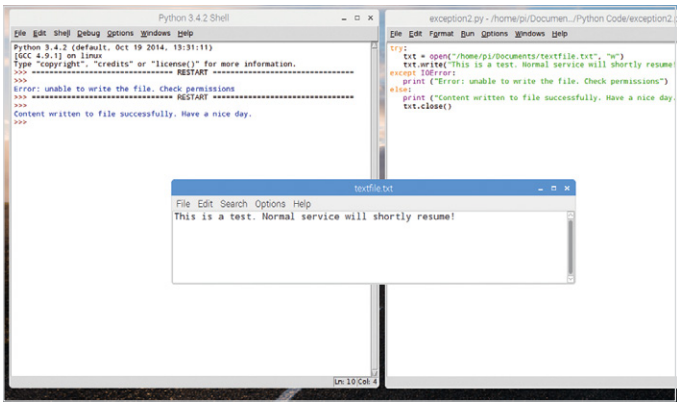
```
try:
  txt = open("/home/pi/Documents/textfile.txt", "r")
  txt.write("This is a test. Normal service will
shortly resume!")
except IOError:
  print ("Error: unable to write the file. Check
permissions")
else:
  print ("Content written to file successfully. Have
a nice day.")
  txt.close()
```



STEP 7 Obviously this won't work due to the file textfile.txt being opened as read only (the "r" part). So in this case rather than Python telling you that you're doing something wrong, you've created an exception using the IOError class informing the user that the permissions are incorrect.

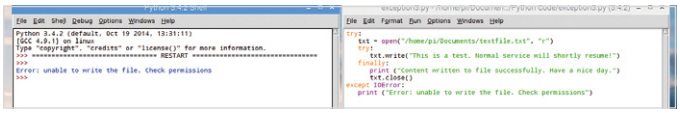


STEP 8 Naturally, you can quickly fix the issue by changing the "r" read only instance with a "w" for write. This, as you already know, will create the file and write the content then commit the changes to the file. The end result will report a different set of circumstances, in this case, a successful execution of the code.

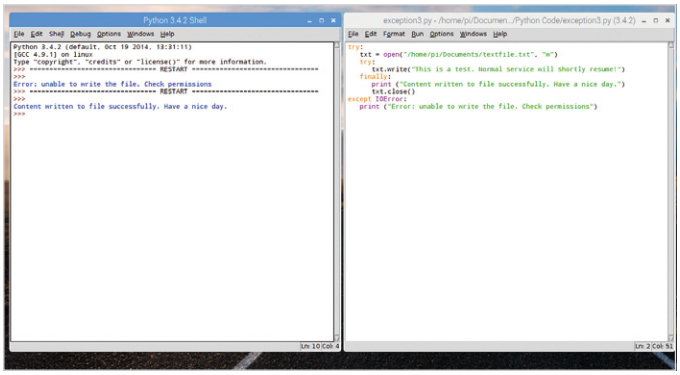


STEP 9 You can also use a finally: block, which works in a similar fashion but you can't use else with it. To use our example from Step 6:

```
try:
  txt = open("/home/pi/Documents/textfile.txt", "r")
  try:
    txt.write("This is a test. Normal service will
shortly resume!")
  finally:
    print ("Content written to file successfully.
Have a nice day.")
    txt.close()
except IOError:
  print ("Error: unable to write the file. Check
permissions")
```



STEP 10 As before an error will occur as you've used the "r" read-only permission. If you change it to a "w", then the code will execute without the error being displayed in the IDLE Shell. Needless to say, it can be a tricky getting the exception code right the first time. Practise though, and you will get the hang of it.



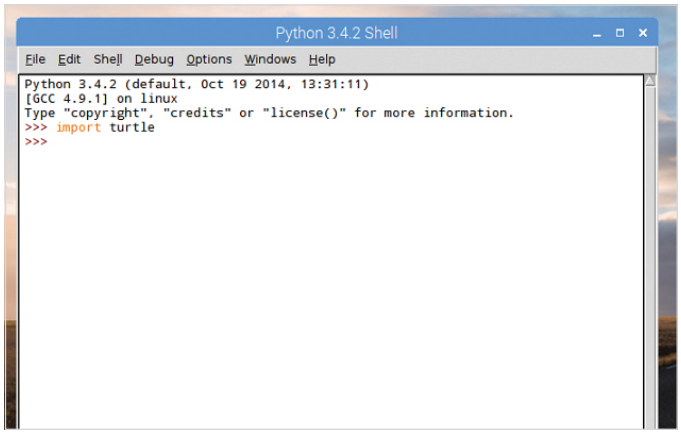
Python Graphics

While dealing with text on the screen, either as a game or in a program, is great, there will come a time when a bit of graphical representation wouldn't go amiss. Python 3 has numerous ways in which to include graphics and they're surprisingly powerful too.

GOING GRAPHICAL

You can draw simple graphics, lines, squares and so on, or you can use one of the many Python modules available, to bring out some spectacular effects.

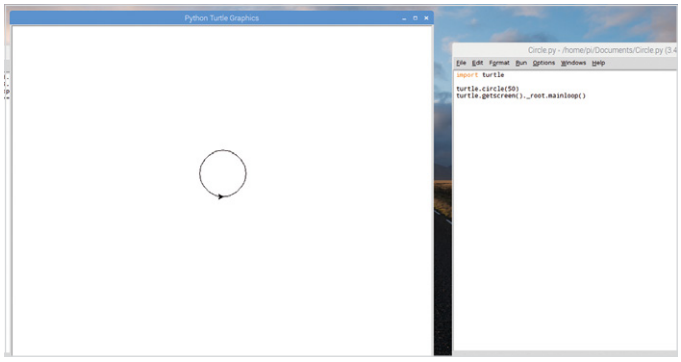
STEP 1 One of the best graphical modules to begin learning Python graphics is Turtle. The Turtle module is, as the name suggests, based on the turtle robots used in many schools, that can be programmed to draw something on a large piece of paper on the floor. The Turtle module can be imported with: `import turtle`.



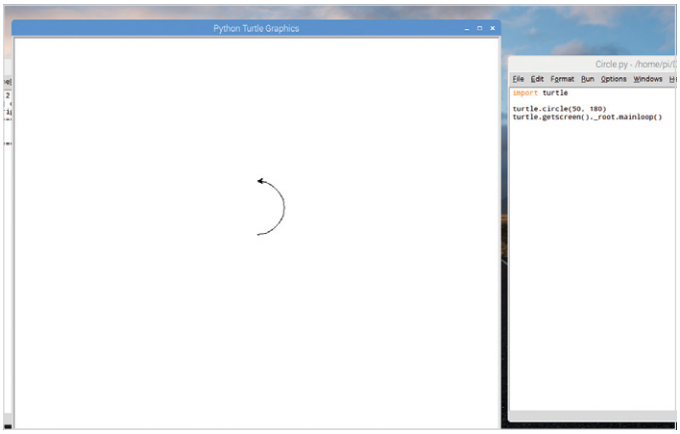
STEP 2 Let's begin by drawing a simple circle. Start a New File, then enter the following code:

```
import turtle

turtle.circle(50)
turtle.getscreen()._root.mainloop()
```

As usual press F5 to save the code and execute it. A new window will now open up and the 'Turtle' will draw a circle.



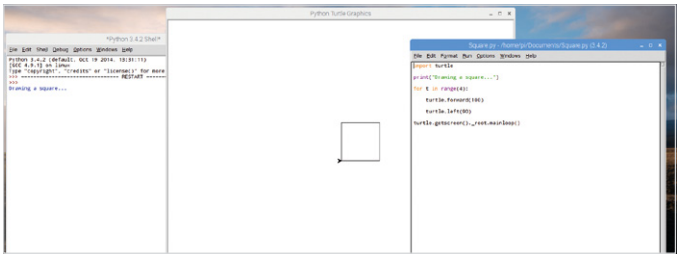
STEP 3 The command turtle.circle(50) is what draws the circle on the screen, with 50 being the size. You can play around with the sizes if you like, going up to 100, 150 and beyond; you can draw an arc by entering: `turtle.circle(50, 180)`, where the size is 50, but you're telling Python to only draw 180° of the circle.



STEP 4 The last part of the circle code tells Python to keep the window where the drawing is taking place to remain open, so the user can click to close it. Now, let's make a square:

```
import turtle

print("Drawing a square…")

for t in range(4):
   turtle.forward(100)
   turtle.left(90)
turtle.getscreen()._root.mainloop()
```

You can see that we've inserted a loop to draw the sides of the square.



STEP 5

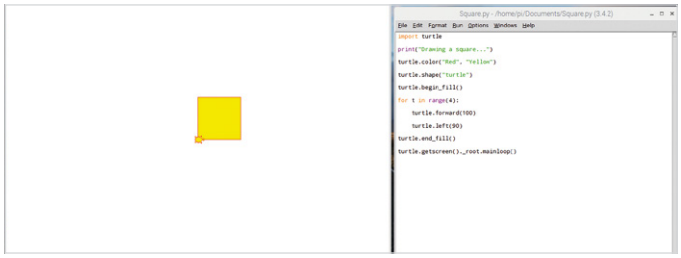
You can add a new line to the square code to add some colour:

```
turtle.color("Red")
```

Then you can even change the character to an actual turtle by entering:

```
turtle.shape("turtle")
```

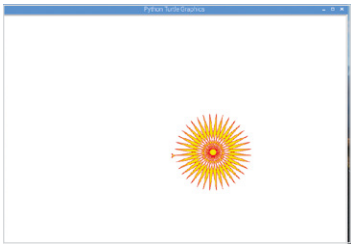
You can also use the command `turtle.begin_fill()`, and `turtle.end_fill()` to fill in the square with the chosen colours; red outline, yellow fill in this case.

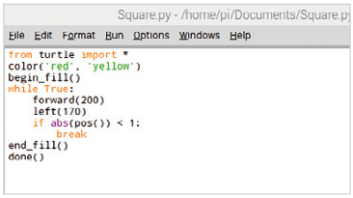


STEP 6

You can see that the Turtle module can draw out some pretty good shapes and become a little more complex as you begin to master the way it works. Enter this example:

```
from turtle import *
color('red', 'yellow')
begin_fill()
while True:
  forward(200)
  left(170)
  if abs(pos()) < 1:
    break
end_fill()
done()
```

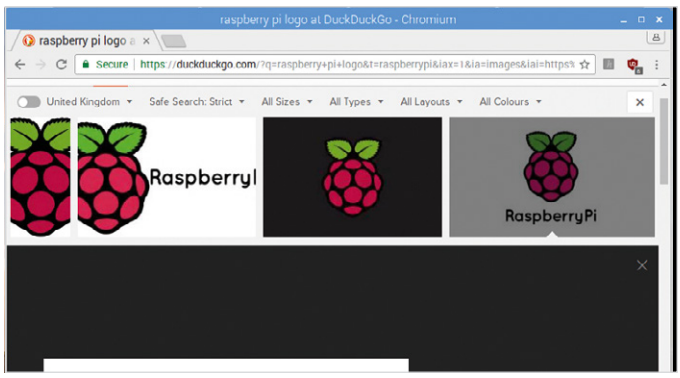




It's a different method, but very effective.

STEP 7

Another way in which you can display graphics is by using the Pygame module. There are numerous ways in which pygame can help you output graphics to the screen but for now let's look at displaying a predefined image. Start by opening a browser and finding an image, then save it to the folder where you save your Python code.



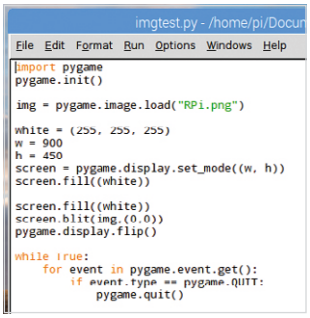
STEP 8

Now let's get the code by importing the pygame module:

```
import pygame
pygame.init()
```

```
img = pygame.image.load("RPi.png")
```

```
white = (255, 255, 255)
w = 900
h = 450
screen = pygame.display.
set_mode((w, h))
screen.fill((white))
```




```
screen.fill((white))
screen.blit(img,(0,0))
pygame.display.flip()

while True:
  for event in pygame.event.get():
    if event.type == pygame.QUIT:
      pygame.quit()
```

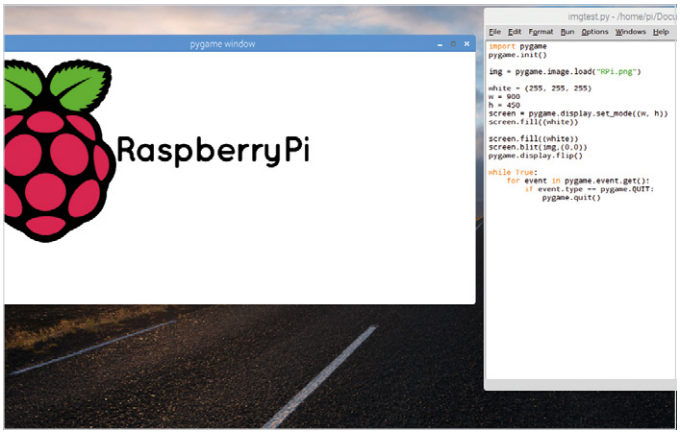
STEP 9

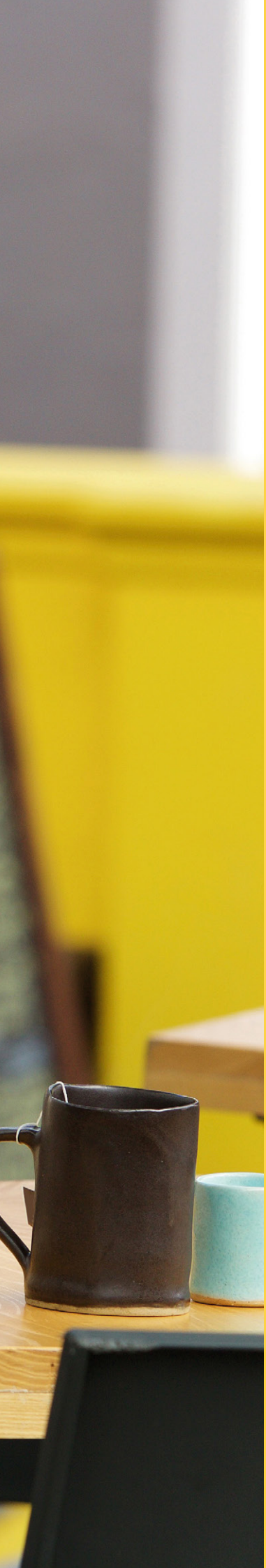
In the previous step you imported pygame, initiated the pygame engine and asked it to import our saved Raspberry Pi logo image, saved as RPi.png. Next you defined the background colour of the window to display the image and the window size as per the actual image dimensions. Finally you have a loop to close the window.

```
w = 900
h = 450
screen = pygame.display.set_mode((w, h))
screen.fill((white))

screen.fill((white))
screen.blit(img,(0,0))
pygame.display.flip()

while True:
    for event in pygame.event.get():
        if event.type == pygame.QUIT:
            pygame.quit()
```

STEP 10

Press F5 to save and execute the code and your image will be displayed in a new window. Have a play around with the colours, sizes and so on and take time to look up the many functions within the pygame module too.





Using Modules

A Python module is simply a Python-created source file which contains the necessary code for classes, functions and global variables. You can bind and reference modules to extend functionality and create even more spectacular Python programs.

Want to see how to improve these modules to add a little something extra to your code? Then read on and learn how they can be used to fashion fantastic code.

Calendar Module

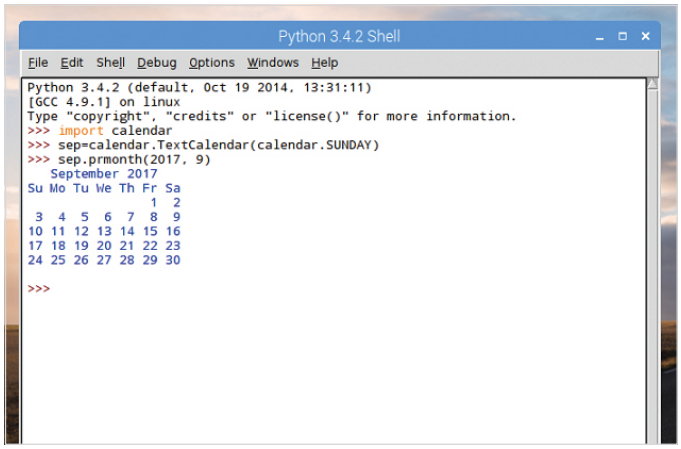
Beyond the time module, the calendar module can produce some interesting results when executed within your code. It does far more than simply display the date in the time module-like format, you can actually call up a wall calendar type display.

WORKING WITH DATES

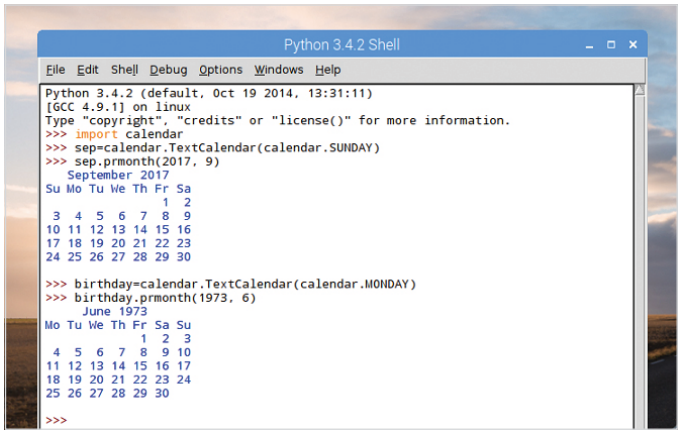
The calendar module is built into Python 3. However, if for some reason it's not installed you can add it using pip install calendar as a Windows administrator or sudo pip install calendar for Linux and macOS.

STEP 1 Launch Python 3 and enter: `import calendar` to call up the module and its inherent functions. Once it's loaded into memory, start by entering:

```
sep=calendar.TextCalendar(calendar.SUNDAY)
sep.prmonth(2017, 9)
```



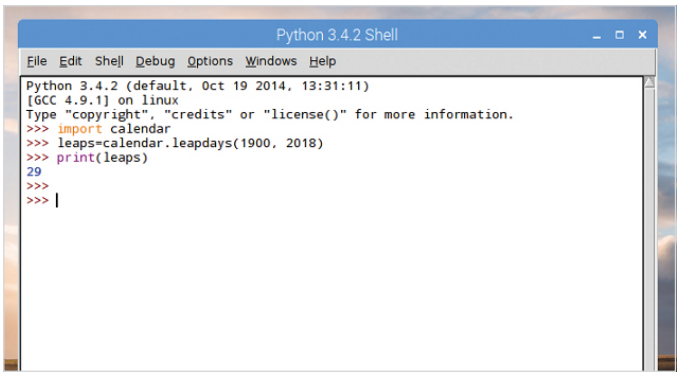
STEP 2 You can see that the days of September 2017 are displayed in a wall calendar fashion. Naturally you can change the 2017, 9 part of the second line to any year and month you want, a birthday for example (1973, 6). The first line configures TextCalendar to start its weeks on a Sunday; you can opt for Monday if you prefer.



STEP 3 There are numerous functions within the calendar module that may be of interest to you when forming your own code. For example, you can display the number of leap years between two specific years:

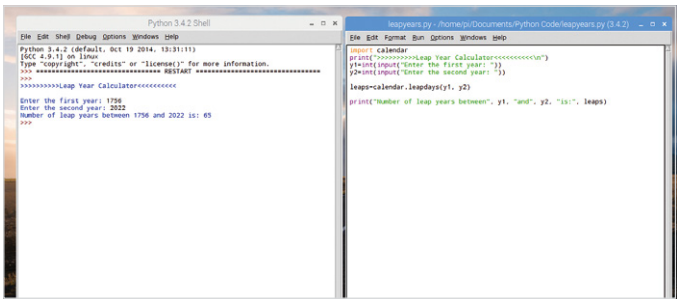
```
leaps=calendar.leapdays(1900, 2018)
print(leaps)
```

The result is 29, starting from 1904 onward.



STEP 4 You could even fashion that particular example into a piece of working, user interactive Python code:

```
import calendar
print(">>>>>>>>>>Leap Year
Calculator<<<<<<<<<<\n")y1=int(input("Enter the
first year: "))
y2=int(input("Enter the second year: "))
leaps=calendar.leapdays(y1, y2)
print("Number of leap years between", y1, "and",
y2, "is:", leaps)
```

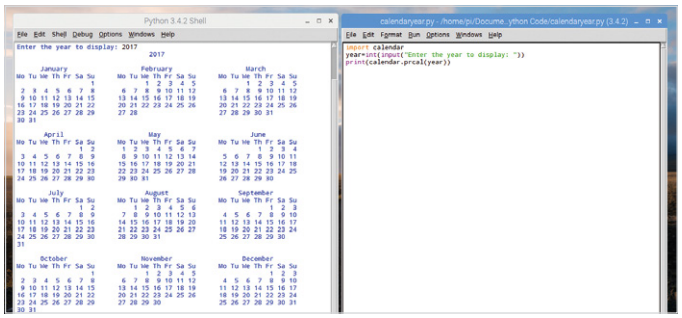


STEP 5

You can also create a program that will display all the days, weeks and months within a given year:

```
import calendar
year=int(input("Enter the year to display: "))
print(calendar.prcal(year))
```

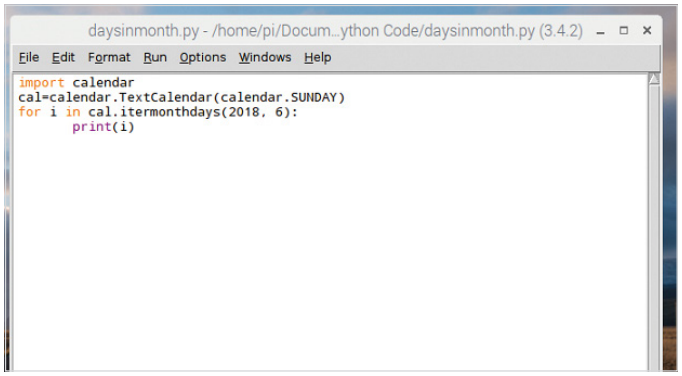
We're sure you'll agree that's quite a handy bit of code to have to hand.



STEP 6

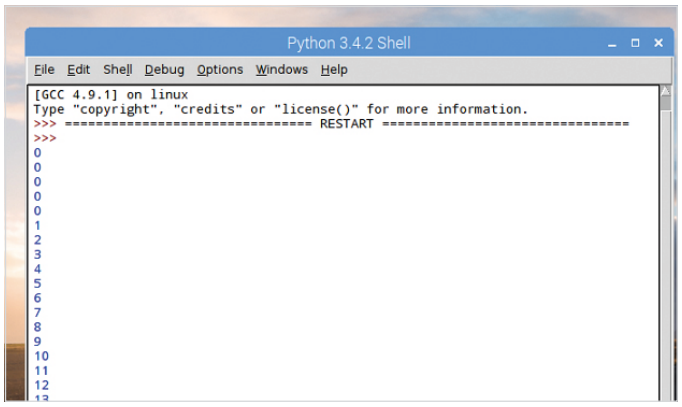
Interestingly we can also list the number of days in a month by using a simple for loop:

```
import calendar
cal=calendar.TextCalendar(calendar.SUNDAY)
for i in cal.itermonthdays(2018, 6):
   print(i)
```



STEP 7

You can see that code produced some zeros at the beginning, this is due to the starting day of the week, Sunday in this case, and overlapping days from the previous month. So the counting of the days will start on Friday 1st June 2018 and will total 30 as the output correctly displays.

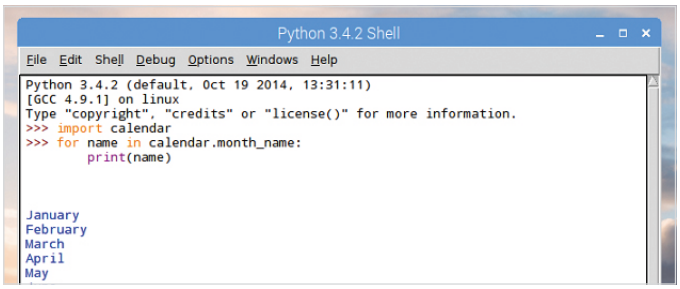


STEP 8

You're also able to print the individual months or days of the week:

```
import calendar
for name in calendar.month_name:
   print(name)
```

```
import calendar
for name in calendar.day_name:
   print(name)
```

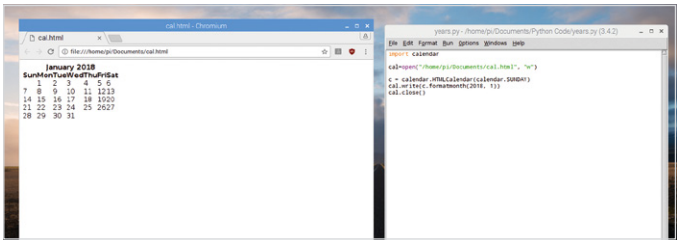


STEP 9

The calendar module also allows us to write the functions in HTML, so that you can display it on a website. Let's start by creating a new file:

```
import calendar
cal=open("/home/pi/Documents/cal.html", "w")
c=calendar.HTMLCalendar(calendar.SUNDAY)
cal.write(c.formatmonth(2018, 1))
cal.close()
```

This code will create an HTML file called cal, open it with a browser and it displays the calendar for January 2018.

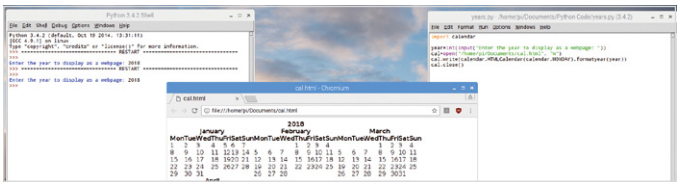


STEP 10

Of course, you can modify that to display a given year as a web page calendar:

```
import calendar

year=int(input("Enter the year to display as a
webpage: "))
cal=open("/home/pi/Documents/cal.html", "w")
cal.write(calendar.HTMLCalendar(calendar.MONDAY).
formatyear(year))
cal.close()
```

This code asks the user for a year, then creates the necessary webpage. Remember to change your file destination.



OS Module

The OS module allows you to interact directly with the built-in commands found in your operating system. Commands vary depending on the OS you're running, as some will work with Windows whereas others will work with Linux and macOS.

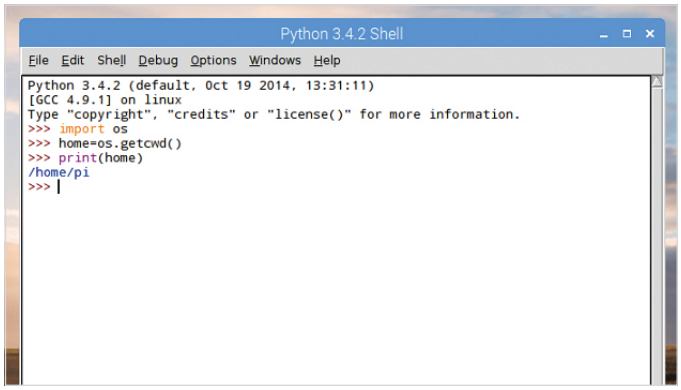
INTO THE SYSTEM

One of the primary features of the OS module is the ability to list, move, create, delete and otherwise interact with files stored on the system, making it the perfect module for backup code.

STEP 1

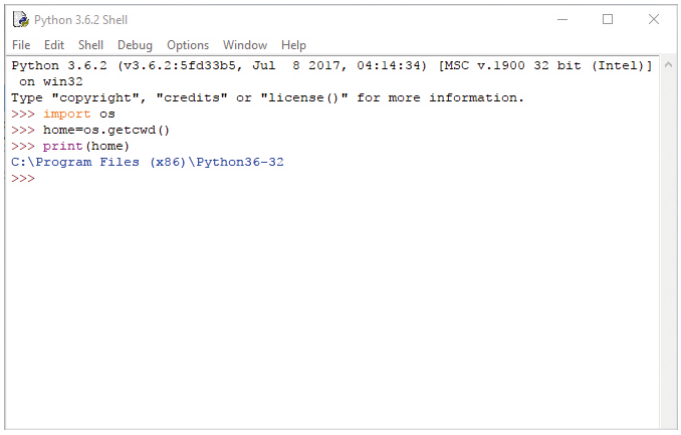
You can start the OS module with some simple functions to see how it interacts with the operating system environment that Python is running on. If you're using Linux or the Raspberry Pi, try this:

```
import os
home=os.getcwd()
print(home)
```



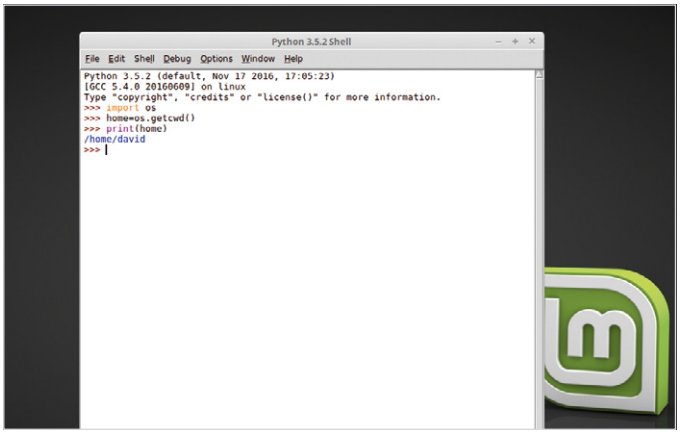
STEP 2

The returned result from printing the variable home is the current user's home folder on the system. In our example that's /home/pi; it will be different depending on the user name you log in as and the operating system you use. For example, Windows 10 will output: C:\Program Files (x86)\Python36-32.



STEP 3

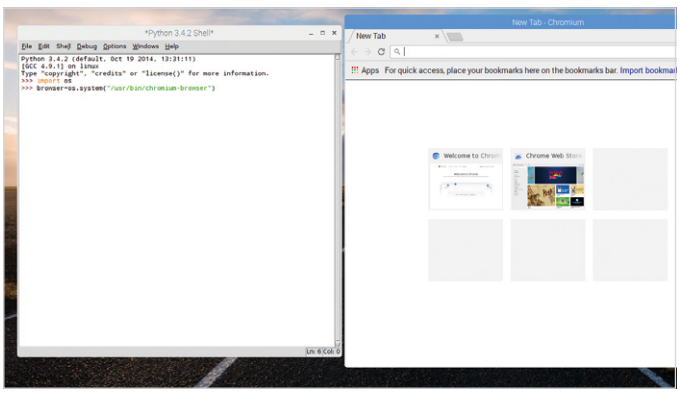
The Windows output is different as that's the current working directory of Python, as determined by the system; as you might suspect, the os.getcwd() function is asking Python to retrieve the Current Working Directory. Linux users will see something along the same lines as the Raspberry Pi, as will macOS users.



STEP 4

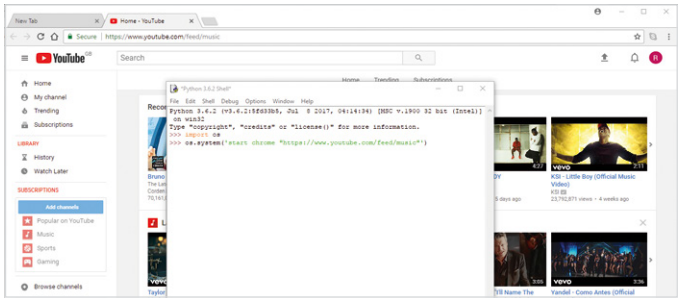
Yet another interesting element to the OS module, is its ability to launch programs that are installed in the host system. For instance, if you wanted to launch the Chromium browser from within a Python program you can use the command:

```
import os
browser=os.system("/usr/bin/chromium-browser")
```



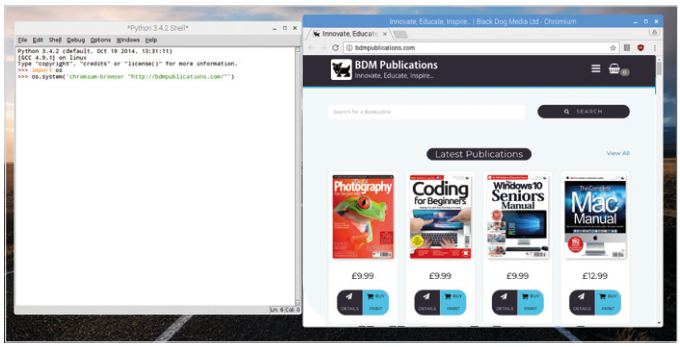
STEP 5 The os.system() function is what allows interaction with external programs; you can even call up previous Python programs using this method. You will obviously need to know the full path and program file name for it to work successfully. However, you can use the following:

```
import os
os.system('start chrome "https://www.youtube.com/feed/music"')
```



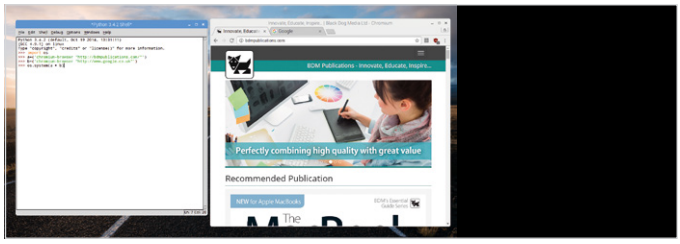
STEP 6 For Step 5's example we used Windows, to show that the OS module works roughly the same across all platforms. In that case, we opened YouTube's music feed page, so it is therefore possible to open specific pages:

```
import os
os.system('chromium-browser "http://bdmpublications.com/"')
```



STEP 7 Note in the previous step's example the use of single and double-quotes. The single quotes encase the entire command and launching Chromium, whereas the double quotes open the specified page. You can even use variables to call multiple tabs in the same browser:

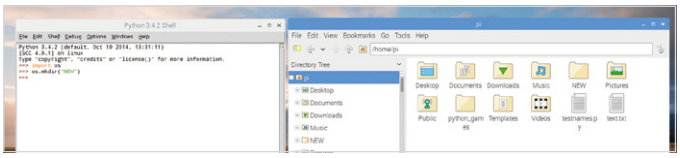
```
import os
a=('chromium-browser "http://bdmpublications.com/"')
b=('chromium-browser "http://www.google.co.uk"')
os.system(a + b)
```



STEP 8 The ability to manipulate directories, or folders if you prefer, is one of the OS module's best features. For example, to create a new directory you can use:

```
import os
os.mkdir("NEW")
```

This creates a new directory within the Current Working Directory, named according to the object in the mkdir function.

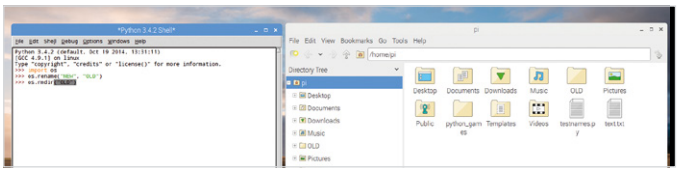


STEP 9 You can also rename any directories you've created by entering:

```
import os
os.rename("NEW", "OLD")
```

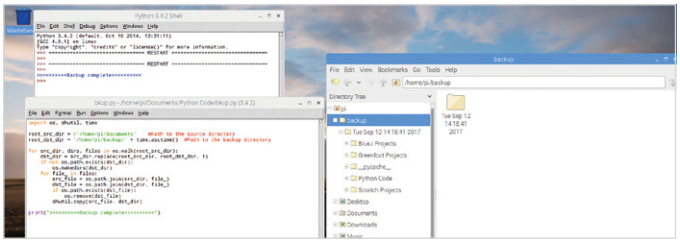
To delete them:

```
import os
os.rmdir("OLD")
```



STEP 10 Another module that goes together with OS is shutil. You can use the shutil module together with OS and time to create a time-stamped backup directory, and copy files into it:

```
import os, shutil, time

root_src_dir = r'/home/pi/Documents'
root_dst_dir = '/home/pi/backup/' + time.asctime()

for src_dir, dirs, files in os.walk(root_src_dir):
  dst_dir = src_dir.replace(root_src_dir, root_dst_dir, 1)
  if not os.path.exists(dst_dir):
    os.makedirs(dst_dir)
  for file_ in files:
    src_file = os.path.join(src_dir, file_)
    dst_file = os.path.join(dst_dir, file_)
    if os.path.exists(dst_file):
      os.remove(dst_file)
    shutil.copy(src_file, dst_dir)

print(">>>>>>>>>>Backup complete<<<<<<<<<<")
```



Random Module

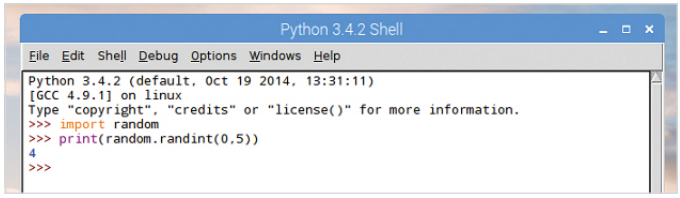
The random module is one you will likely come across many times in your Python programming lifetime; as the name suggests, it's designed to create random numbers or letters. However, it's not exactly random but it will suffice for most needs.

RANDOM NUMBERS

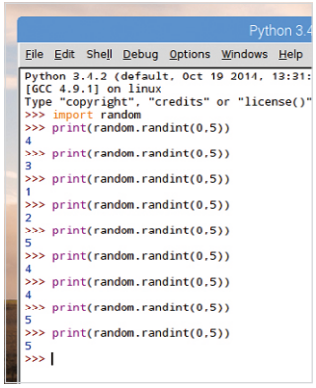
There are numerous functions within the random module, which when applied can create some interesting and very useful Python programs.

STEP 1 Just as with other modules you need to import random before you can use any of the functions we're going to look at in this tutorial. Let's begin by simply printing a random number from 1 to 5:

```
import random
print(randomint(0,5))
```



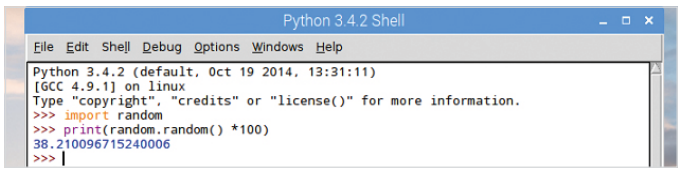
STEP 2 In our example the number four was returned. However, enter the print function a few more times and it will display different integer values from the set of numbers given, zero to five. The overall effect, although pseudo-random, is adequate for the average programmer to utilise in their code.



STEP 3 For a bigger set of numbers, including floating point values, you can extend the range by using the multiplication sign:

```
import random
print(random.random() *100)
```

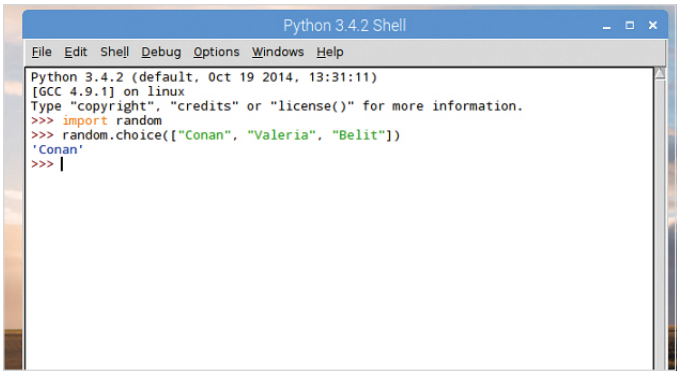
Will display a floating point number between 0 and 100, to the tune of around fifteen decimal points.



STEP 4 However, the random module isn't used exclusively for numbers. You can use it to select an entry from a list from random, and the list can contain anything:

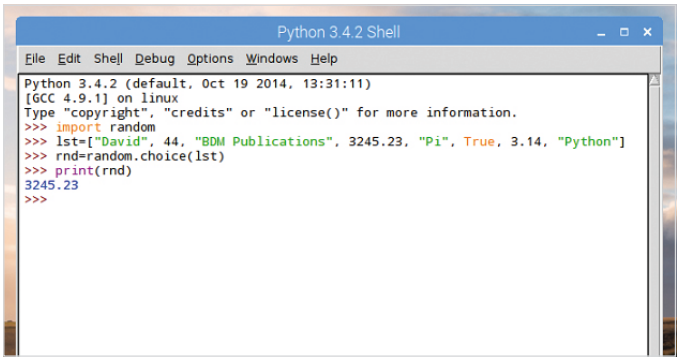
```
import random
random.choice(["Conan", "Valeria", "Belit"])
```

This will display one of the names of our adventurers at random, which is a great addition to a text adventure game.



STEP 5 You can extend the previous example somewhat by having random.choice() select from a list of mixed variables. For instance:

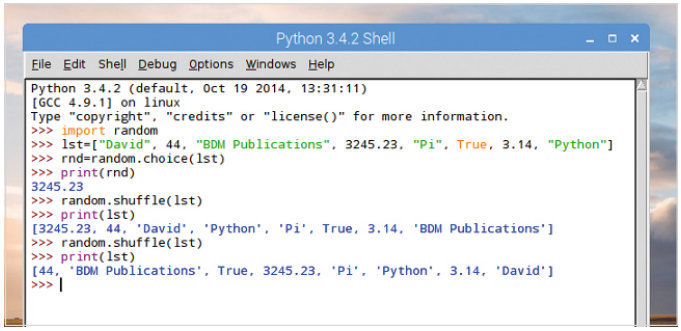
```
import random
lst=["David", 44, "BDM Publications", 3245.23,
"Pi", True, 3.14, "Python"]
rnd=random.choice(lst)
print(rnd)
```



STEP 6 Interestingly, you can also use a function within the random module to shuffle the items in the list, thus adding a little more randomness into the equation:

```
random.shuffle(lst)
print(lst)
```

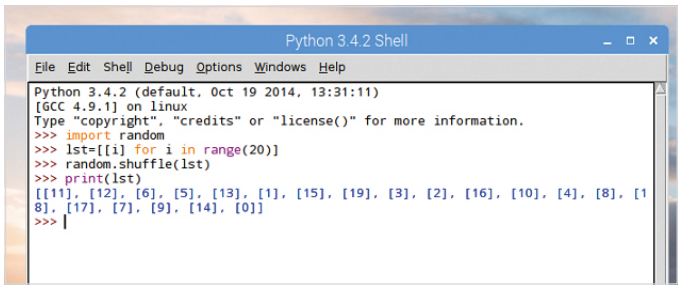
This way, you can keep shuffling the list before displaying a random item from it.



STEP 7 Using shuffle, you can create an entirely random list of numbers. For example, within a given range:

```
import random
lst=[[i] for I in range(20)]
random.shuffle(lst)
print(lst)
```

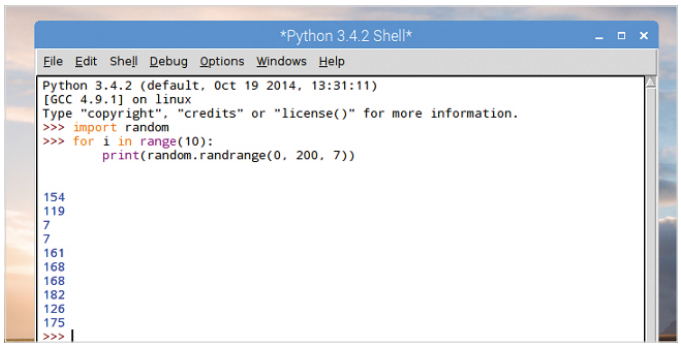
Keep shuffling the list and you can have a different selection of items from 0 to 20 every time.



STEP 8 You can also select a random number from a given range in steps, using the start, stop, step loop:

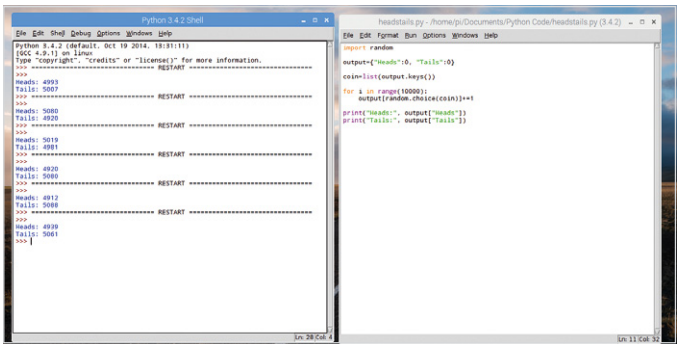
```
import random
for i in range(10):
  print(random.randrange(0, 200, 7))
```

Results will vary but you get the general idea as to how it works.



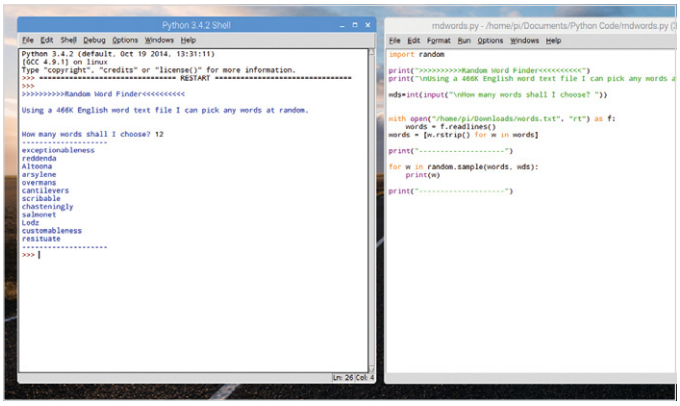
STEP 9 Let's use an example piece of code which flips a virtual coin ten thousand times and counts how many times it will land on heads or tails:

```
import random
output={"Heads":0, "Tails":0}
coin=list(output.keys())

for i in range(10000):
  output[random.choice(coin)]+=1

print("Heads:", output["Heads"])
print("Tails:", output["Tails"])
```



STEP 10 Here's an interesting piece of code. Using a text file containing 466 thousand words, you can pluck a user generated number of words from the file (text file found at: **www.github.com/dwyl/english-words)**:

```
import random

print(">>>>>>>>>>Random Word Finder<<<<<<<<<<")
print("\nUsing a 466K English word text file I can pick any words at random.\n")

wds=int(input("\nHow many words shall I choose? "))

with open("/home/pi/Downloads/words.txt", "rt") as f:
  words = f.readlines()
words = [w.rstrip() for w in words]

print("--------------------")

for w in random.sample(words, wds):
  print(w)

print("--------------------")
```



Tkinter Module

While running your code from the command line, or even in the Shell, is perfectly fine, Python is capable of so much more. The Tkinter module enables the programmer to set up a Graphical User Interface to interact with the user, and it's surprisingly powerful too.

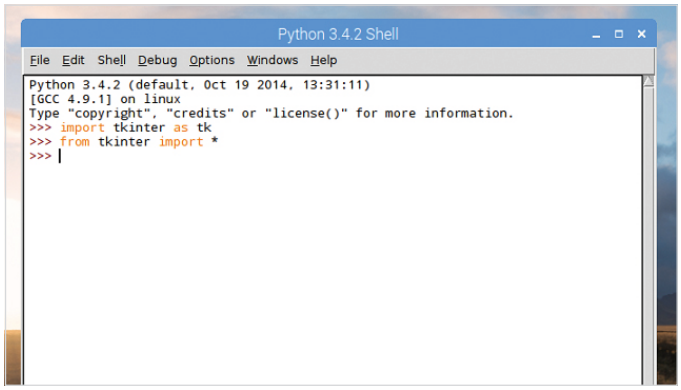
GETTING GUI

Tkinter is easy to use but there's a lot more you can do with it. Let's start by seeing how it works and getting some code into it. Before long you will discover just how powerful this module really is.

STEP 1

Tkinter is usually built into Python 3. However, if it's available when you enter: `import tkinter`, then you need to `pip install tkinter` from the command prompt. We can start to import modules differently than before, to save on typing and by importing all their contents:

```
import tkinter as tk
from tkinter import *
```

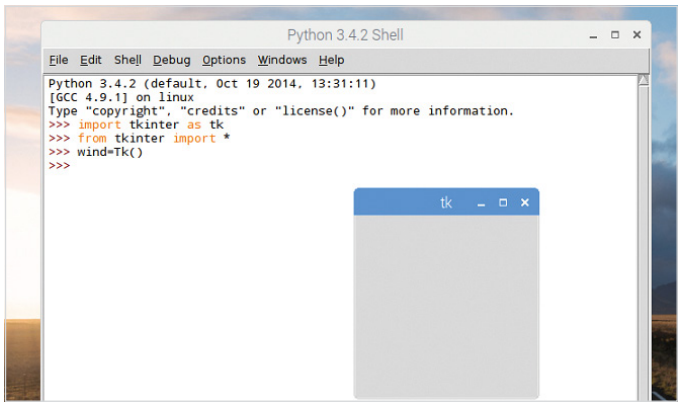


STEP 2

It's not recommended to import everything from a module using the asterisk but it won't do any harm normally. Let's begin by creating a basic GUI window, enter:

```
wind=Tk()
```

This creates a small, basic window. There's not much else to do at this point but click the X in the corner to close the window.

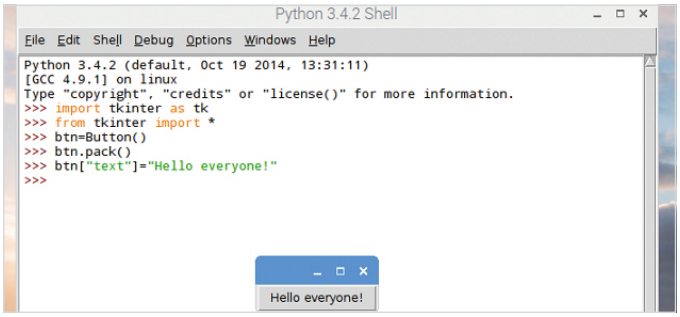


STEP 3

The ideal approach is to add mainloop() into the code to control the Tkinter event loop, but we'll get to that soon. You've just created a Tkinter widget and there are several more we can play around with:

```
btn=Button()
btn.pack()
btn["text"]="Hello everyone!"
```

The first line focuses on the newly created window. Click back into the Shell and continue the other lines.



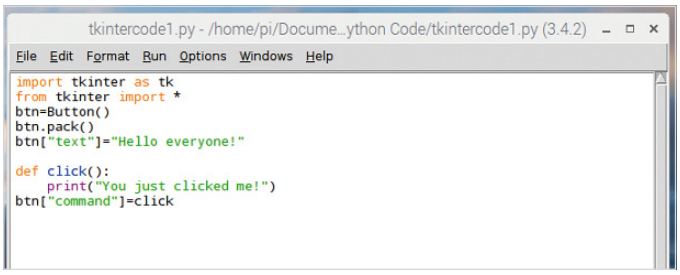
STEP 4

You can combine the above into a New File:

```
import tkinter as tk
from tkinter import *
btn=Button()
btn.pack()
btn["text"]="Hello everyone!"
```

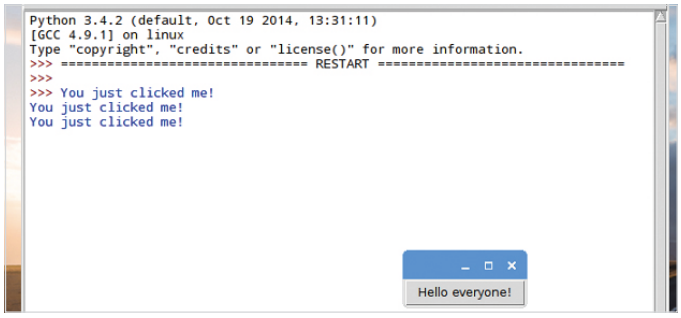
Then add some button interactions:

```
def click():
  print("You just clicked me!")
btn["command"]=click
```



STEP 5

Save and execute the code from Step 4 and a window appears with 'Hello everyone!' inside. If you click the Hello everyone! button, the Shell will output the text 'You just clicked me!'. It's simple but shows you what can be achieved with a few lines of code.



STEP 6

You can also display both text and images within a Tkinter window. However, only GIF, PGM or PPM formats are supported. So find an image and convert it before using the code. Here's an example using the BDM Publishing logo:

```
from tkinter import *

root = Tk()
logo = PhotoImage(file="/home/pi/Downloads/BDM_logo.gif")
w1 = Label(root, root.title("BDM Publications"), image=logo).pack(side="right")
content = """  From its humble beginnings in 2004, the BDM brand quickly grew from a single publication produced by a team of just two to one of the biggest names in global bookazine publishing, for two simple reasons. Our passion and commitment to deliver the very best product each and every volume. While the company has grown with a portfolio of over 250 publications delivered by our international staff, the foundation that it has been built upon remains the same, which is why we believe BDM isn't just the first choice it's the only choice for the smart consumer.  """
w2 = Label(root,
    justify=LEFT,
    padx = 10,
    text=content).pack(side="left")
root.mainloop()
```

STEP 7

The previous code is quite weighty, mostly due to the content variable holding a part of BDM's About page from the company website. You can obviously change the content, the root.title and the image to suit your needs.

STEP 8

You can create radio buttons too. Try:

```
from tkinter import *

root = Tk()

v = IntVar()

Label(root, root.title("Options"), text="""Choose a preferred language:""",
  justify = LEFT, padx = 20).pack()
Radiobutton(root,
    text="Python",
    padx = 20,
    variable=v,
    value=1).pack(anchor=W)
Radiobutton(root,
    text="C++",
    padx = 20,
    variable=v,
    value=2).pack(anchor=W)

mainloop()
```

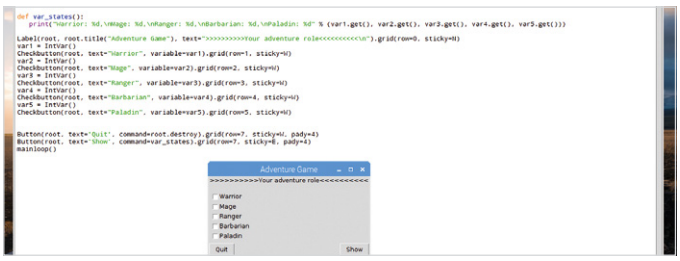
STEP 9

You can also create check boxes, with buttons and output to the Shell:

```
from tkinter import *
root = Tk()

def var_states():
  print("Warrior: %d,\nMage: %d" % (var1.get(), var2.get()))

Label(root, root.title("Adventure Game"), text=">>>>>>>>>>Your adventure role<<<<<<<<<<").grid(row=0, sticky=N)
var1 = IntVar()
Checkbutton(root, text="Warrior", variable=var1).grid(row=1, sticky=W)
var2 = IntVar()
Checkbutton(root, text="Mage", variable=var2).grid(row=2, sticky=W)
Button(root, text='Quit', command=root.destroy).grid(row=3, sticky=W, pady=4)
Button(root, text='Show', command=var_states).grid(row=3, sticky=E, pady=4)

mainloop()
```

STEP 10

The code from Step 9 introduced some new geometry elements into Tkinter. Note the sticky=N, E and W arguments. These describe the locations of the check boxes and buttons (North, East, South and West). The row argument places them on separate rows. Have a play around and see what you get.



Pygame Module

We've had a brief look at the Pygame module already but there's a lot more to it that needs exploring. Pygame was developed to help Python programmers create either graphical or text-based games.

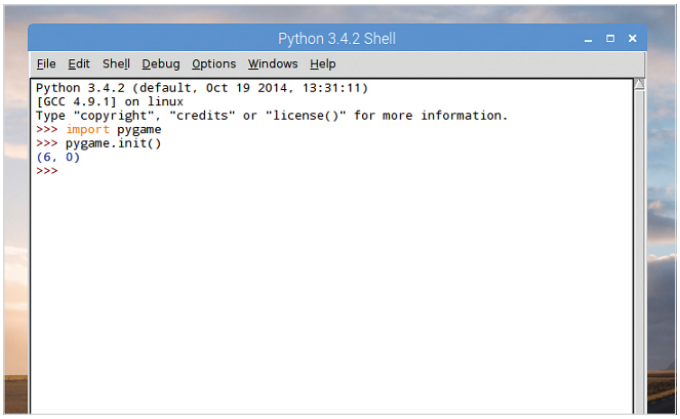
PYGAMING

Pygame isn't an inherent module to Python but those using the Raspberry Pi will already have it installed. Everyone else will need to use: pip install pygame from the command prompt.

STEP 1

Naturally you need to load up the Pygame modules into memory before you're able to utilise them. Once that's done Pygame requires the user to initialise it prior to any of the functions being used:

```
import pygame
pygame.init()
```

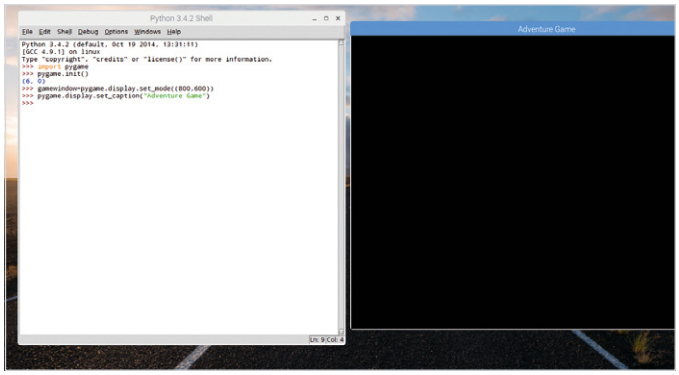


STEP 2

Let's create a simple game ready window, and give it a title:

```
gamewindow=pygame.display.set_mode((800,600))
pygame.display.set_caption("Adventure Game")
```

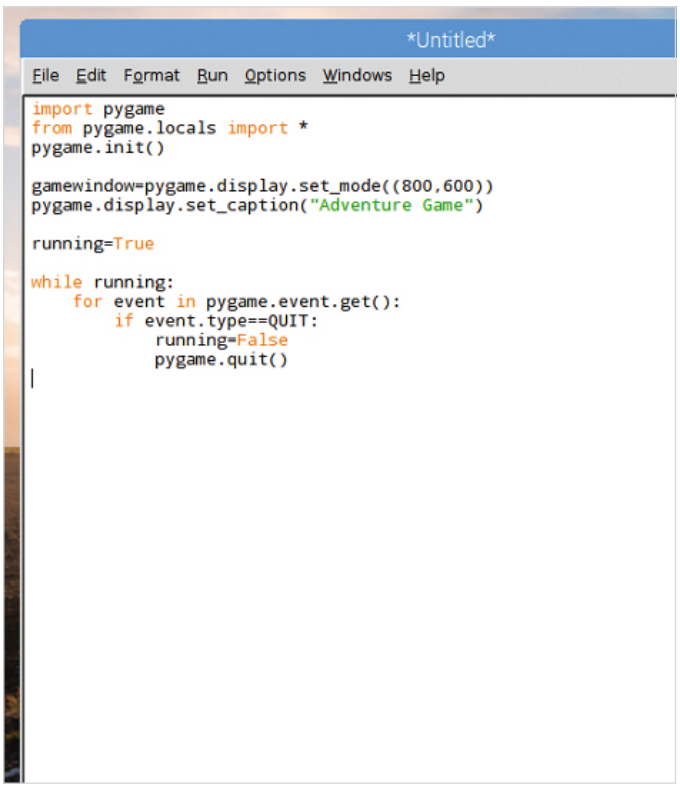
You can see that after the first line is entered, you need to click back into the IDLE Shell to continue entering code; also, you can change the title of the window to anything you like.



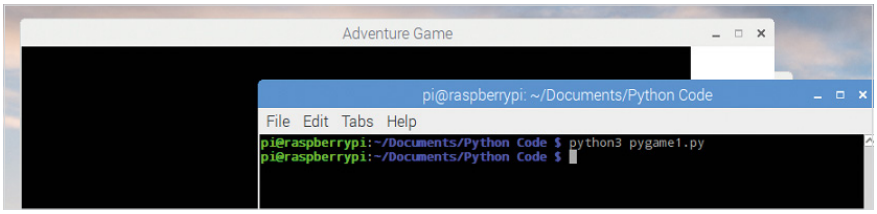
STEP 3

Sadly you can't close the newly created Pygame window without closing the Python IDLE Shell, which isn't very practical. For this reason, you need to work in the editor (New > File) and create a True/False while loop:

```
import pygame
from pygame.locals import *
pygame.init()

gamewindow=pygame.display.set_mode((800,600))
pygame.display.set_caption("Adventure Game")

running=True

while running:
  for event in pygame.event.get():
    if event.type==QUIT:
      running=False
      pygame.quit()
```

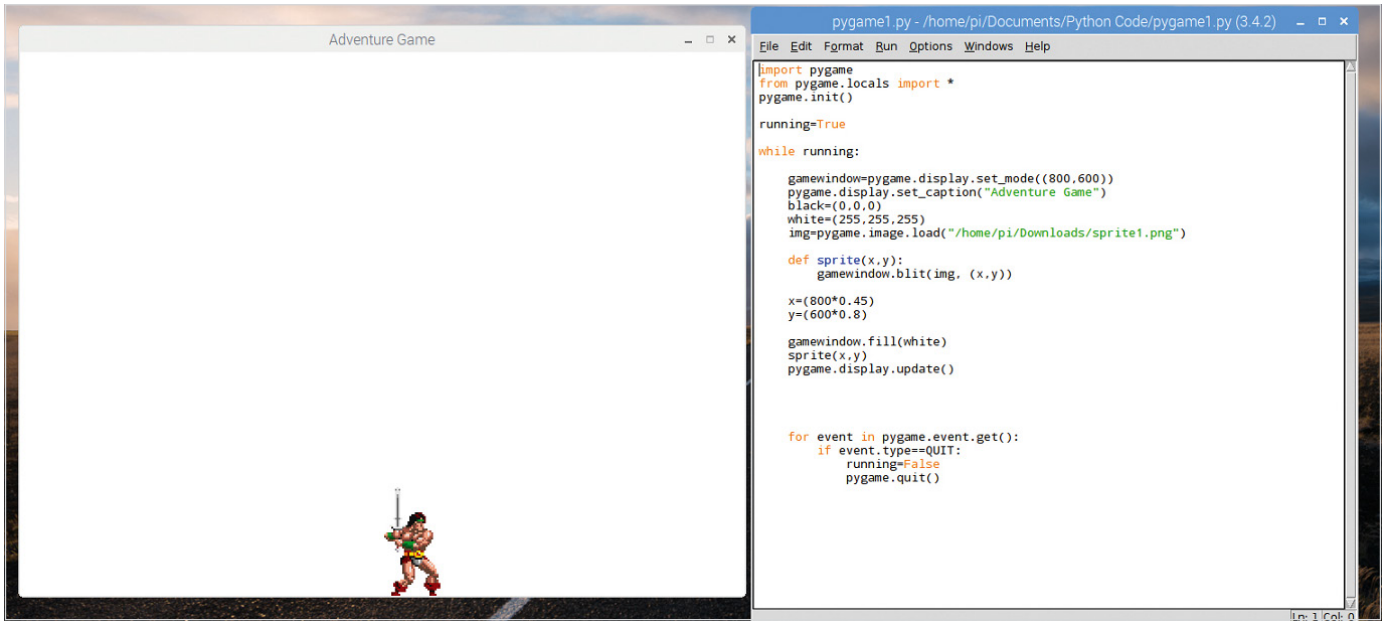


STEP 4 If the Pygame window still won't close don't worry, it's just a discrepancy between the IDLE (which is written with Tkinter) and the Pygame module. If you run your code via the command line, it closes perfectly well.



STEP 5 You're going to shift the code around a bit now, running the main Pygame code within a while loop; it makes it neater and easier to follow. We've downloaded a graphic to use and we need to set some parameters for pygame:

```
import pygame
pygame.init()

running=True

while running:

  gamewindow=pygame.display.set_mode((800,600))
  pygame.display.set_caption("Adventure Game")
  black=(0,0,0)
  white=(255,255,255)
  img=pygame.image.load("/home/pi/Downloads/
sprite1.png")

  def sprite(x,y):
    gamewindow.blit(img, (x,y))

  x=(800*0.45)
  y=(600*0.8)

  gamewindow.fill(white)
  sprite(x,y)
  pygame.display.update()

  for event in pygame.event.get():
    if event.type==pygame.QUIT:
      running=False
```



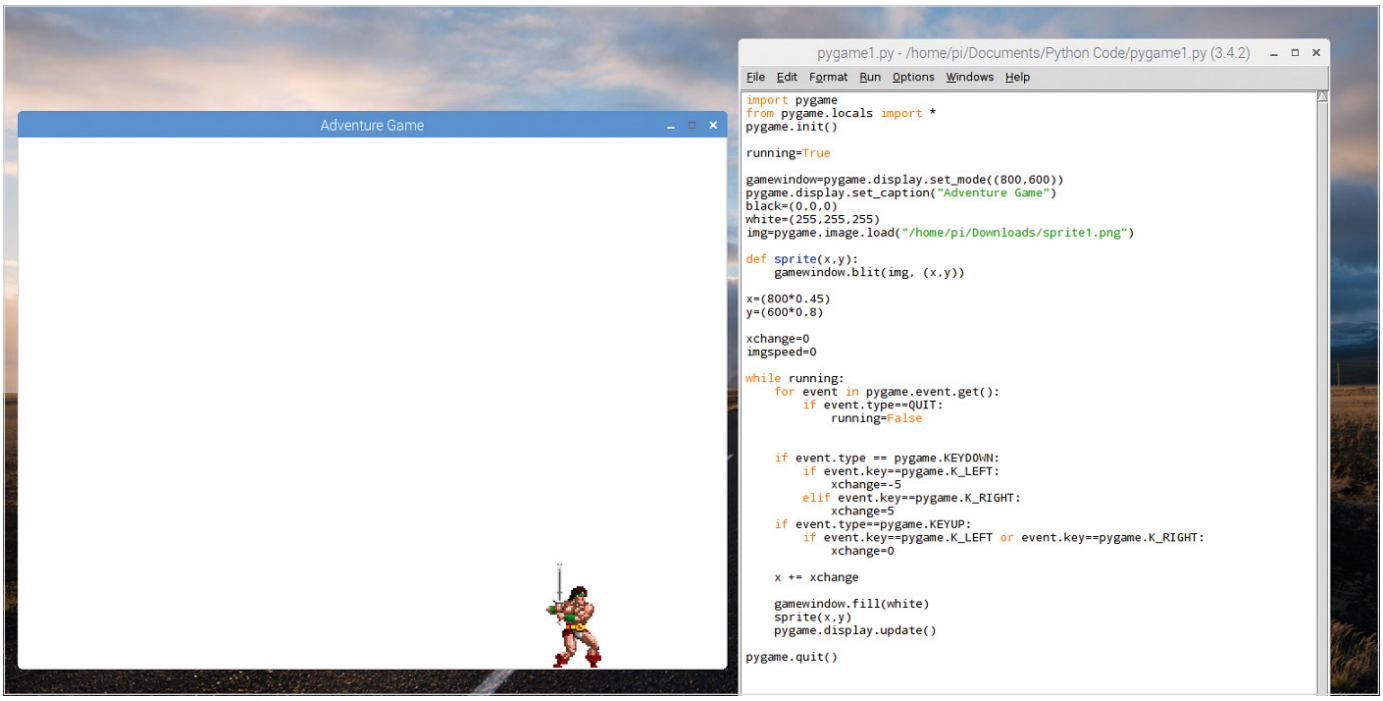
STEP 6 Let's quickly go through the code changes. We've defined two colours, black and white together with their respective RGB colour values. Next we've loaded the downloaded image called sprite1.png and allocated it to the variable img; and also defined a sprite function and the Blit function will allow us to eventually move the image.

```
import pygame
from pygame.locals import *
pygame.init()

running=True

while running:

    gamewindow=pygame.display.set_mode((800,600))
    pygame.display.set_caption("Adventure Game")
    black=(0,0,0)
    white=(255,255,255)
    img=pygame.image.load("/home/pi/Downloads/sprite1.png")

    def sprite(x,y):
        gamewindow.blit(img, (x,y))
```

```
    x=(800*0.45)
    y=(600*0.8)

    gamewindow.fill(white)
    sprite(x,y)
    pygame.display.update()



    for event in pygame.event.get():
        if event.type==QUIT:
            running=False
            pygame.quit()
```

STEP 7 Now we can change the code around again, this time containing a movement option within the while loop, and adding the variables needed to move the sprite around the screen:

```
import pygame
from pygame.locals import *
pygame.init()

running=True

gamewindow=pygame.display.set_mode((800,600))
pygame.display.set_caption("Adventure Game")
black=(0,0,0)
white=(255,255,255)
img=pygame.image.load("/home/pi/Downloads/sprite1.
png")

def sprite(x,y):
  gamewindow.blit(img, (x,y))

x=(800*0.45)
y=(600*0.8)

xchange=0
imgspeed=0

while running:
  for event in pygame.event.get():
    if event.type==QUIT:
      running=False

  if event.type == pygame.KEYDOWN:
    if event.key==pygame.K_LEFT:
      xchange=-5
    elif event.key==pygame.K_RIGHT:
      xchange=5
  if event.type==pygame.KEYUP:
    if event.key==pygame.K_LEFT or event
key==pygame.K_RIGHT:
      xchange=0

  x += xchange

  gamewindow.fill(white)
  sprite(x,y)
  pygame.display.update()

pygame.quit()
```

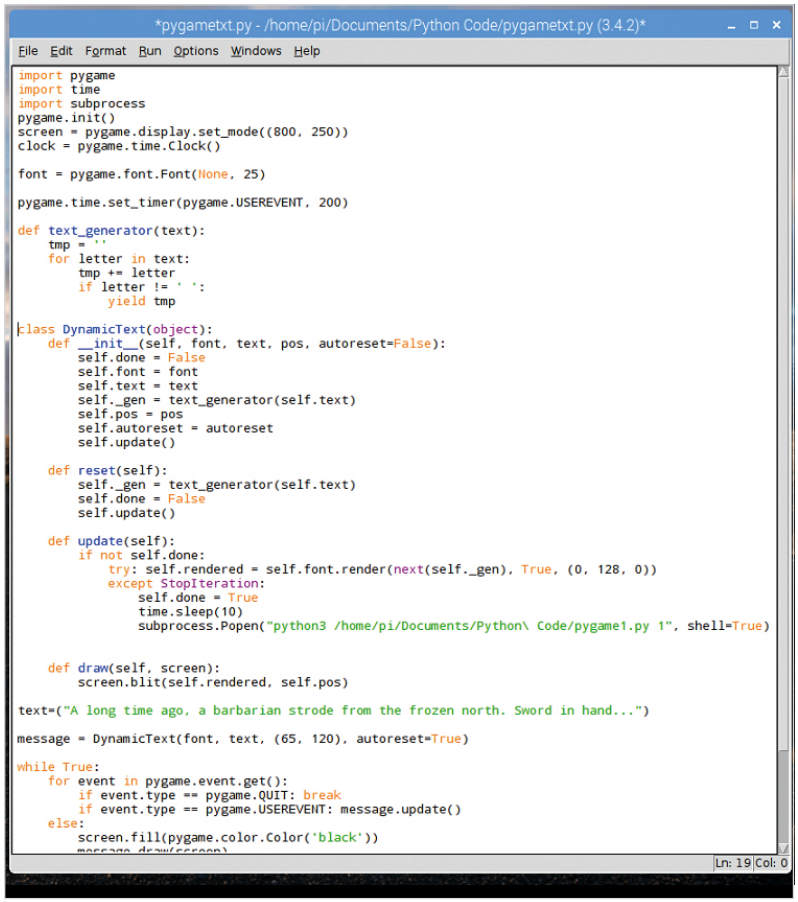


STEP 8 Copy the code down and using the left and right arrow keys on the keyboard you can move your sprite across the bottom of the screen. Now, it looks like you have the makings of a classic arcade 2D scroller in the works.

STEP 9

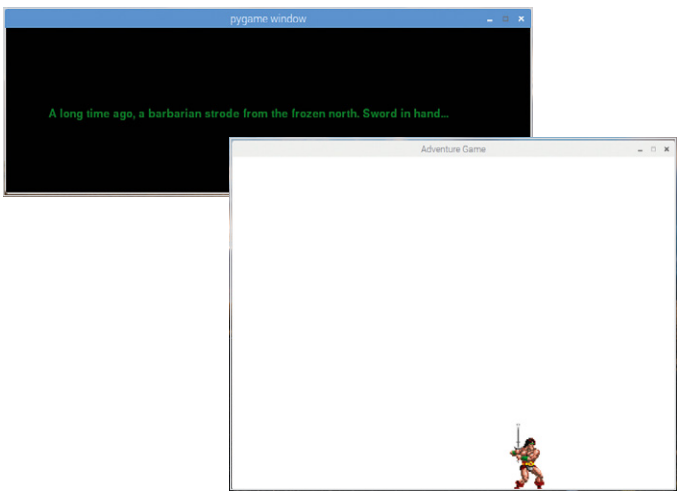
You can now implement a few additions and utilise some previous tutorial code. The new elements are the subprocess module, of which one function allows us to launch a second Python script from within another; and we're going to create a New File called pygametxt.py:

```
import pygame
import time
import subprocess
pygame.init()
screen = pygame.display.set_mode((800, 250))
clock = pygame.time.Clock()

font = pygame.font.Font(None, 25)

pygame.time.set_timer(pygame.USEREVENT, 200)

def text_generator(text):
  tmp = ''
  for letter in text:
    tmp += letter
    if letter != ' ':
      yield tmp

class DynamicText(object):
  def __init__(self, font, text, pos,
autoreset=False):
    self.done = False
    self.font = font
    self.text = text
    self._gen = text_generator(self.text)
    self.pos = pos
    self.autoreset = autoreset
    self.update()

  def reset(self):
    self._gen = text_generator(self.text)
    self.done = False
    self.update()

  def update(self):
    if not self.done:
      try: self.rendered = self.font.
render(next(self._gen), True, (0, 128, 0))
      except StopIteration:
        self.done = True
        time.sleep(10)
        subprocess.Popen("python3 /home/pi/Documents/
Python\ Code/pygame1.py 1", shell=True)

  def draw(self, screen):
    screen.blit(self.rendered, self.pos)

text=("A long time ago, a barbarian strode from the
frozen north. Sword in hand...")

message = DynamicText(font, text, (65, 120),
autoreset=True)

while True:
  for event in pygame.event.get():
    if event.type == pygame.QUIT: break
    if event.type == pygame.USEREVENT: message.
update()
  else:
    screen.fill(pygame.color.Color('black'))
    message.draw(screen)
    pygame.display.flip()
    clock.tick(60)
    continue
  break

pygame.quit()
```



STEP 10

When you run this code it will display a long, narrow Pygame window with the intro text scrolling to the right. After a pause of ten seconds, it then launches the main game Python script where you can move the warrior sprite around. Overall the effect is quite good but there's always room for improvement.



Create Your Own Modules

Large programs can be much easier to manage if you break them up into smaller parts and import the parts you need as modules. Learning to build your own modules also makes it easier to understand how they work.

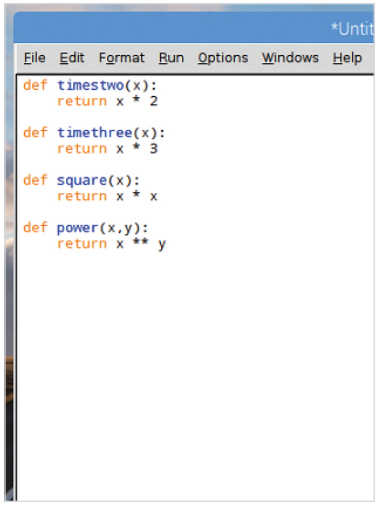
BUILDING MODULES

Modules are Python files, containing code, that you save using a .py extension. These are then imported into Python using the now familiar import command.

STEP 1

Let's start by creating a set of basic mathematics functions. Multiply a number by two, three and square or raise a number to an exponent (power). Create a New File in the IDLE and enter:

```
def timestwo(x):
        return x * 2

def timesthree(x):
        return x * 3

def square(x):
        return x * x

def power(x,y):
        return x ** y
```

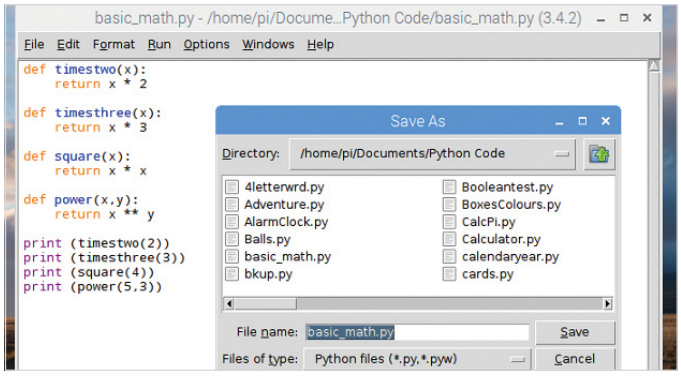


STEP 2

Under the above code, enter functions to call the code:

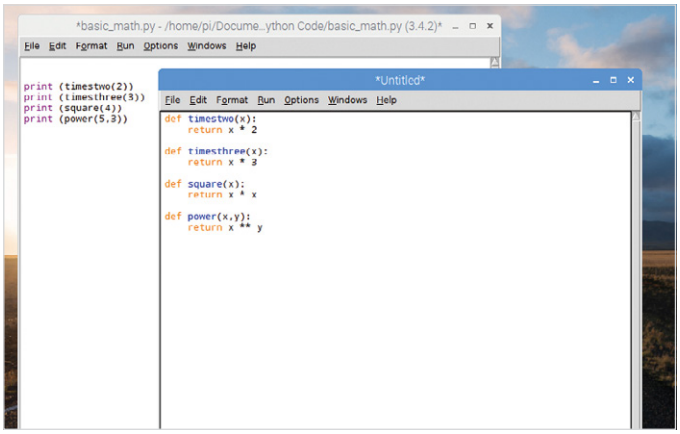
```
print (timestwo(2))
print (timesthree(3))
print (square(4))
print (power(5,3))
```

Save the program as basic_math.py and execute it to get the results.



STEP 3

Now you're going to take the function definitions out of the program and into a separate file. Highlight the function definitions and choose Edit > Cut. Choose File > New File and use Edit > Paste in the new window. You now have two separate files, one with the function definitions, the other with the function calls.



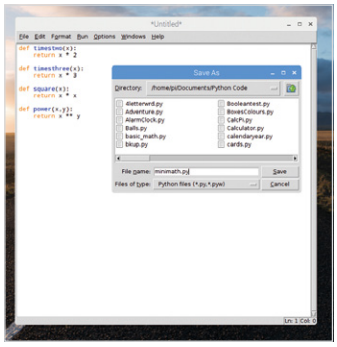
STEP 4

If you now try and execute the basic_math.py code again, the error **'NameError: name 'timestwo' is not defined'** will be displayed. This is due to the code no longer having access to the function definitions.

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/home/pi/Documents/Python Code/basic_math.py", line 3, in <module>
    print (timestwo(2))
NameError: name 'timestwo' is not defined
>>>
```

STEP 5

Return to the newly created window containing the function definitions, and click File > Save As. Name this **minimath.py** and save it in the same location as the original **basic_math.py** program. Now close the minimath.py window, so the basic_math.py window is left open.

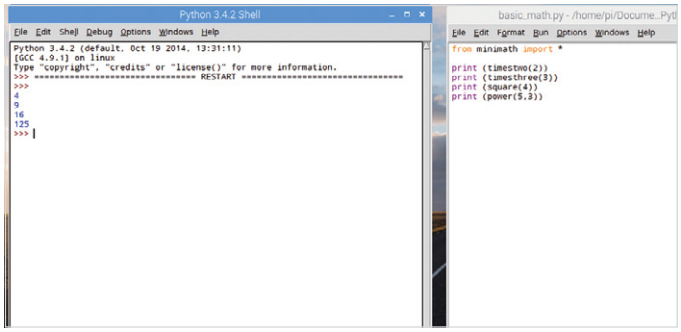


STEP 6

Back to the basic_math.py window: at the top of the code enter:

```
from minimath import *
```

This will import the function definitions as a module. Press F5 to save and execute the program to see it in action.



STEP 7

You can now use the code further to make the program a little more advanced, utilising the newly created module to its full. Include some user interaction. Start by creating a basic menu the user can choose from:

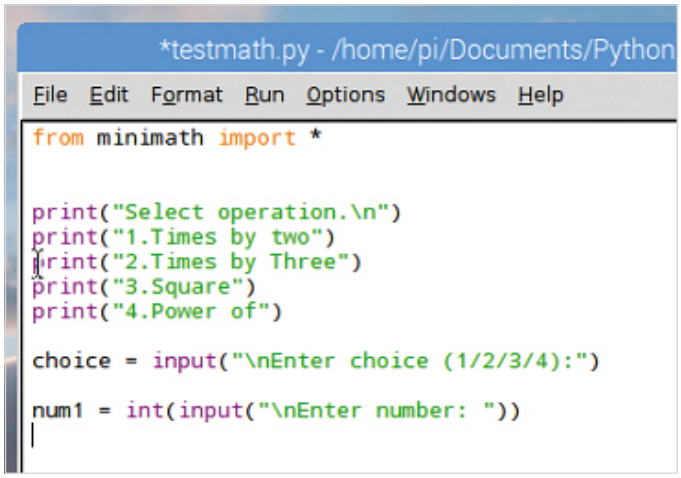
```
print("Select operation.\n")
print("1.Times by two")
print("2.Times by Three")
print("3.Square")
print("4.Power of")

choice = input("\nEnter choice (1/2/3/4):")
```

STEP 8

Now we can add the user input to get the number the code will work on:

```
num1 = int(input("\nEnter number: "))
```

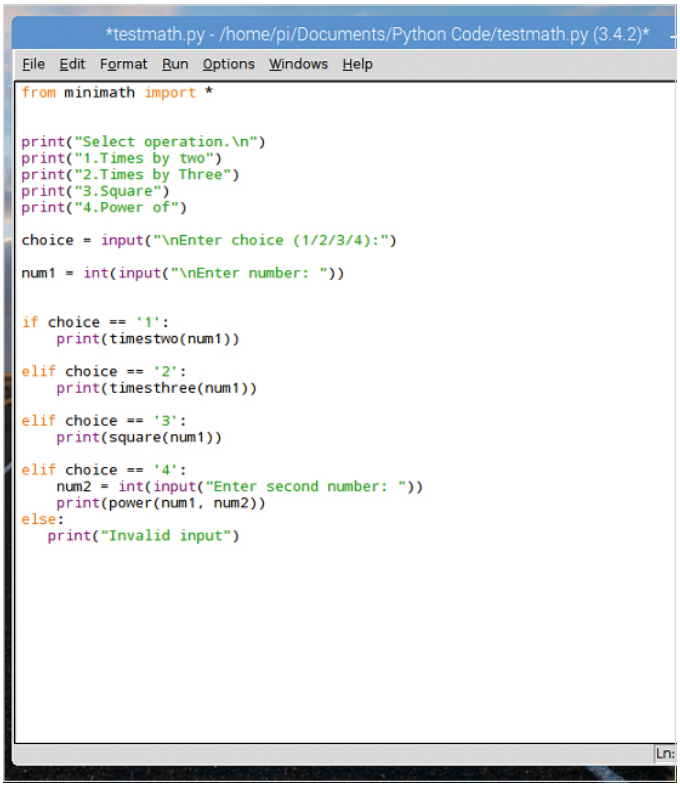
This will save the user-entered number as the variable num1.



STEP 9

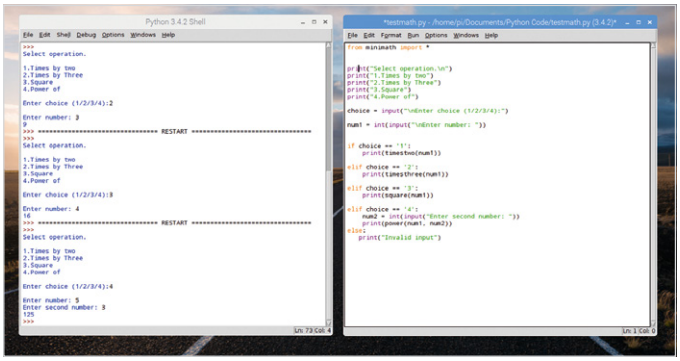
Finally, you can now create a range of if statements to determine what to do with the number and utilise the newly created function definitions:

```
if choice == '1':
    print(timestwo(num1))

elif choice == '2':
    print(timesthree(num1))

elif choice == '3':
    print(square(num1))

elif choice == '4':
    num2 = int(input("Enter second number: "))
    print(power(num1, num2))
else:
   print("Invalid input")
```



STEP 10

Note that for the last available options, the Power of choice, we've added a second variable, num2. This passes a second number through the function definition called power. Save and execute the program to see it in action.



C++ Input/ Output

There's a satisfying feeling when you program code that asks the user for input, then uses that input to produce something that the user can see. Even if it's simply asking for someone's name, and displaying a personal welcome message, it's a big leap forward.

User interaction, character literals, defining constants and file input and output are all covered in the following pages. All of which help you to understand how a C++ program works better.

User Interaction

There's nothing quite as satisfying as creating a program that responds to you. This basic user interaction is one of the most taught aspects of any language and with it you're able to do much more than simply greet the user by name.

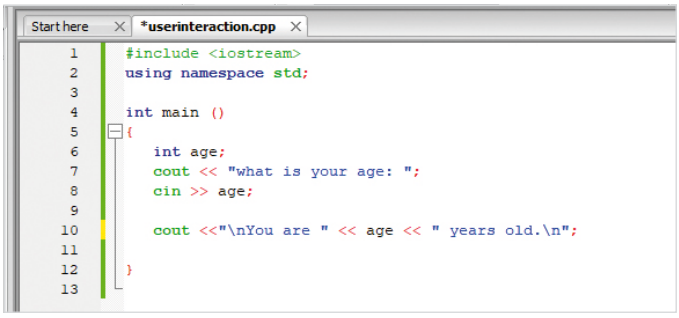
HELLO, DAVE

You have already used cout, the standard output stream, throughout our code. Now you're going to be using cin, the standard input stream, to prompt a user response.

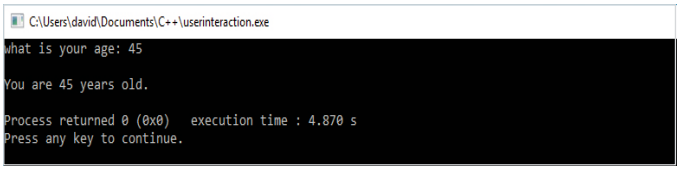
STEP 1 Anything that you want the user to input into the program needs to be stored somewhere in the system memory, so it can be retrieved and used. Therefore, any input must first be declared as a variable, so it's ready to be used by the user. Start by creating a blank C++ file with headers.

STEP 2 The data type of the variable must also match the type of input you want from the user. For example, to ask a user their age, you would use an integer like this:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
   int age;
   cout << "what is your age: ";
   cin >> age;

   cout <<"\nYou are " << age << " years old.\n";

}
```

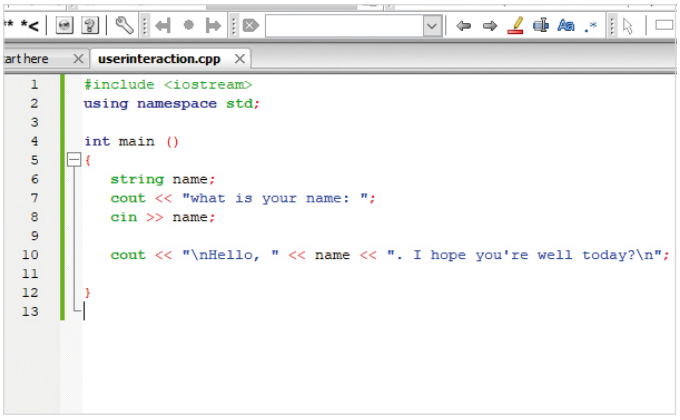


STEP 3 The cin command works in the opposite way from the cout command. With the first cout line you're outputting 'What is your age' to the screen, as indicated with the chevrons. Cin uses opposite facing chevrons, indicating an input. The input is put into the integer age and called up in the second cout command. Build and run the code.



STEP 4 If you're asking a question, you need to store the input as a string; to ask the user their name, you would use:

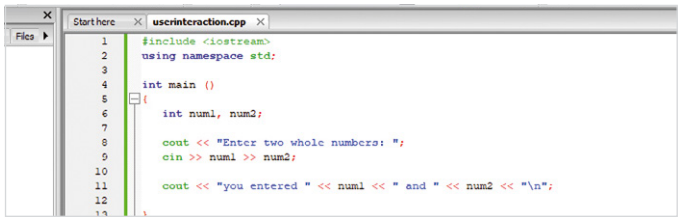
```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
   string name;
   cout << "what is your name: ";
   cin >> name;

   cout << "\nHello, " << name << ". I hope you're well today?\n";

}
```



STEP 5 The principal works the same as the previous code. The user's input, their name, is stored in a string, because it contains multiple characters, and retrieved in the second cout line. As long as the variable 'name' doesn't change, then you can recall it wherever you like in your code

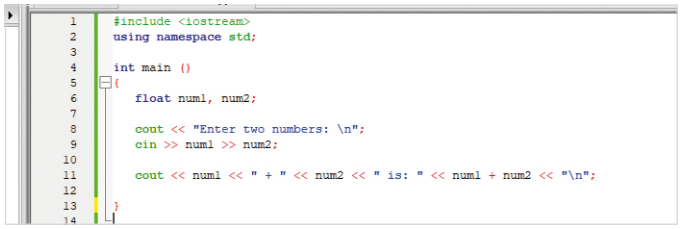
STEP 6 You can chain input requests to the user but just make sure you have a valid variable to store the input to begin with. Let's assume you want the user to enter two whole numbers:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
   int num1, num2;

   cout << "Enter two whole numbers: ";
   cin >> num1 >> num2;

   cout << "you entered " << num1 << " and " << num2 << "\n";

}
```



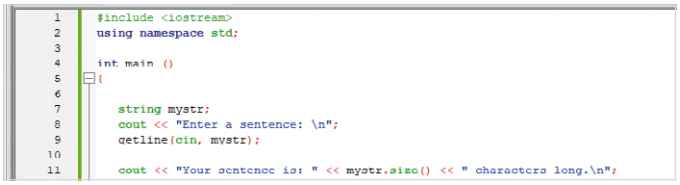
STEP 7 Likewise, inputted data can be manipulated once you have it stored in a variable. For instance, ask the user for two numbers and do some maths on them:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
   float num1, num2;

   cout << "Enter two numbers: \n";
   cin >> num1 >> num2;

   cout << num1 << " + " << num2 << " is: " << num1 + num2 << "\n";

}
```

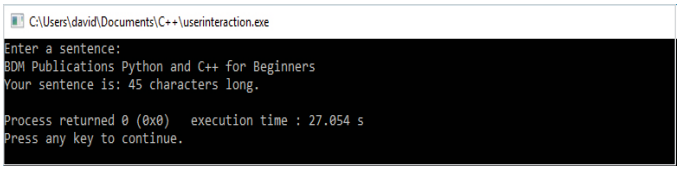


STEP 8 While cin works well for most input tasks, it does have a limitation. Cin always considers spaces as a terminator, so it's designed for just single words not multiple words. However, getline takes cin as the first argument and the variable as the second:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
   string mystr;
   cout << "Enter a sentence: \n";
   getline(cin, mystr);

   cout << "Your sentence is: " << mystr.size() << " characters long.\n";

}
```

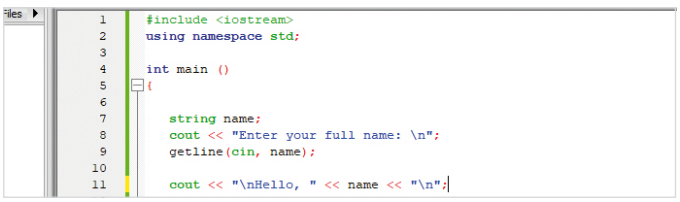


STEP 9 Build and execute the code, then enter a sentence with spaces. When you're done the code reads the number of characters. If you remove the getline line and replace it with cin >> mystr and try again, the result displays the number of characters up to the first space.



STEP 10 Getline is usually a command that new C++ programmers forget to include. The terminating white space is annoying when you can't figure out why your code isn't working. In short, it's best to use getline(cin, variable) in future:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
   string name;
   cout << "Enter your full name: \n";
   getline(cin, name);

   cout << "\nHello, " << name << "\n";

}
```



Character Literals

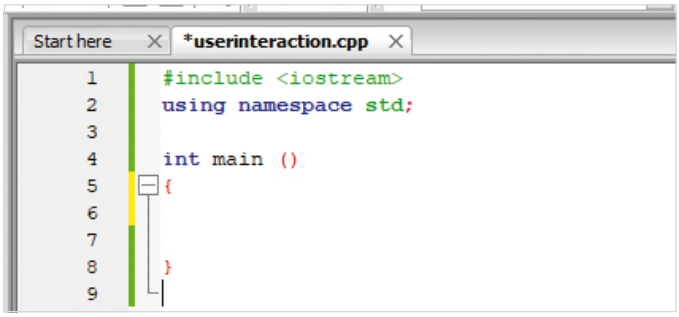
In C++ a literal is an object or variable that once defined remains the same throughout the code. However, a character literal is defined by a backslash, such as the \n you've been using at the end of a cout statement to signify a new line.

ESCAPE SEQUENCE

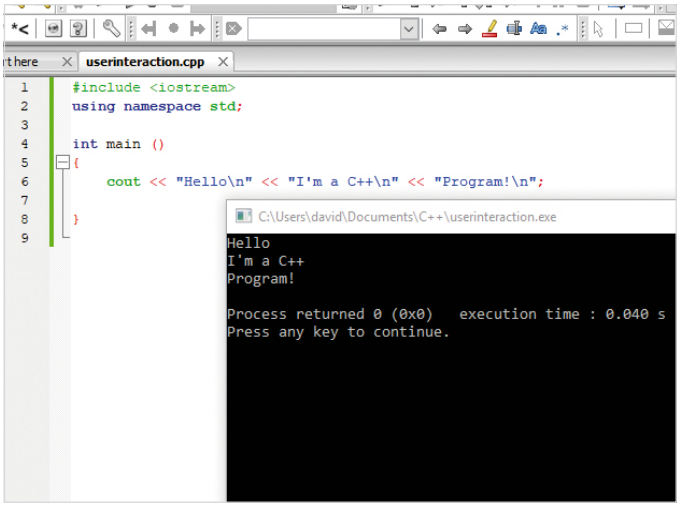
When used in something like a cout statement, character literals are also called Escape Sequence Codes. They allow you to insert a quote, an alert, new line and much more.

STEP 1 Create a new C++ file and enter the relevant headers:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{

}
```

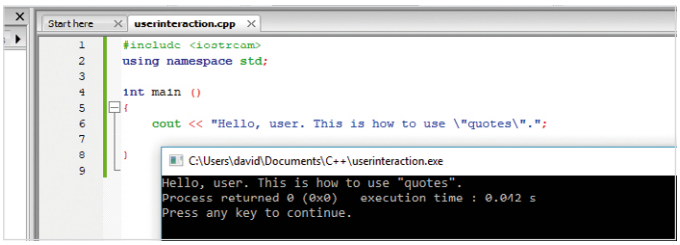


STEP 2 You've already experienced the \n character literal placing a new line wherever it's called. The line: **cout << "Hello\n" << "I'm a C++\n" << "Program\n";** outputs three lines of text, each starting after the last \n.



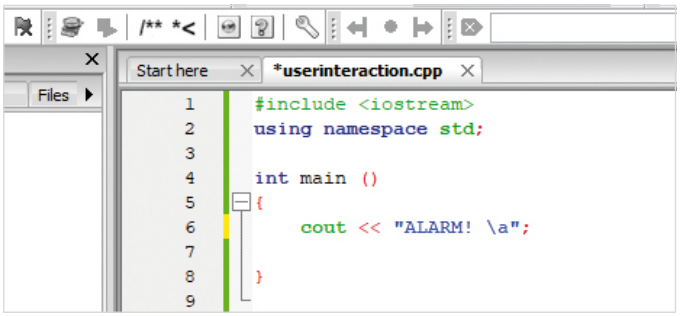
STEP 3 If you wanted to insert speech quotes inside a cout statement, you would have to use a backslash as it already uses quotes:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
    cout << "Hello, user. This is how to use
\"quotes\".";

}
```



STEP 4 There's even a character literal that can trigger an alarm. In Windows 10, it's the notification sound that chimes when you use \a. Try this code, and turn up your sound.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
    cout << "ALARM! \a";

}
```



A HANDY CHART

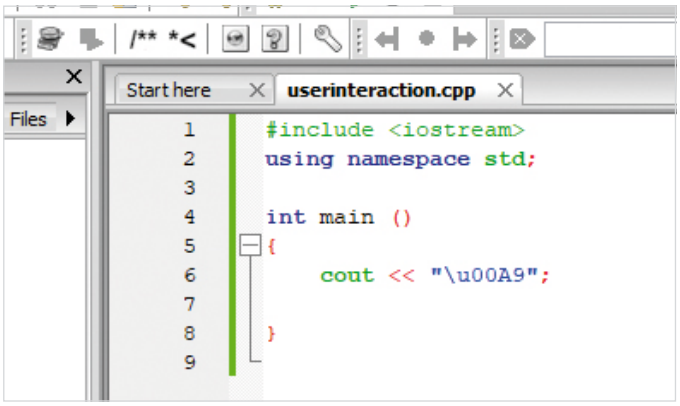
There are numerous character literals, or escape sequence codes, to choose from. We therefore thought it would be good for you to have a handy chart available, for those times when you need to insert a code.

ESCAPE SEQUENCE CODE	CHARACTER
\\	Backslash
\'	Single Quote
\"	Double Quote (Speech Marks)
\?	Question Mark
\a	Alert/Alarm
\b	Backspace
\f	Form Feed
\n	New Line
\r	Carriage Return
\t	Horizontal Tab
\v	Vertical Tab
\0	Null Character
\uxxxx	Unicode (UTF-8)
\Uxxxxxxxx	Unicode (UTF-16)

UNICODE CHARACTERS (UTF-8)

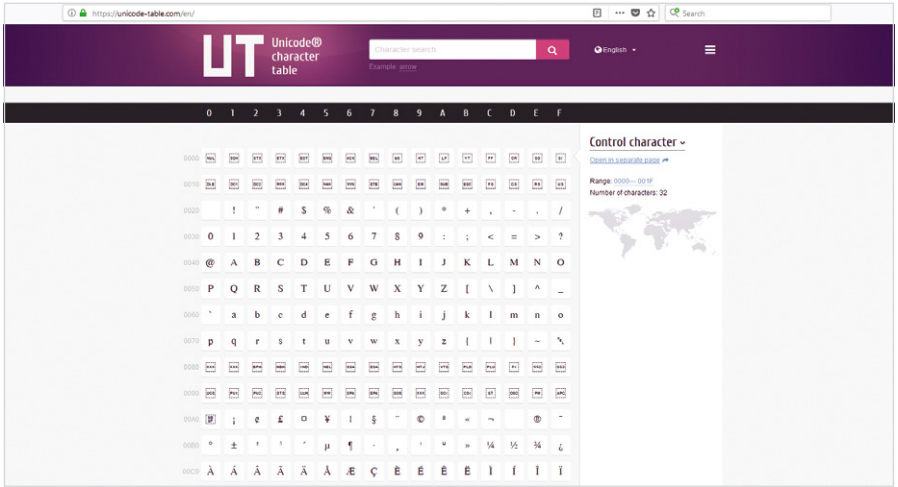
Unicode characters are symbols or characters that are standard across all platforms. For example, the copyright symbol, that can be entered via the keyboard by entering the Unicode code, followed by ALT+X. In the case of the copyright symbol enter: 00A9 Alt+X. In C++ code, you would enter:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
    cout << "\u00A9";
```



UNICODE CHARACTER TABLE

A complete list of the available Unicode characters can be found at **www.unicode-table.com/en/**. Hover your mouse over the character to see its unique code to enter in C++.



Defining Constants

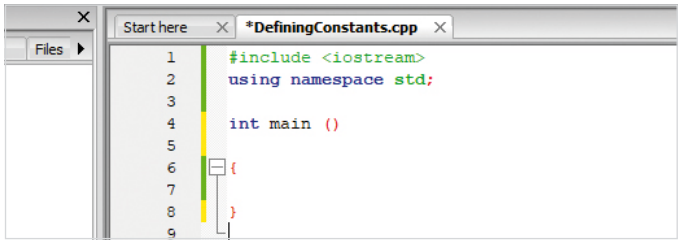
Constants are fixed values in your code. They can be any basic data type but as the name suggests their value remains constant throughout the entire code. There are two separate ways to define a constant in C++, the #define pre-processor and const.

#DEFINE

The pre-processors are instructions to the compiler to pre-process the information before it goes ahead and compiles the code. #include is a pre-processor as is #define.

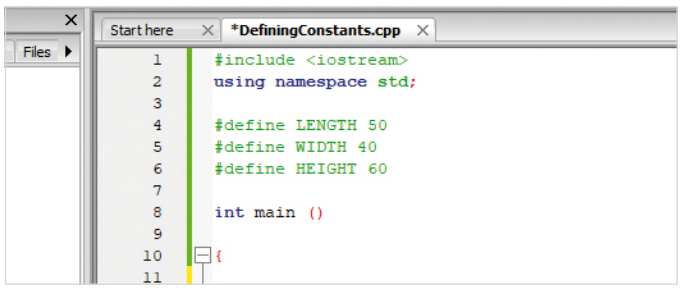
STEP 1 You can use the #define pre-processor to define any constants you want in our code. Start by creating a new C++ file complete with the usual headers:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{

}
```



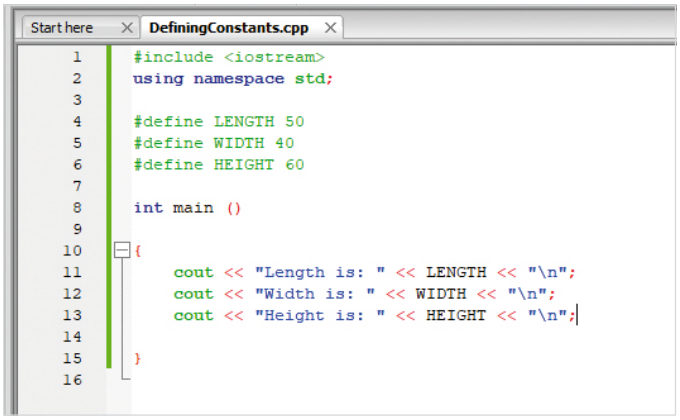
STEP 2 Now let's assume your code has three different constants: length, width and height. You can define them with:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
#define LENGTH 50
#define WIDTH 40
#define HEIGHT 60

int main ()

{

}
```

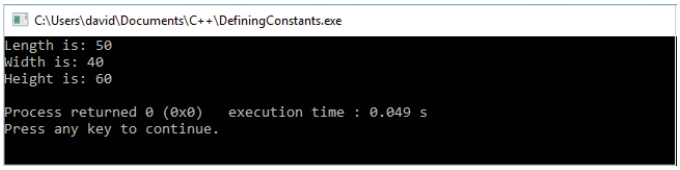


STEP 3 Note the capitals for defined constants, it's considered good programming practise to define all constants in capitals. Here, the assigned values are 50, 40 and 60, so let's call them up:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

#define LENGTH 50
#define WIDTH 40
#define HEIGHT 60

int main ()

{
    cout << "Length is: " << LENGTH << "\n";
    cout << "Width is: " << WIDTH << "\n";
    cout << "Height is: " << HEIGHT << "\n";
}
```



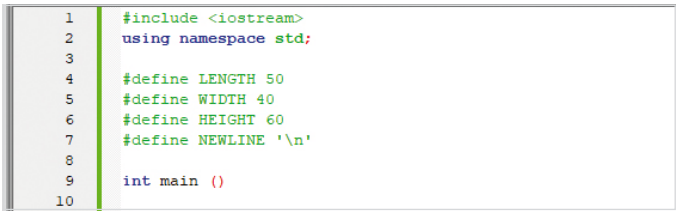
STEP 4 Build and run the code. Just as expected, it displays the values for each of the constants created. It's worth noting that you don't need a semicolon when you're defining a constant with the #define keyword.



STEP 5

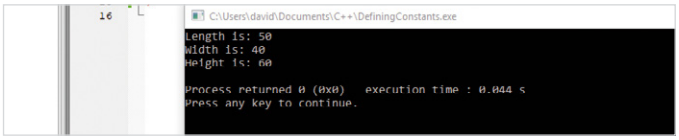
You can also define other elements as a constant. For example, instead of using \n for a newline in the cout statement, you can define it at the start of the code:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

#define LENGTH 50
#define WIDTH 40
#define HEIGHT 60
#define NEWLINE ‘\n’

int main ()

{
    cout << “Length is: “ << LENGTH << NEWLINE;
    cout << “Width is: “ << WIDTH << NEWLINE;
    cout << “Height is: “ << HEIGHT << NEWLINE;
}
```



STEP 6

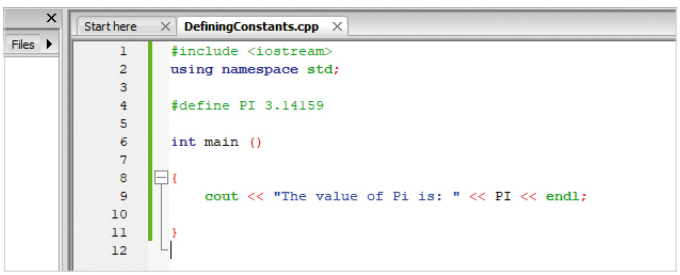
The code, when built and executed, does exactly the same as before, using the new constant NEWLINE to insert a newline in the cout statement. Incidentally, creating a newline constant isn’t a good idea unless you’re making it smaller than \n or even the endl command.



STEP 7

Defining a constant is a good way of initialising your base values at the start of your code. You can define that your game has three lives, or even the value of PI without having to call up the C++ math library:

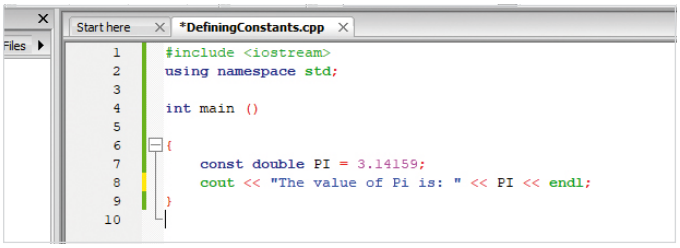
```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

#define PI 3.14159

int main ()

{
    cout << “The value of Pi is: “ << PI << endl;

}
```



STEP 8

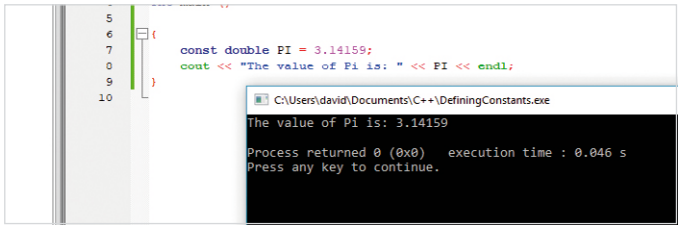
Another method of defining a constant is with the const keyword. Use const together with a data type, variable and value: const type variable = value. Using Pi as an example:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{
    const double PI = 3.14159;
    cout << “The value of Pi is: “ << PI << endl;
}
```



STEP 9

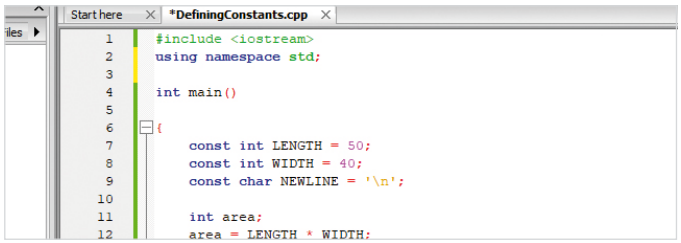
Because you’re using const within the main block of code, you need to finish the line with a semicolon. You can use either, as long as the names and values don’t clash, but it’s worth mentioning that #define requires no memory, so if you’re coding to a set amount of memory, #define is your best bet.



STEP 10

Const works in much the same way as #define. You can create static integers and even newlines:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main()

{
    const int LENGTH = 50;
    const int WIDTH = 40;
    const char NEWLINE = ‘\n’;

    int area;
    area = LENGTH * WIDTH;

    cout << “Area is: “ << area << NEWLINE;

}
```



File Input/Output

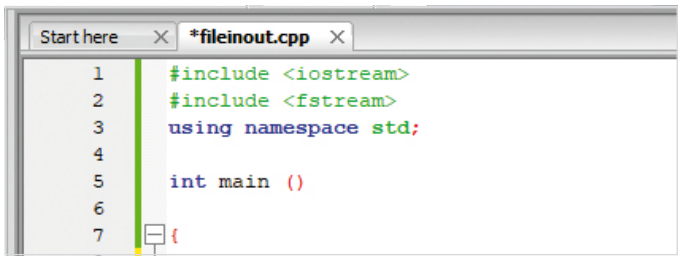
The standard iostream library provides C++ coders with the cin and cout input and output functionality. However, to be able to read and write from a file you need to utilise another C++ library, called fstream.

FSTREAMS

There are two main data types within the fstream library that are used to open a file, read from it and write to it, ofstream and ifstream. Here's how they work.

STEP 1 The first task is to create a new C++ file and along with the usual headers you need to include the new fstream header:

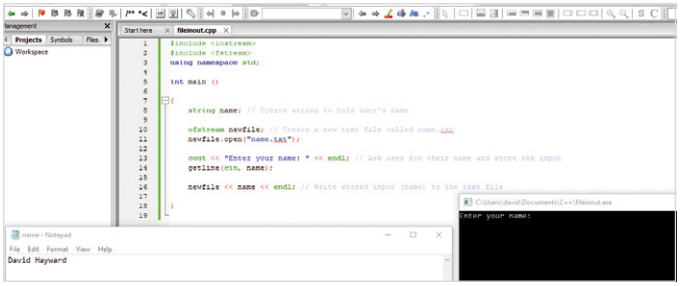
```
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
Using namespace std;

int main ()

{

}
```



STEP 2 Begin by asking a user for their name and writing that information to a file. You need the usual string to store the name, and getline to accept the input from the user.

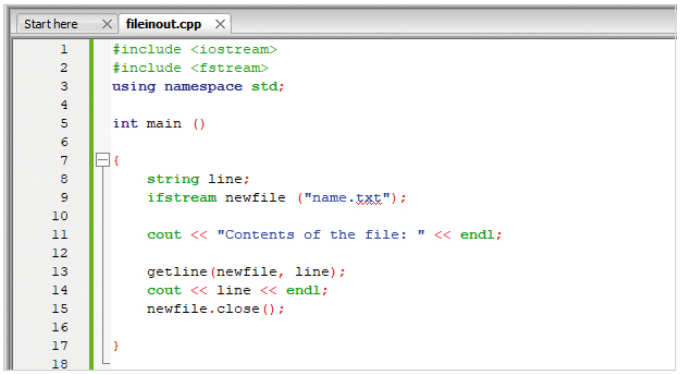
```
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{

    string name;

    ofstream newfile;
    newfile.open("name.txt");

    cout << "Enter your name: " << endl;
    getline(cin, name);

    newfile << name << endl;

    newfile.close();

}
```

STEP 3 We've included comments in the screenshot of step 2 to help you understand the process. You created a string called name, to store the user's inputted name. You also created a text file called name.txt (with the ofstream newfile and newfile.open lines), asked the user for their name and stored it and then written the data to the file.



STEP 4 To read the contents of a file, and output it to the screen, you need to do things slightly differently. First you need to create a string variable to store the file's contents (line by line), then open the file, use getline to read the file line by line and output those lines to the screen. Finally, close the file.

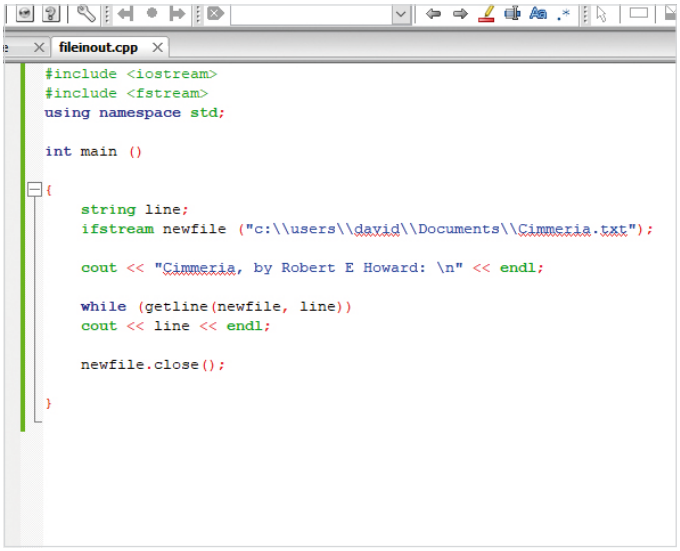
```
    string line;
    ifstream newfile ("name.txt");

    cout << "Contents of the file: " << endl;

    getline(newfile, line);
    cout << line << endl;
    newfile.close();
```



STEP 5

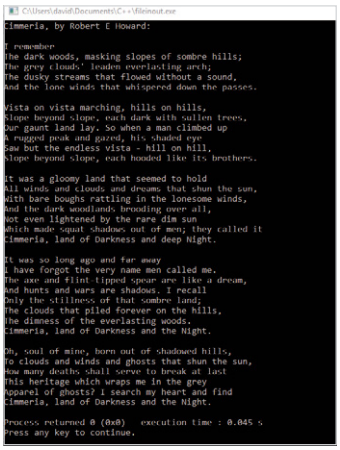
The code above is great for opening a file with one or two lines but what if there are multiple lines? Here we opened a text file of the poem Cimmeria, by Robert E Howard:

```
    string line;
    ifstream newfile ("c:\\users\\david\\
Documents\\Cimmeria.txt");

    cout << "Cimmeria, by Robert E Howard: \n" <<
endl;

    while (getline(newfile, line))
    cout << line << endl;

    newfile.close();
```



STEP 6

You can no doubt see that we've included a while loop, which we cover in a few pages time. It means that while there are lines to be read from the text file, C++ getlines them. Once all the lines are read, the output is displayed on the screen and the file is closed.



STEP 7

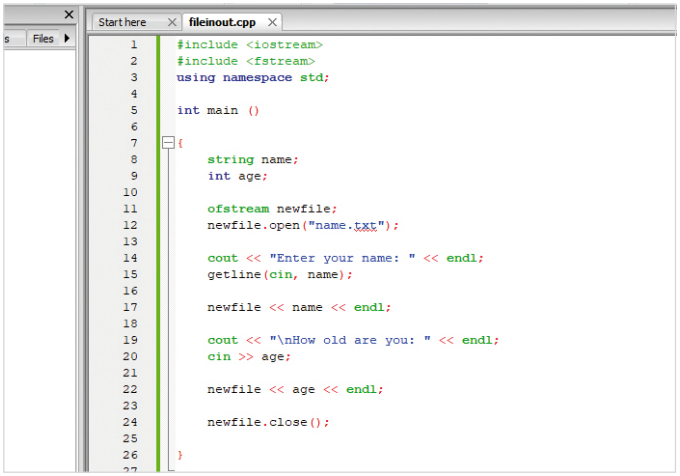
You can also see that the location of the text file Cimmeria.txt isn't in the same folder as the C++ program. When we created the first name.txt file, it was written to the same folder where the code was located; this is done by default. To specify another folder, you need to use double-back slashes, as per the character literals/escape sequence code.

```
6
7   {
8       string line;
9       ifstream newfile ("c:\\users\\david\\Documents\\Cimmeria.txt");
10
11      cout << "Cimmeria, by Robert E Howard: \n" << endl;
```

STEP 8

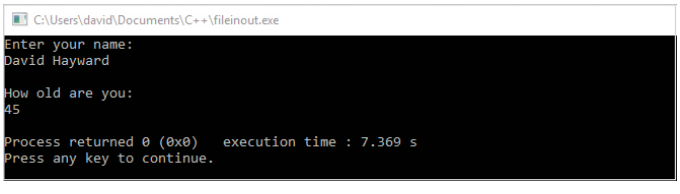
Just as you might expect, you can write almost anything you like to a file, for reading either in Notepad or via the console through the C++ code:

```
    string name;
    int age;

    ofstream newfile;
    newfile.open("name.txt");

    cout << "Enter your name: " << endl;
    getline(cin, name);

    newfile << name << endl;

    cout << "\nHow old are you: " << endl;
    cin >> age;

    newfile << age << endl;

    newfile.close();
```



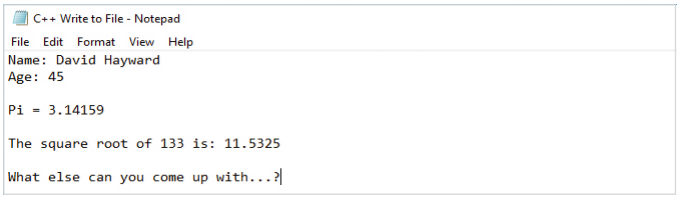
STEP 9

The code from step 8 differs again, but only where it comes to adding the age integer. Notice that we used cin >> age, instead of the previous getline(cin, variable). The reason for this is that the getline function handles strings, not integers; so when you're using a data type other than a string, use the standard cin.



STEP 10

Here's an exercise: see if you can create code to write several different elements to a text file. You can have a user's name, age, phone number etc. Maybe even the value of Pi and various mathematical elements. It's all good practice.



Loops and Decision Making

Loops and repetition are one of the most important factors of any programming language. Good use of a loop creates a program that does exactly what you want it to and delivers the desired outcome without issues or errors.

Without loops and decision making events within the code, your program will never be able to offer the user any choice. It's this understanding of choice that elevates your skills as a programmer and makes for much better code.

While Loop

A while loop's function is to repeat a statement, or a group of statements, while a certain condition remains true. When the while loop starts, it initialises itself by testing the condition of the loop and the statements within, before executing the rest of the loop.

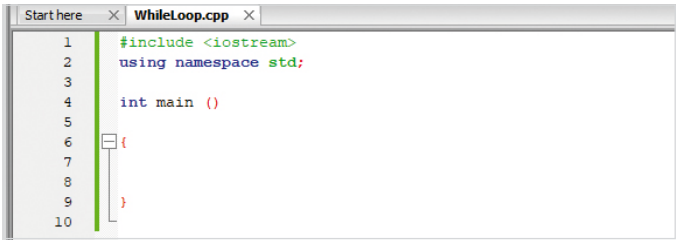
TRUE OR FALSE?

While loops are one of the most popular form of C++ code looping. They repeatedly run the code contained within the loop while the condition is true. Once it proves false, the code continues as normal.

STEP 1

Clear what you've done so far and create a new C++ file. There's no need for any extra headers at the moment, so add the standard headers as per usual:

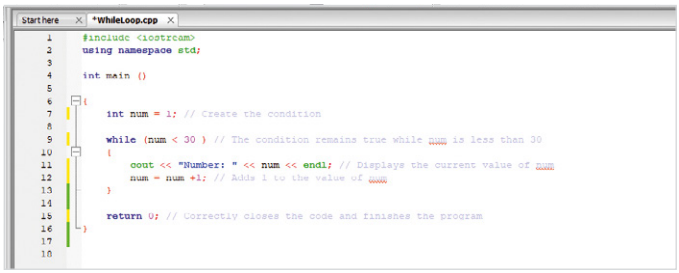
```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{

}
```



STEP 2

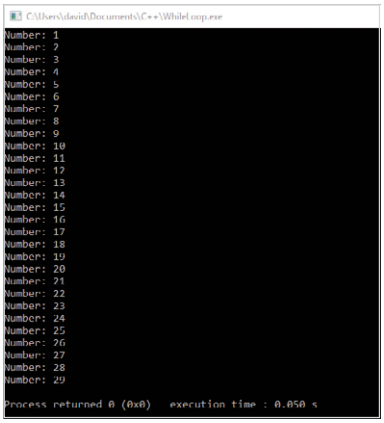
Create a simple while loop. Enter the code below, build and run (we've added comments to the screen shot):

```
{
    int num = 1;

    while (num < 30 )
    {
        cout << "Number: " << num << endl;
        num = num +1;
    }

    return 0;
}
```



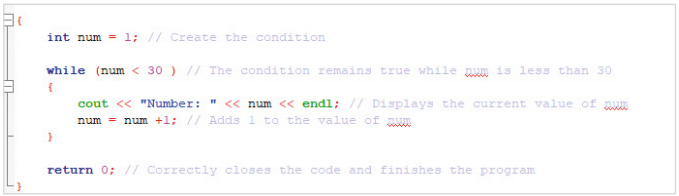
STEP 3

First you need to create a condition, so use a variable called num and give it the value 1. Now create the while loop, stating that as long as num is less than 30, the loop is true. Within the loop the value of num is displayed and adds 1 until it's more than 30.



STEP 4

We're introducing a few new elements here. The first are the opening and closing braces for the while loop. This is because our loop is a compound statement, meaning a group of statements; note also, there's no semicolon after the while statement. You now also have return 0, which is a clean and preferred way of ending the code.



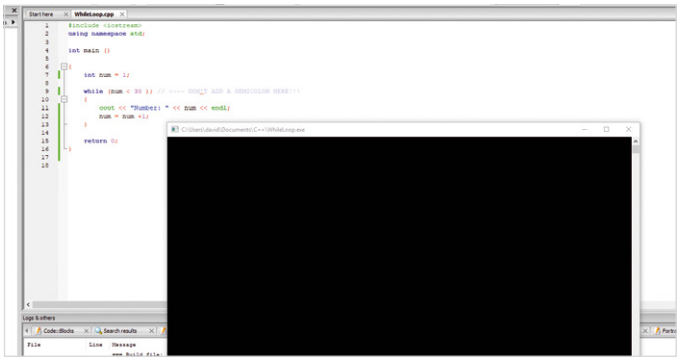
STEP 5

If you didn't need to see the continually increasing value of num, you could have done away with the compound while statement and instead just added num by itself until it reached 30, and then displayed the value:

```
{
    int num = 1;

    while (num < 30 )
        num++;
    cout << "Number: " << num << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

STEP 6 It's important to remember not to add a semicolon at the end of a while statement. Why? Well, as you know, the semicolon represents the end of a C++ line of code. If you place one at the end of a while statement, your loop will be permanently stuck until you close the program.

STEP 7 In our example, if we were to execute the code the value of num would be 1, as set by the int statement. When the code hits the while statement it reads that while the condition of 1 being less than 30 is true, loop. The semicolon closes the line, so the loop repeats; but it never adds 1 to num, as it won't continue through the compound statement.



STEP 8 You can manipulate the while statement to display different results depending on what code lies within the loop. For example, to read the poem, Cimmeria, word by word, you would enter:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{
    string word;
    ifstream newfile ("C:\\users\\david\\
Documents\\Cimmeria.txt");

    cout << "Cimmeria, by Robert E Howard: \n" <<
endl;

    while (newfile >> word)
    {
        cout << word << endl;
    }

    return 0;
}
```

STEP 9 You can further expand the code to enable each word of the poem to appear every second. To do so, you need to pull in a new library, <windows.h>. This is a Windows only library and within it you can use the Sleep() function:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
#include <windows.h>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{
    string word;
    ifstream newfile ("C:\\users\\david\\
Documents\\Cimmeria.txt");

    cout << "Cimmeria, by Robert E Howard: \n" <<
endl;

    while (newfile >> word)
    {
        cout << word << endl;
        Sleep(1000);
    }

    return 0;
}
```

STEP 10 Sleep() works in milliseconds, so Sleep(1000) is one second, Sleep(10000) is ten seconds and so on. Combining the sleep function (along with the header it needs) and a while loop enables you to come up with some interesting countdown code.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <windows.h>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{
    int a = 10;

    while (a != 0)
    {
        cout << a << endl;
        a = a - 1;
        Sleep(1000);
    }

    cout << "\nBlast Off!" << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

For Loop

In some respects, a for loop works in a very similar way to that of a while loop, although it's structure is different. A for loop is split into three stages: an initialiser, a condition and an incremental step. Once set up, the loop repeats itself until the condition becomes false.

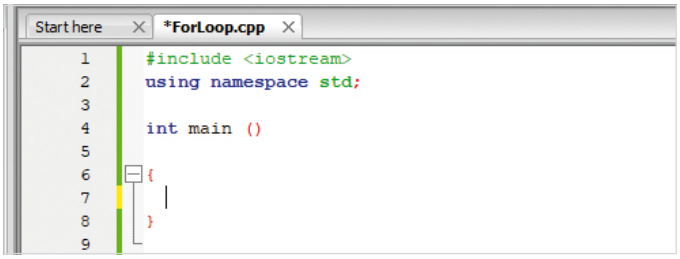
LOOPY LOOPS

The initialise stage of a for loop is executed only once and this sets the point reference for the loop. The condition is evaluated by the loop to see if it's true or false and then the increment is executed. The loop then repeats the second and third stage.

STEP 1

Create a new C++ file, with the standard headers:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{


}
```



STEP 2

Start simple and create a for loop that counts from 1 to 30, displaying the value to the screen with each increment:

```
{
    //For Loop Begins
    for( int num = 1; num < 30; num = num +1 )
    {
        cout << "Number: " << num << endl;
    }

    return 0;

}
```

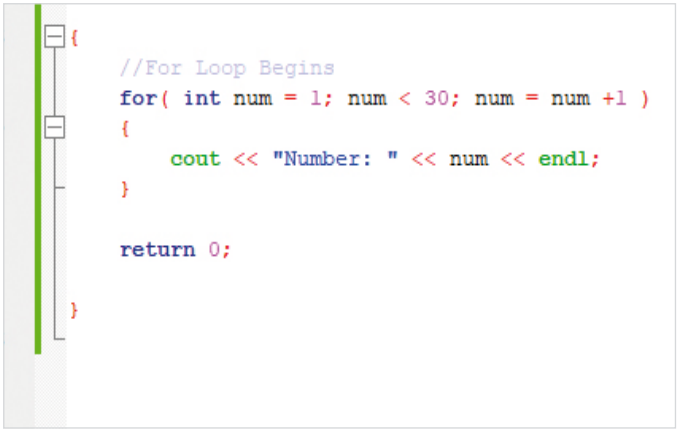
STEP 3

Working through the process of the for loop, begin by creating an integer called num and assigning it a value of 1. Next, set the condition, in this case num being less than 30. The last stage is where you create the increments; here it's the value of num being added by 1.

```
{
    //For Loop Begins
    for( int num = 1; num < 30; num = num +1 )
```

STEP 4

After the loop, you created a compound statement in braces (curly brackets), that displays the current value of the integer num. Every time the for loop repeats itself, the second and third stages of the loop, it adds 1 until the condition <30 is false. The loop then ends and the code continues, ending neatly with return 0.



STEP 5

A for loop is quite a neat package in C++, all contained within its own brackets, while the other elements outside of the loop are displayed below. If you want to create a 10-second countdown, you could use:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <windows.h>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{
    //For Loop Begins
    for( int a = 10; a != 0; a = a -1 )
    {
        cout << a << endl;
        Sleep(1000);
    }

    cout << "\nBlast Off!" << endl;

    return 0;

}
```

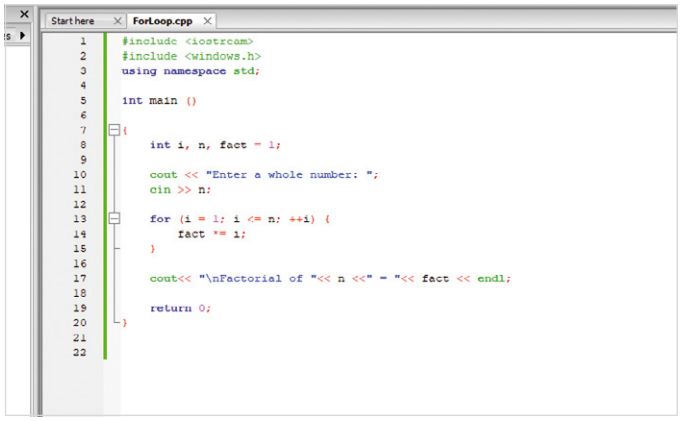
STEP 6

With the countdown code, don't forget to include the windows.h library, so you can use the Sleep command. Build and run the code; in the command console you can see the numbers 10 to 1 countdown in one second increments, until it reaches zero and Blast Off! appears.

STEP 7

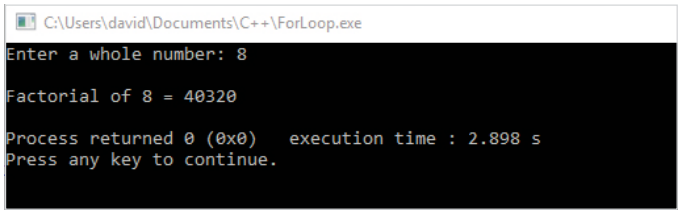
Naturally you can include a lot more content into a for loop, including some user input:

```
    int i, n, fact = 1;

    cout << "Enter a whole number: ";
    cin >> n;

    for (i = 1; i <= n; ++i) {
        fact *= i;
    }

    cout<< "\nFactorial of "<< n <<" = "<< fact << endl;

    return 0;
```



STEP 8

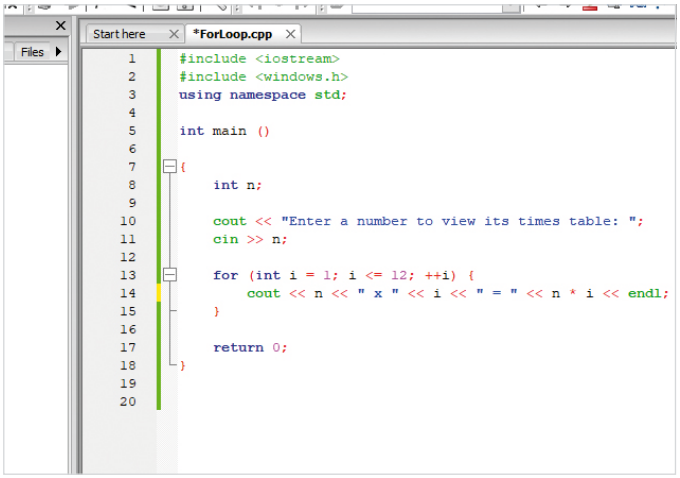
The code from step 7, when built and run, asks for a number, then displays the factorial of that number through the for loop. The user's number is stored in the integer n, followed by the integer I which is used to check if the condition is true or false, adding 1 each time and comparing it to the user's number, n.



STEP 9

Here's an example of a for loop displaying the multiplication tables of a user inputted number. Handy for students:

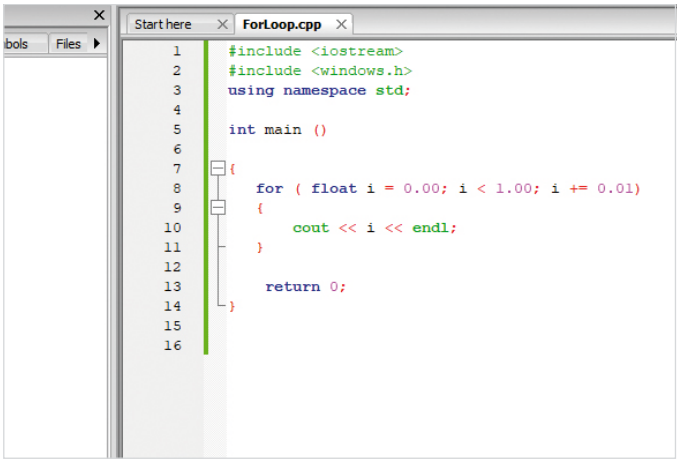
```
{
    int n;

    cout << "Enter a number to view its times table: ";
    cin >> n;

    for (int i = 1; i <= 12; ++i) {
        cout << n << " x " << i << " = " << n * i << endl;
    }

    return 0;
}
```



STEP 10

The value of the integer i can be expanded from 12 to whatever number you want, displaying a very large multiplication table in the process (or a small one). Of course the data type within a for loop doesn't have to be an integer; as long as it's valid, it works.

```
for ( float i = 0.00; i < 1.00; i += 0.01)
   {
       cout << i << endl;
   }

return 0;
```



Do… While Loop

A do… while loop differs slightly from that of a for or even a while loop. Both for and while set and examine the state of the condition at the start of the loop, or the top of the loop if you prefer. However, a do… while loop, is similar to a while loop but instead checks the condition at the bottom of the loop.

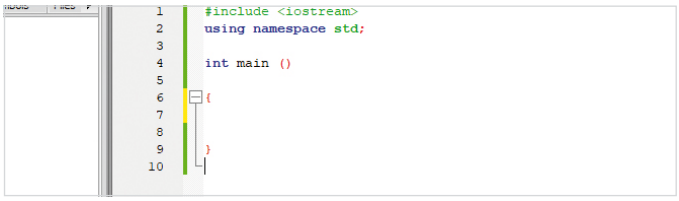
DO LOOPS

The good thing about a do… while loop is that it's guaranteed to run through at least once. It's structure is: do, followed by statements, while condition is true. This is how it works.

STEP 1

Begin with a new, blank C++ file and enter the standard headers:

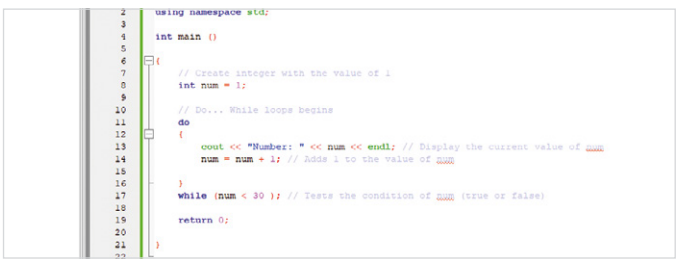
```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{


}
```



STEP 2

Begin with a simple number count:

```
{
    int num = 1;

    do
    {
        cout << "Number: " << num << endl;
        num = num + 1;

    }
    while (num < 30 );

    return 0;

}
```



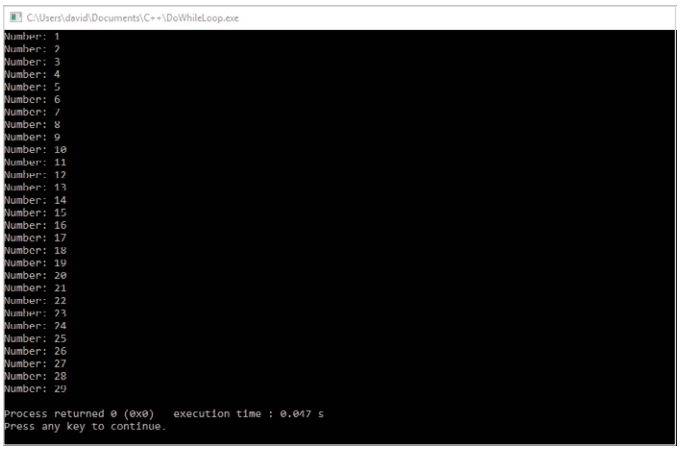
STEP 3

Now, here's a look at the structure of a do… while loop. First you create an integer called num, with the value of 1. Now the do… while loops begins. The code inside the body of the loop is executed at least once, then the condition is checked for either true or false.

```
// Create integer with the value of 1
int num = 1;

// Do... While loops begins
do
{
    cout << "Number: " << num << endl; // Display the current value of num
    num = num + 1; // Adds 1 to the value of num

}
while (num < 30 ); // Tests the condition of num (true or false)
```

STEP 4

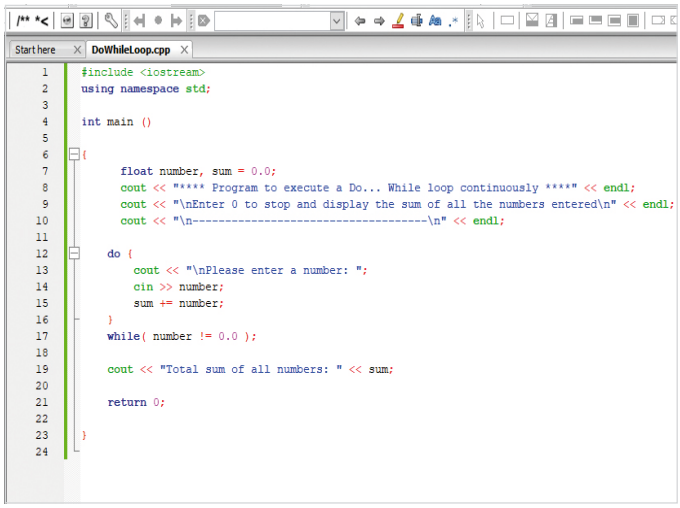
If the condition is true, the loop is executed. This continues until the condition is false. When the condition has been expressed as false, the loop terminates and the code continues. This means you can create a loop where the code continues until the user enters a certain character.



STEP 5

If you want code to add up user inputted numbers until the user enters zero:

```
{
      float number, sum = 0.0;
      cout << “**** Program to execute a Do...
While loop continuously ****” << endl;
      cout << “\nEnter 0 to stop and display the
sum of all the numbers entered\n” << endl;
      cout << “\n-----------------------------------
---\n” << endl;

    do {
        cout<<”\nPlease enter a number: “;
        cin>>number;
        sum += number;
    }
    while(number != 0.0);

    cout<<”Total sum of all numbers: “<<sum;

    return 0;
}
```



STEP 6

The code from Step 5 works as follows: two floating point variables are assigned, number and sum, both with the value of 0.0. There is a brief set of instructions for the user, then the do… while loop begins.

```
{
      float number, sum = 0.0;
      cout << "**** Program to execute a Do... While loop continuously ****" << endl;
      cout << "\nEnter 0 to stop and display the sum of all the numbers entered\n" << endl;
      cout << "\n-----------------------------------\n" << endl;
```

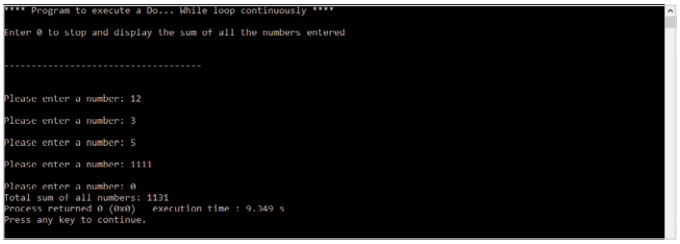
STEP 7

The do… while loop in this instance asks the user to input a number, which you assigned to the float variable, number. The calculation step uses the second floating point variable, sum, which adds the value of number every time the user enters a new value.

```
    do {
        cout << "\nPlease enter a number: ";
        cin >> number;
        sum += number;
```

STEP 8

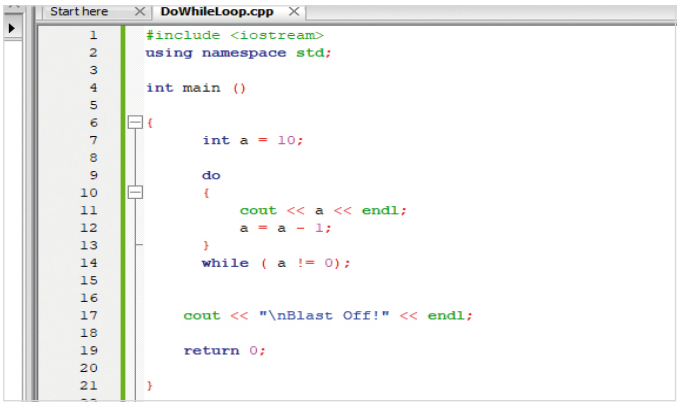
Finally, the while statement checks the condition of the variable number. If the user has entered zero, then the loop is terminated, if not then it continues indefinitely. When the user finally enters zero, the value of sum, the total value of all the user's input, is displayed. The loop, and the program, then ends.



STEP 9

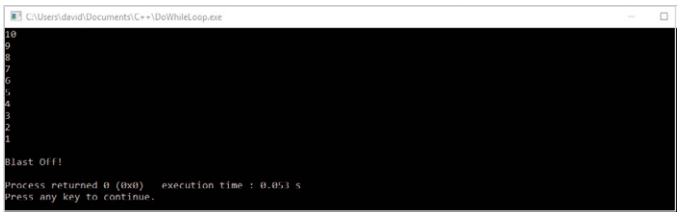
Using the countdown and Blast Off! code used previously, a do… while loop would look like:

```
{
      int a = 10;

      do
      {
          cout << a << endl;
          a = a - 1;
      }
      while ( a != 0);


    cout << “\nBlast Off!” << endl;

    return 0;

}
```



STEP 10

The main advantage of using a do… while loop is because it's an exit-condition loop; whereas a while loop is an entry-control loop. Therefore, if your code requires a loop that needs to be executed at least once (for example, to check the number of lives in a game), then a do… while loop is perfect.



If Statement

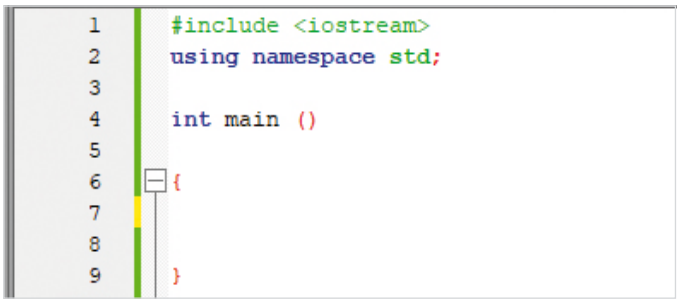
The decision making statement 'if' is probably one of the most used statements in any programming language, regardless of whether it's C++, Python, BASIC or anything else. It represents a junction in the code, where IF one condition is true, do this; or IF it's false, do that.

IF ONLY

If uses a Boolean expression within its statement. If the Boolean expression is true, the code within the statement is executed. If not, then the code after the statement is executed instead.

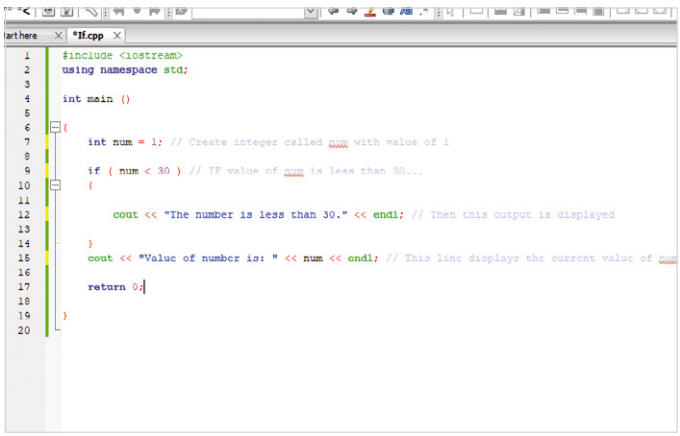
STEP 1 First, create a new C++ file and enter the relevant standard headers, as usual:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{


}
```

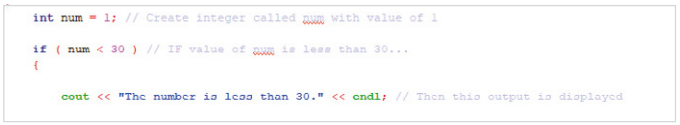


STEP 2 If is best explained when you use a number-based condition:

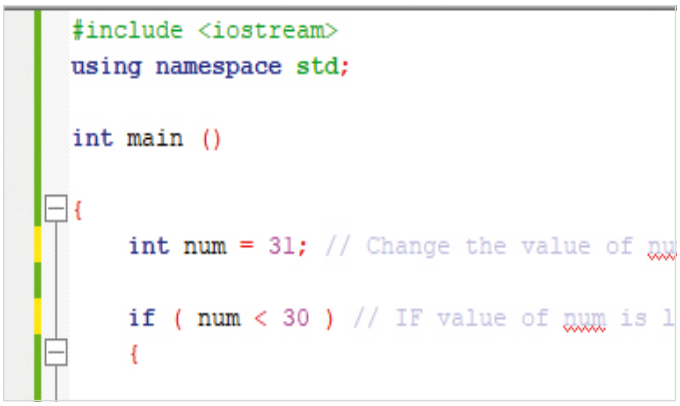
```
{
    int num = 1;

    if ( num < 30 )
    {
        cout << "The number is less than 30." << endl;

    }
    cout << "Value of number is: " << num << endl;

    return 0;

}
```



STEP 3 What's going on here? To begin, an integer called num was created and assigned with the value of 1. The if statement comes next, and in this case we've instructed the code that if the condition, the value, of num is less than 1, then the code within the braces should be executed.



STEP 4 The second cout statement displays the current value of num and the program terminates safely. It's easy to see how the if statement works if you were to change the initial value of num from 1 to 31.

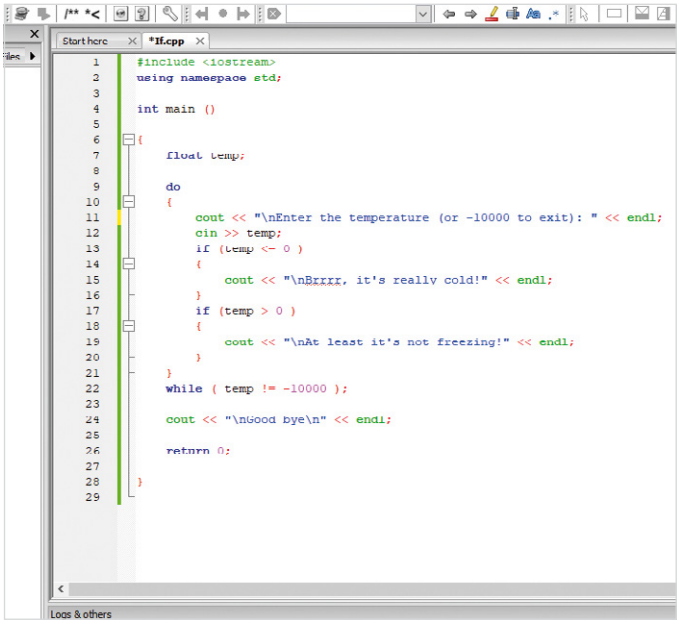


STEP 5 When you change the value to anything above 30, then build and run the code, you can see that the only line to be outputted to the screen is the second cout statement, displaying the current value of num. This is because the initial if statement is false, so it ignores the code within the braces.

```
Value of number is: 31

Process returned 0 (0x0)   execution time : 0.046 s
Press any key to continue.
```

STEP 6 You can include an if statement within a do… while loop. For example:

```
{
    float temp;

    do
    {
        cout << “\nEnter the temperature (or
-10000 to exit): “ << endl;
        cin >> temp;
        if (temp <= 0 )
        {
            cout << “\nBrrrr, it’s really cold!”
<< endl;
        }
        if (temp > 0 )
        {
            cout << “\nAt least it’s not
freezing!” << endl;
        }
    }
    while ( temp != -10000 );

    cout << “\nGood bye\n” << endl;

    return 0;

}
```



STEP 7 The code in Step 6 is simplistic but effective. First we created a floating point integer called temp, then a do… while loop that asks the user to enter the current temperature.

```
{
    float temp;

    do
    {
        cout << "\nEnter the temperature (or -10000 to exit): " << endl;
        cin >> temp;
```

STEP 8 The first if statement checks to see if the user's inputted value is less than or equal to zero. If it is, then the output is 'Brrrr, it's really cold!'. Otherwise, if the input is greater than zero, the code outputs 'At least it's not freezing!'.

```
    do
    {
        cout << "\nEnter the temperature (or -10000 to exit): " << endl;
        cin >> temp;
        if (temp <= 0 )
        {
            cout << "\nBrrrr, it's really cold!" << endl;
        }
        if (temp > 0 )
        {
            cout << "\nAt least it's not freezing!" << endl;
        }
```

STEP 9 Finally, if the user enters the value -10000, which is impossibly cold so is therefore a unrealistic value, the do… while loop is terminated and a friendly 'Good bye' is displayed to the screen.

```
{
    float temp;

    do
    {
        cout << "\nEnter the temperature (or -10000 to exit): " << endl;
        cin >> temp;
        if (temp <= 0 )
        {
            cout << "\nBrrrr, it's really cold!" << endl;
        }
        if (temp > 0 )
        {
            cout << "\nAt least it's not freezing!" << endl;
        }
    }
    while ( temp != -10000 );

    cout << "\nGood bye\n" << endl;

    return 0;

}
```

STEP 10 Using if is quite powerful, if it's used correctly. Just remember that if the condition is true then the code executes what's in the braces. If not, it continues on its merry way. See what else you can come up with using if and a combination of loops.

```
Enter the temperature (or -10000 to exit):
14

At least it's not freezing!

Enter the temperature (or -10000 to exit):
2

At least it's not freezing!

Enter the temperature (or -10000 to exit):
-110

Brrrr, it's really cold!

Enter the temperature (or -10000 to exit):
0

Brrrr, it's really cold!

Enter the temperature (or -10000 to exit):
-10000

Brrrr, it's really cold!

Good bye


Process returned 0 (0x0)   execution time : 17.323 s
Press any key to continue.
```

If… Else Statement

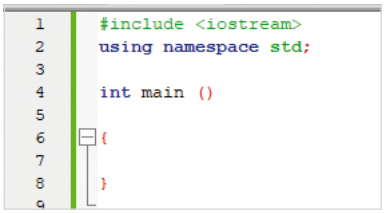
There is a much better way to use an if statement in your code, with if… else. If… else works in much the same way as a standard if statement. If the Boolean expression is true, the code with in the braces is executed. Else, the code within the next set of braces is used instead.

IF YES, ELSE NO

There are two sections of code that can be executed depending on the outcome in an if… else statement. It's quite easy to visualise once you get used to its structure.

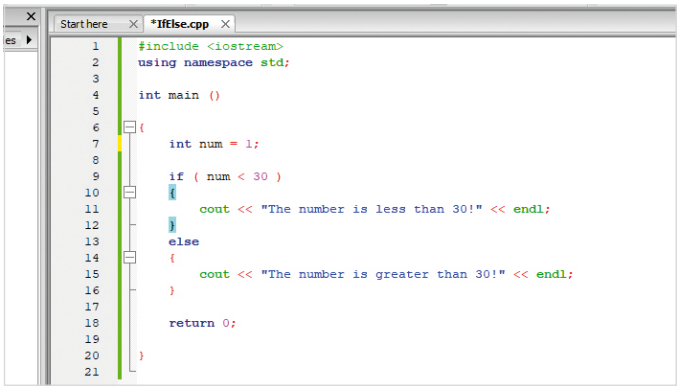
STEP 1 Begin with a new C++ file and the standard headers:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()

{

}
```



STEP 2 Let's expand the code from the If Statement on the previous page:

```
{
    int num = 1;

    if ( num < 30 )
    {
        cout << “The number is less than 30!” <<
endl;
    }
    else
    {
        cout << “The number is greater than 30!”
<< endl;
    }

    return 0;

}
```



STEP 3 The first line in the code creates the integer called num and gives it a value of 1. The if statement checks to see if the value of num is less than thirty and if it is it outputs “The number is less than 30!” to the console.

```
    if ( num < 30 )
    {
        cout << "The number is less than 30!" << endl;
    }
```

STEP 4 The else companion to if checks if the number is greater than 30 and if so, then displays “The number is greater than 30!” to the console; and finally, the code is terminated satisfactorily.

```
        cout << "The number is less than 30!" << endl;
    }
    else
    {
        cout << "The number is greater than 30!" << endl;
    }
```

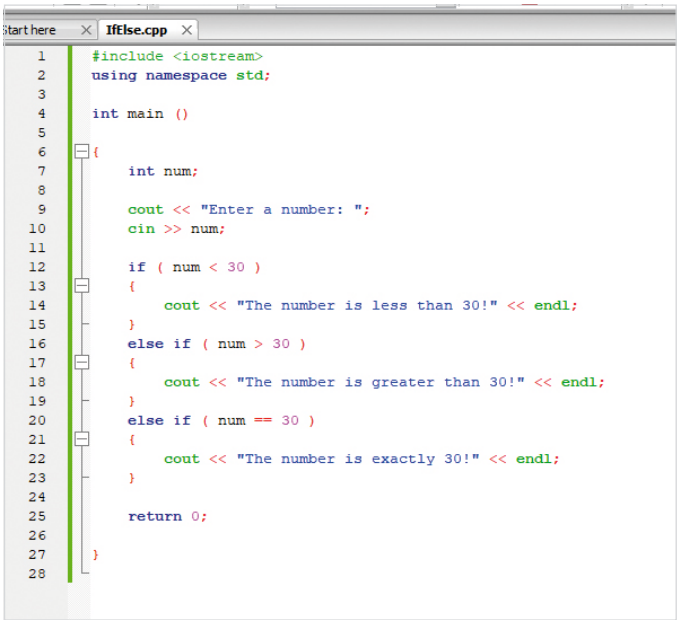
STEP 5 You can change the value of num in the code or you can improve the code by asking the user to enter a value:

```
{
    int num;

    cout << “Enter a number: “;
    cin >> num;

    if ( num < 30 )
    {
        cout << “The number is less than 30!” <<
endl;
    }
    else
    {
        cout << “The number is greater than 30!”
<< endl;
    }

    return 0;

}
```

STEP 6

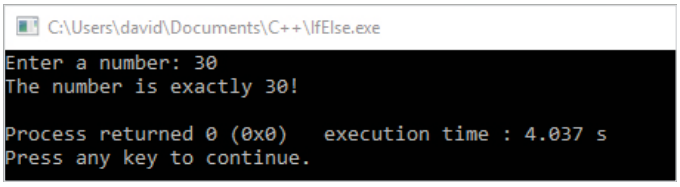
The code works the same way, as you would expect, but what if you wanted to display something if the user entered the number 30? Try this:

```
{
    int num;

    cout << “Enter a number: “;
    cin >> num;

    if ( num < 30 )
    {
        cout << “The number is less than 30!” <<
endl;
    }
    else if ( num > 30 )
    {
        cout << “The number is greater than 30!”
<< endl;
    }
    else if ( num == 30 )
    {
        cout << “The number is exactly 30!” <<
endl;
    }

    return 0;
}
```



STEP 7

The new addition to the code is what’s known as a nested if… else statement. This allows you to check for multiple conditions. In this case, if the user enters a number less than 30, greater than 30 or actually 30 itself, a different outcome is presented to them.



STEP 8

You can take this up a notch and create a two-player number guessing game. Begin by creating the variables:

```
int num, guess, tries = 0;

    cout << “***** Two-player number guessing game
****” << endl;
    cout << “\nPlayer One, enter a number for
Player Two to guess: “ << endl;
    cin >> num;
    cout << string(50, ‘\n’);
```

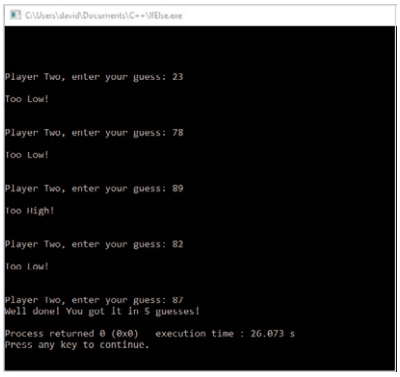
STEP 9

The cout << string(50, ‘\n’) line clears the screen so Player Two doesn’t see the entered number. Now you can create a do… while loop, together with if… else:

```
  do
    {
        cout << “\nPlayer Two, enter your guess: “;
        cin >> guess;
        tries++;
        if (guess > num)
        {
            cout << “\nToo High!\n” << endl;
        }
        else if (guess < num)
        {
            cout << “\nToo Low!\n” << endl;
        }
        else if (guess == num)
        {
            cout << “Well done! You got it in “ <<
tries << “ guesses!” << endl;
        }
    } while (guess != num);

    return 0;
```

STEP 10

Grab a second player, then build and run the code. Player One enters the number to be guessed, then Player Two can take as many guesses as they need to get the right number. Want to make it harder? Maybe use decimal numbers.



Working with Code

By now you should have the essential building blocks of how to program in both Python and C++. You can create code, store data, ask the user questions, offer them a choice and repeat functions until they prove true and provide the correct output. What next then?

This final section looks at some of the more common coding mistakes that Python and C++ beginners make and where you can turn to next to continue your programming adventure.

Common Coding Mistakes

When you start something new you're inevitably going to make mistakes, this is purely down to inexperience and those mistakes are great teachers in themselves. However, even experts make the occasional mishap. Thing is, to learn from them as best you can.

X=MISTAKE, PRINT Y

There are many pitfalls for the programmer to be aware of, far too many to be listed here. Being able to recognise a mistake and fix it is when you start to move into more advanced territory.

SMALL CHUNKS

It would be wonderful to be able to work like Neo from The Matrix movies. Simply ask, your operator loads it into your memory and you instantly know everything about the subject. Sadly though, we can't do that. The first major pitfall is someone trying to learn too much, too quickly. So take coding in small pieces and take your time.

EASY VARIABLES

Meaningful naming for variables is a must to eliminate common coding mistakes. Having letters of the alphabet is fine but what happens when the code states there's a problem with x variable. It's not too difficult to name variables lives, money, player1 and so on.

```
1  var points = 1023;
2  var lives = 3;
3  var totalTime = 45;
4  write("Points: "+points);
5  write("Lives: "+lives);
6  write("Total Time: "+totalTime+" secs");
7  write("--------------------------");
8  var totalScore = 0;
9  write("Your total Score is: "+totalScore);
```

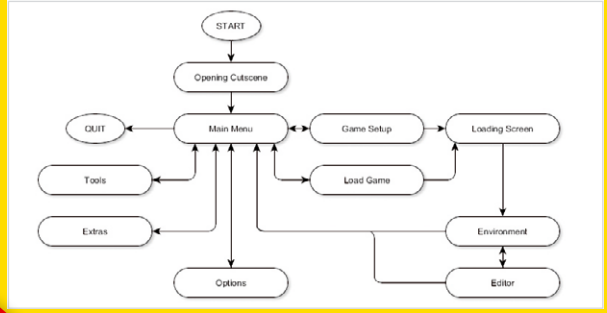
//COMMENTS

Use comments. It's a simple concept but commenting on your code saves so many problems when you next come to look over it. Inserting comment lines helps you quickly sift through the sections of code that are causing problems; also useful if you need to review an older piece of code.

```
52        orig += 2;
53        target += 2;
54        --n;
55      }
56  #endif
57    if (n == 0)
58      return;
59
60    //
61    // Loop unrolling. Here be dragons.
62    //
63
64    // (n & (~3)) is the greatest multiple of 4 r
65    // In the while loop ahead, orig will move ov
66    // increments (4 elements of 2 bytes).
67    // end marks our barrier for not falling outs
68    char const * const end = orig + 2 * (n &
69
70    // See if we're aligned for writting in
71  #if ACE_SIZEOF_LONG == 8 && \
72      !(defined(  amd64  ) || defined (  x
```

PLAN AHEAD

While it's great to wake up one morning and decide to code a classic text adventure, it's not always practical without a good plan. Small snippets of code can be written without too much thought and planning but longer and more in-depth code requires a good working plan to stick to and help iron out the bugs.



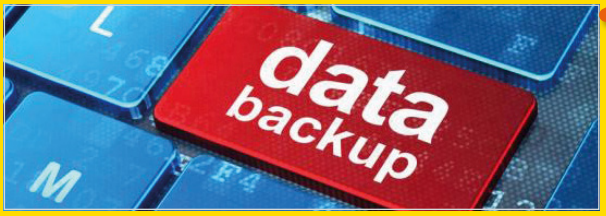
USER ERROR

User input is often a paralysing mistake in code. For example, when the user is supposed to enter a number for their age and instead they enter it in letters. Often a user can enter so much into an input that it overflows some internal buffer, thus sending the code crashing. Watch those user inputs and clearly state what's needed from them.

```
Enter an integer number
aswdfdsf
You have entered wrong input
s
You have entered wrong input
!"£"!£!"
You have entered wrong input
sdfsdf213213123
You have entered wrong input
1232344234234234234
You have entered wrong input
12
the number is: 12

Process returned 0 (0x0)   execution time : 21.495 s
Press any key to continue.
```

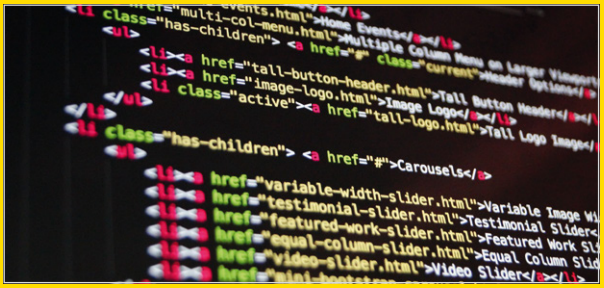
BACKUPS

Always make a backup of your work, with a secondary backup for any changes you've made. Mistakes can be rectified if there's a good backup in place to revert to for those times when something goes wrong. It's much easier to start where you left off, rather than starting from the beginning again.



RE-INVENTING WHEELS

You can easily spend days trying to fathom out a section of code to achieve a given result and it's frustrating and often time-wasting. While it's equally rewarding to solve the problem yourself, often the same code is out there on the Internet somewhere. Don't try and re-invent the wheel, look to see if some else has done it first.

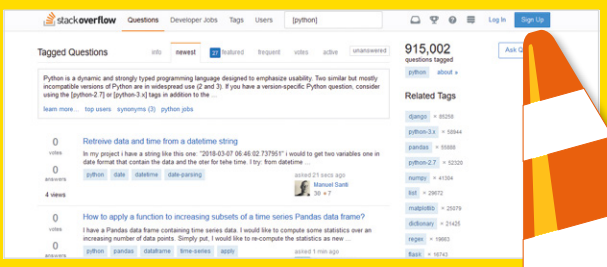


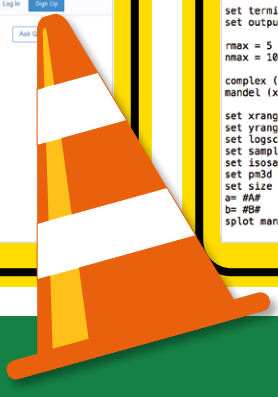
SECURE DATA

If you're writing code to deal with usernames and passwords, or other such sensitive data, then ensure that the data isn't in cleartext. Learn how to create a function to encrypt sensitive data, prior to feeding into a routine that can transmit or store it where someone may be able to get to view it.

HELP!

Asking for help is something most of us has struggled with in the past. Will the people we're asking laugh at us? Am I wasting everyone's time? It's a common mistake for someone to suffer in silence. However, as long as you ask the in the correct manner, obey any forum rules and be polite, then your question isn't silly.





MATHS

If your code makes multiple calculations then you need to ensure that the maths behind it is sound. There are thousands of instances where programs have offered incorrect data based on poor mathematical coding, which can have disastrous effects depending on what the code is set to do. In short, double check your code equations.

```
set terminal x11
set output

rmax = 5
nmax = 100

complex (x, y) = x * {1, 0} + y * {0, 1}
mandel (x, y, z, n) = (abs (z)> rmax || n>= 100)? n: mandel (x, y, z * z + complex (x, y), n + 1)

set xrange [-0.5:0.5]
set yrange [-0.5:0.5]
set logscale z
set samples 200
set isosample 200
set pm3d map
set size square
a= #A#
b= #B#
splot mandel(-a/100,-b/100,complex(x,y),0) notitle
```

Beginner Python Mistakes

Python is a relatively easy language to get started in where there's plenty of room for the beginner to find their programming feet. However, as with any other programming language, it can be easy to make common mistakes that'll stop your code from running.

DEF BEGINNER(MISTAKES=10)

Here are ten common Python programming mistakes most beginners find themselves making. Being able to identify these mistakes will save you headaches in the future.

VERSIONS

To add to the confusion that most beginners already face when coming into programming, Python has two live versions of its language available to download and use. There is Python version 2.7.x and Python 3.6.x. The 3.6.x version is the most recent, and the one we'd recommend starting. But, version 2.7.x code doesn't always work with 3.6.x code and vice versa.

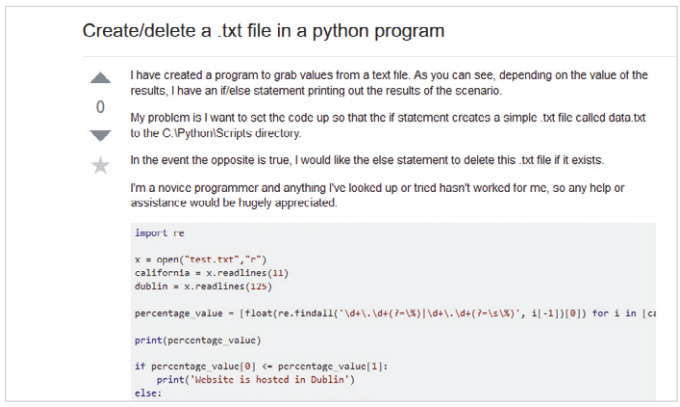
INDENTS, TABS AND SPACES

Python uses precise indentations when displaying its code. The indents mean that the code in that section is a part of the previous statement, and not something linked with another part of the code. Use four spaces to create an indent, not the Tab key.

```
MOVESPEED = 11
MOVE = 1
SHOOT = 15

# set up counting
score = 0

# set up font
font = pygame.font.SysFont('calibri', 50)

def makeplayer():
    player = pygame.Rect(370, 635, 60, 25)
    return player

def makeinvaders(invaders):
    y = 0
    for i in invaders:
        x = 0
        for j in range(11):
            invader = pygame.Rect(75+x, 75+y, 50, 20)
            i.append(invader)
            x += 60
        y += 45
    return invaders

def makewalls(walls):
    wall1 = pygame.Rect(60, 520, 120, 30)
    wall2 = pygame.Rect(246, 520, 120, 30)
    wall3 = pygame.Rect(432, 520, 120, 30)
    wall4 = pygame.Rect(618, 520, 120, 30)
```

THE INTERNET

Every programmer has and does at some point go on the Internet and copy some code to insert into their own routines. There's nothing wrong with using others' code, but you need to know how the code works and what it does before you go blindly running it on your own computer.



COMMENTING

Again we mention commenting. It's a hugely important factor in programming, even if you're the only one who is ever going to view the code, you need to add comments as to what's going on. Is this function where you lose a life? Write a comment and help you, or anyone else, see what's going on.

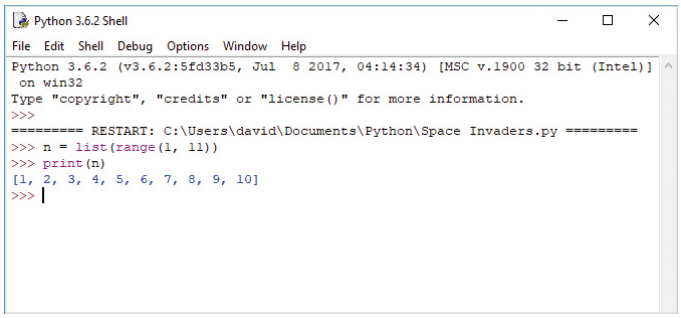
```
# set up pygame
pygame.init()
mainClock = pygame.time.Clock()

# set up the window
width = 800
height = 700
screen = pygame.display.set_mode((width, height), 0, 32)
pygame.display.set_caption('caption')

# set up movement variables
moveLeft = False
moveRight = False
moveUp = False
moveDown = False

# set up direction variables
DOWNLEFT = 1
DOWNRIGHT = 3
```

COUNTING LOOPS

Remember that in Python a loop doesn't count the last number you specify in a range. So if you wanted the loop to count from 1 to 10, then you will need to use:

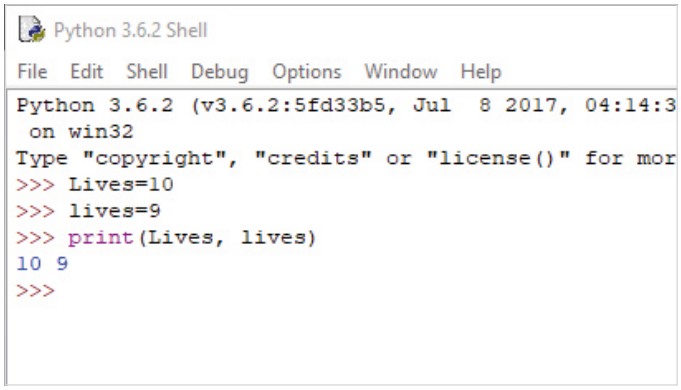
```
n = list(range(1, 11))
```

Which will return 1 to 10.



CASE SENSITIVE

Python is a case sensitive programming language, so you will need to check any variables you assign. For example, `Lives=10` is a different variable to lives=10, calling the wrong variable in your code can have unexpected results.



BRACKETS

Everyone forgets to include that extra bracket they should have added to the end of the statement. Python relies on the routine having an equal amount of closed brackets to open brackets, so any errors in your code could be due to you forgetting to count your brackets; including square brackets.

```
def print_game_status(self):
        print (board[len(self.missed_letters)])
        print ('Word: ' + self.hide_word())
        print ('Letters Missed: ',)
        for letter in self.missed_letters:
                print (letter,)
        print ()
        print ('Letters Guessed: ',)
        for letter in self.guessed_letters:
                print (letter,)
        print ()
```

COLONS

It's common for beginners to forget to add a colon to the end of a structural statement, such as:

```
class Hangman:
def guess(self, letter):
```

And so on. The colon is what separates the code, and creates the indents to which the following code belongs to.

```
class Hangman:
        def __init__(self,word):
                self.word = word
                self.missed_letters = []
                self.guessed_letters = []

        def guess(self,letter):
                if letter in self.word and letter not in self.guessed_letters:
                        self.guessed_letters.append(letter)
                elif letter not in self.word and letter not in self.missed_letters:
                        self.missed_letters.append(letter)
                else:
                        return False
                return True

        def hangman_over(self):
                return self.hangman_won() or (len(self.missed_letters) == 6)

        def hangman_won(self):
                if '_' not in self.hide_word():
                        return True
                return False

        def hide_word(self):
                rtn = ''
                for letter in self.word:
                        if letter not in self.guessed_letters:
                                rtn += '_'
                        else:
                                rtn += letter
                return rtn
```

OPERATORS

Using the wrong operator is also a common mistake to make. When you're performing a comparison between two values, for example, you need to use the equality operator (a double equals, ==). Using a single equal (=) is an assignment operator that places a value to a variable (such as, lives=10).

```
1 b = 5
2 c = 10
3 d = 10
4 b == c #false because 5 is not equal to 10
5 c == d #true because 10 is equal to 10
```

OPERATING SYSTEMS

Writing code for multiple platforms is difficult, especially when you start to utilise the external commands of the operating system. For example, if your code calls for the screen to be cleared, then for Windows you would use `cls`. Whereas, for Linux you need to use `clear`. You need to solve this by capturing the error and issuing it with an alternative command.

```
# Code to detect error for using a different OS
run=1
while(run==1):
    try:
        os.system('clear')
    except OSError:
        os.system('cls')
    print('\n>>>>>>>>>>Python 3 File Manager<<<<<<<<<<\n')
```

Beginner C++ Mistakes

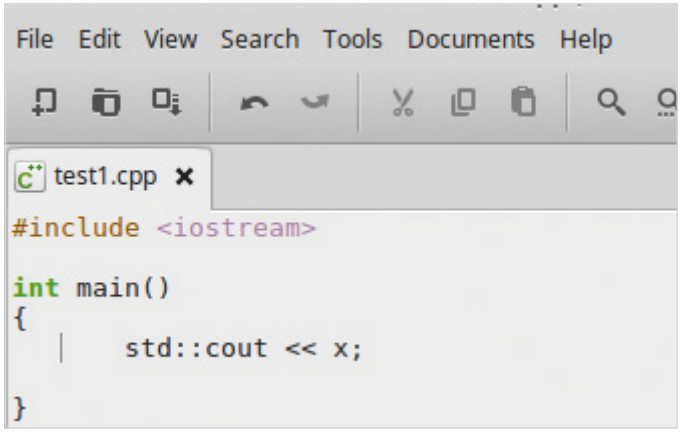
There are many pitfalls the C++ developer can encounter, especially as this is a more complex and often unforgiving language to master. Beginners need to take C++ a step at a time and digest what they've learned before moving on.

VOID(C++, MISTAKES)

Admittedly it's not just C++ beginners that make the kinds of errors we outline on these pages, even hardened coders are prone to the odd mishap here and there. Here are some common issues to try and avoid.

UNDECLARED IDENTIFIERS

A common C++ mistake, and to be honest a common mistake with most programming languages, is when you try and output a variable that doesn't exist. Displaying the value of x on-screen is fine but not if you haven't told the compiler what the value of x is to begin with.



STD NAMESPACE

Referencing the Standard Library is common for beginners throughout their code, but if you miss the std:: element of a statement, your code errors out when compiling. You can combat this by adding:

```
using namespace std;
```

Under the #include part and simply using cout, cin and so on from then on.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
    int a, b, c, d;
    a=10;
    b=20;
    c=30;
    d=40;

    cout << a, b, c, d;

}
```

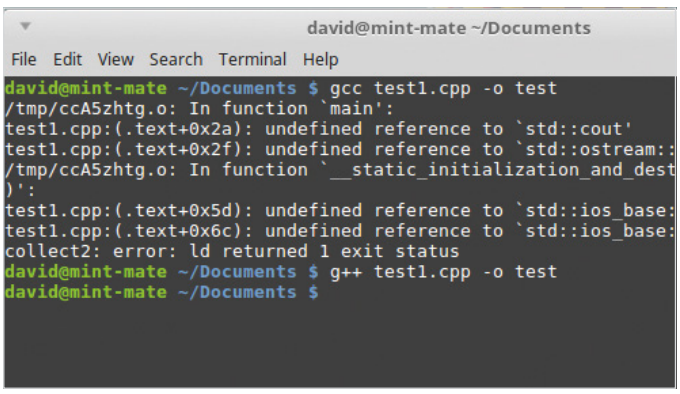
SEMICOLONS

Remember that each line of a C++ program must end with a semicolon. If it doesn't then the compiler treats the line with the missing semicolon as the same line with the next semicolon on. This creates all manner of problems when trying to compile, so don't forget those semicolons.

```
#include <iostream>


int main()
{
    int a, b, c, d;
    a=10;
    b=20;
    c=30
    d=40;

    std::cout << a, b, c, d;

}
```

GCC OR G++

If you're compiling in Linux then you will no doubt come across gcc and g++. In short, gcc is the Gnu Compiler Collection (or Gnu C Compiler as it used to be called) and g++ is the Gnu ++ (the C++ version) of the compiler. If you're compiling C++ then you need to use g++, as the incorrect compiler drivers will be used.



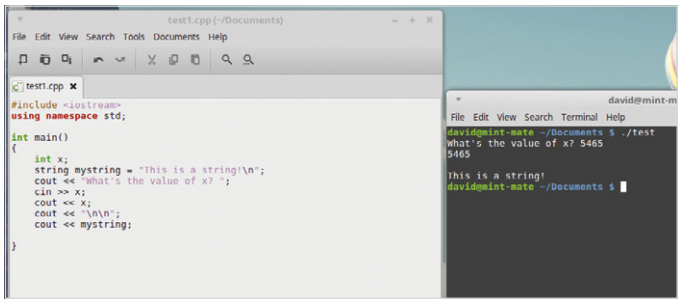
COMMENTS (AGAIN)

Indeed the mistake of never making any comments on code is back once more. As we've previously bemoaned, the lack of readable identifiers throughout the code makes it very difficult to look back at how it worked, for both you and someone else. Use more comments.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
    vector<double> v;

    double d;
    while(cin>>d) v.push_back(d);   // read elements
    if (!cin.eof()) {           // check if input failed
        cerr << "format error\n";
        return 1;                   // error return
    }

    cout << "read " << v.size() << " elements\n";

    reverse(v.begin(),v.end());
    cout << "elements in reverse order:\n";
    for (int i = 0; i<v.size(); ++i) cout << v[i] << '\n';

    return 0;                       // success return
}
```

QUOTES

Missing quotes is a common mistake to make, for every level of user. Remember that quotes need to encase strings and anything that's going to be outputted to the screen or into a file, for example. Most compilers errors are due to missing quotes in the code.



EXTRA SEMICOLONS

While it's necessary to have a semicolon at the end of every C++ line, there are some exceptions to the rule. Semicolons need to be at the end of every complete statement but some lines of code aren't complete statements. Such as:

`#include`
`if lines`
`switch lines`

If it sounds confusing don't worry, the compiler lets you know where you went wrong.

```
// Program to print positive number entered by the user
// If user enters negative number, it is skipped

#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
      int number;
      cout << "Enter an integer: ";
      cin >> number;

      // checks if the number is positive
      if ( number > 0)
      {
            cout << "You entered a positive integer: " << number << endl;
      }

      cout << "This statement is always executed.";
      return 0;

}
```

TOO MANY BRACES

The braces, or curly brackets, are beginning and ending markers around blocks of code. So for every { you must have a }. Often it's easy to include or miss out one or the other facing brace when writing code; usually when writing in a text editor, as an IDE adds them for you.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
    int x;
    string mystring = "This is a string!\n";
    cout << "What's the value of x? ";
    cin >> x;
    cout << x;
    {
    cout << "\n\n";
    cout << mystring;

}
```

INITIALISE VARIABLES

In C++ variables aren't initialised to zero by default. This means if you create a variable called x then, potentially, it is given a random number from 0 to 18,446,744,073,709,551,616, which can be difficult to include in an equation. When creating a variable, give it the value of zero to begin with: `x=0`.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main()
{
    int x;
    x=0;

    cout << x;


}
```

A.OUT

A common mistake when compiling in Linux is forgetting to name your C++ code post compiling. When you compile from the Terminal, you enter:

```
g++ code.cpp
```

This compiles the code in the file code.cpp and create an a.out file that can be executed with ./a.out. However, if you already have code in a.out then it's overwritten. Use:

```
g++ code.cpp -o nameofprogram
```

```
david@mint-mate ~/Documents
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@mint-mate ~/Documents $ g++ test1.cpp
david@mint-mate ~/Documents $ ./a.out
0
david@mint-mate ~/Documents $ g++ test1.cpp -o printzero
david@mint-mate ~/Documents $ ./printzero
0
david@mint-mate ~/Documents $
```

Where Next?

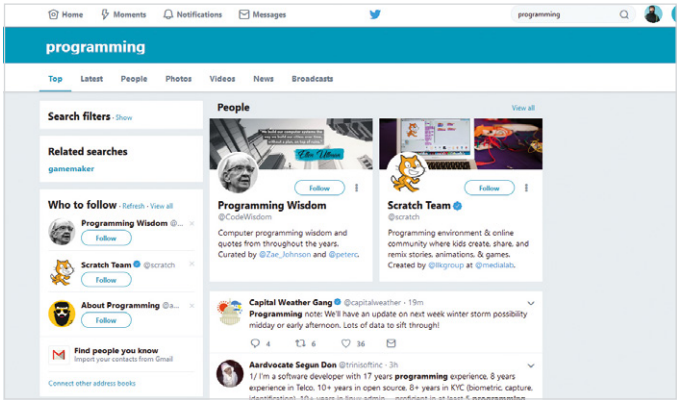
Coding, like most subjects, is a continual learning experience. You may not class yourself as a beginner any more but you still need to test your code, learn new tricks and hacks to make it more efficient and even branch out and learn another programming language.

#INCLUDE<KEEP ON LEARNING>

What can you do to further your skills, learn new coding practises, experiment and present your code and even begin to help others using what you've experienced so far?

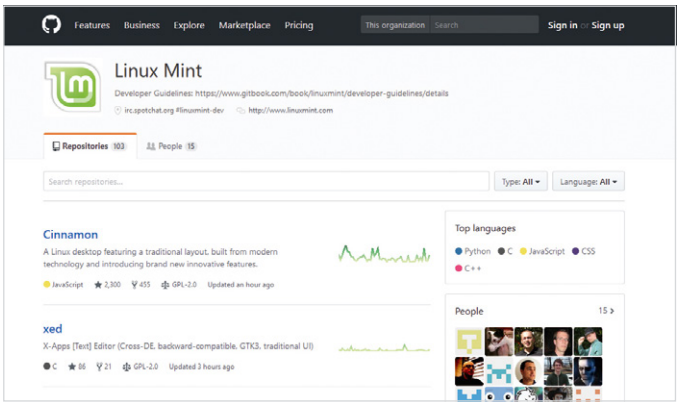
TWITTER

Twitter isn't all trolls and antagonists, among the well-publicised vitriol are some genuine people who are more than willing to spread their coding knowledge. We recommend you find a few who you can relate to and follow them. Often they post great tips, hacks and fixes for common coding problems.



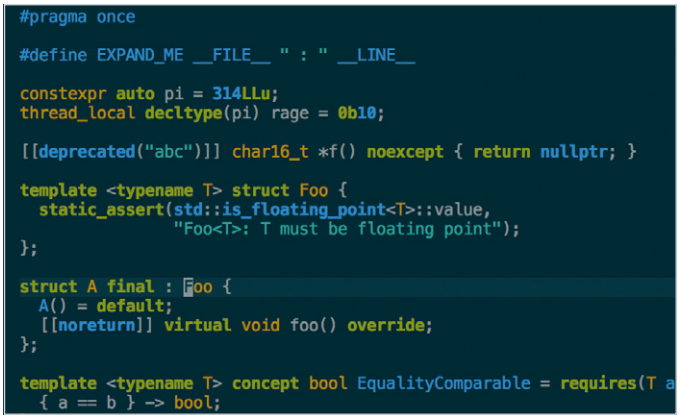
OPEN PROJECTS

Look for open source projects that you like the sound of and offer to contribute to the code to keep it alive and up to date. There are millions of projects to choose from, so contact a few and see where they need help. It may only be a minor code update but it's a noble occupation for coders to get into.



KEEP CODING

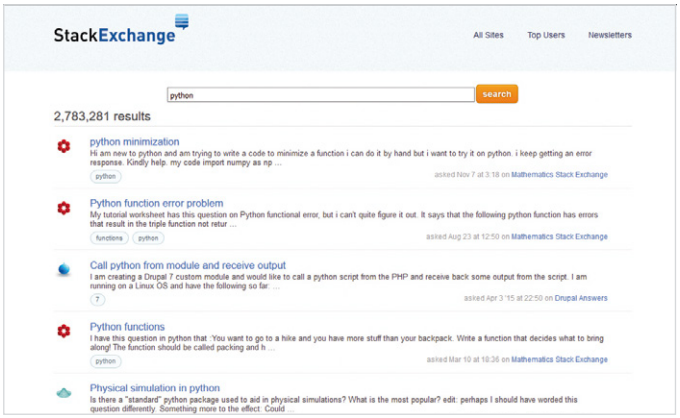
If you've mastered Python fairly well, then turn your attention to C++ or even C#. Still keep your Python skills going but learning a new coding language keeps the old brain ticking over nicely and give you a view into another community, and how they do things differently.



```
#pragma once

#define EXPAND_ME __FILE__ " : " __LINE__

constexpr auto pi = 314LLu;
thread_local decltype(pi) rage = 0b10;

[[deprecated("abc")]] char16_t *f() noexcept { return nullptr; }

template <typename T> struct Foo {
  static_assert(std::is_floating_point<T>::value,
                "Foo<T>: T must be floating point");
};

struct A final : Foo {
  A() = default;
  [[noreturn]] virtual void foo() override;
};

template <typename T> concept bool EqualityComparable = requires(T a
  { a == b } -> bool;
```

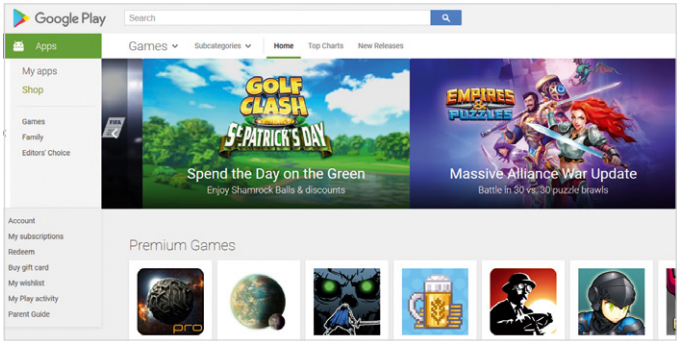
SHARE SKILLS

Become more active on coding and development knowledge sites, such as StackExchange. If you have the skills to start and help others out, not only will you feel really good for doing so but you can also learn a lot yourself by interacting with other members.



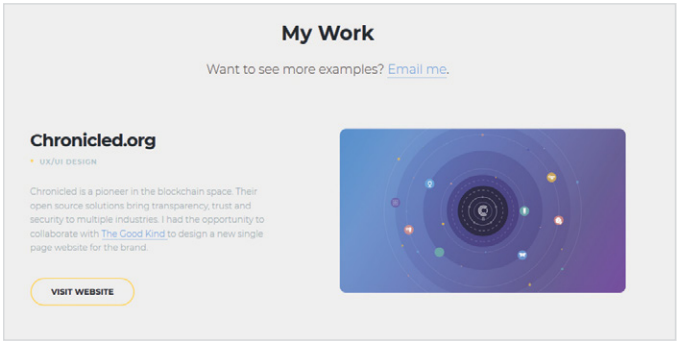
GOING MOBILE

The mobile market is a great place to test your coding skills and present any games or apps you've created. If your app is good, then who knows, it could be the next great thing to appear on the app stores. It's a good learning experience nevertheless, and something worth considering.



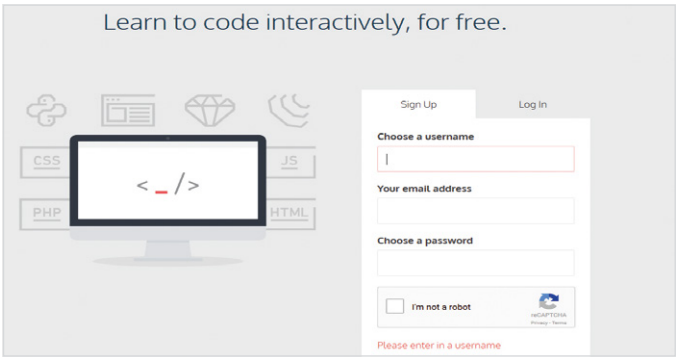
PORTFOLIOS

If you've learned how to code with an eye for a developer job in the future, then it's worth starting to build up an online portfolio of code. Look at job postings and see what skills they require, then learn and code something with those skills and add it to the portfolio. When it comes to applying, include a link to the portfolio.



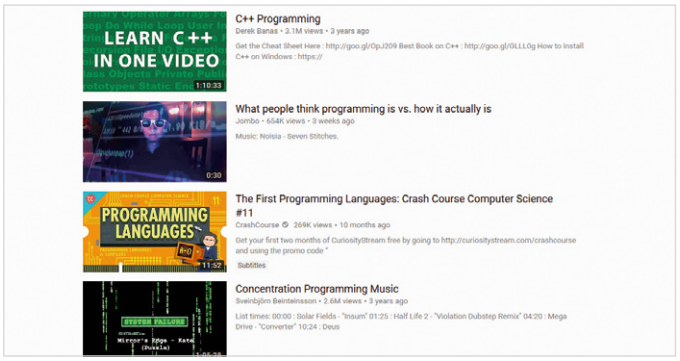
ONLINE LEARNING

Online courses are good examples of where to take your coding skills next, even if you start from the beginner level again. Often, an online course follows a strict coding convention, so if you're self-taught then it might be worth seeing how other developers lay out their code, and what's considered acceptable.



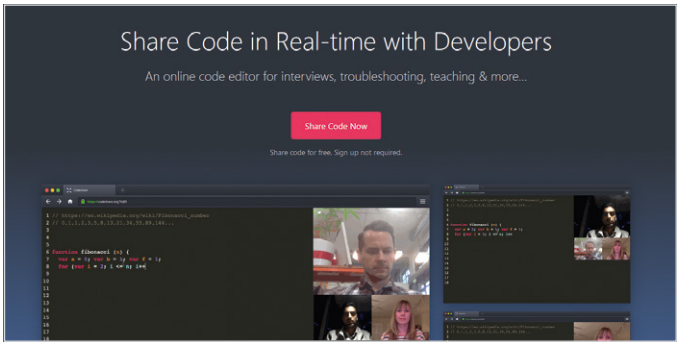
TEACH CODE

Can you teach? If your coding skills are spot on, consider approaching a college or university to see if they have need for a programming language teacher, perhaps a part-time or evening course. If not teaching, then consider creating your own YouTube how to code channel.



SHARE CODE

Get sharing, even if you think your code isn't very good. The criticism, advice and comments you receive back help you iron out any issues with your code, and you add them all to your checklist. Alternatively your code might be utterly amazing but you won't know unless you share it.



HARDWARE PROJECTS

Contributing to hardware projects is a great resource for proving your code with others and learning from other contributors. Many of the developer boards have postings for coders to apply to for hardware projects, using unique code to get the most from the hardware that's being designed.

The Ultimate Jargon Buster

Avoid tech confusion, either when reading this book or when talking to friends, with this glossary of technology terms and phrases. We have looked across the tech boarders to bring to you the definitive jargon buster, but it should help you to understand the common terms people use when talking about their devices and their software.

0-9

3G
The third generation of mobile data networking used by both the iPhone and iPad. This connection is slower than Wi-Fi, but is more readily available and is used to transfer data from your device when you are on the go. It uses the mobile phone network.

4G
The fourth generation of mobile data networking.

5G
The fifth generation of mobile data networking offers increased speed when transferring data on the go but it is still in its early stages of adoption by mobile phone networks.

A...

Accessibility
A series of tools and features designed to make an Apple device such as the Mac and mobile devices easier to use by those with disabilities such as vision or hearing impairments. You can find the Mac's Accessibility features and customise them in System Preferences.

ADB
Android Debug Bridge. Part of the Android Software Development Kit, used to send commands from a computer to an attached phone.

Adobe Bridge
Bridge is a browser application produced by Adobe Systems as part of the Creative Suite and is usually installed alongside Photoshop. Its main function is as the file management hub of the Creative Suite. It can be used to open, manage, rate and rename files as well as edit their metadata.

Adobe RGB
A device independent colour space developed by Adobe. It provides a relatively large range of colours, i.e. grey-balanced and perceptually uniform. It is widely used for image editing.

ADSL
Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line. It's a means of connecting to the Internet through your telephone line. Sometimes just called 'DSL'

Airplane Mode
All airlines warn you to turn off mobile electronic devices when on board an aircraft, so this iPad setting turns off all incoming and outgoing signals to your device, including data, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.

AirPlay
A protocol for streaming sounds and video from an Apple device to a set of compatible speakers or a device such as an Apple TV. It's wireless and easy to use.

AMOLED
Active Matrix Organic Light Emitting Diode. A bright and colourful display technology popular on smartphones (although it has now been superseded by Super AMOLED and qHD.)

Android
The name of the operating on your smartphone (we are assuming you own an Android phone if you are reading this magazine). There have so far been eleven versions/updates released.

Android Market
The previous name for the Google Play Store. The place to go to find apps, books and movies to install on your phone.

Anti-Aliasing Filter
This is an optical filter, also known as low-pass filter, which is placed on the camera sensor to create a slight blur or softening that helps counteract aliasing or Moiré interference.

Apk (.apk)
The file extension of Android applications.

Apps (Applications)
The programs, such as Angry Birds, Facebook or Soundhound, that you install and run on you Android phone.

App Store
The App Store is where you can download free and paid programs to your device using your Apple ID. You can access it through the application found on your home screen.

App Inventor
A web-based system that lets anyone develop apps for Android. Originally created and run by Google, but now run as an open-source project.

Apple ID
This is the email address and password that you have registered with Apple. It will be required to access most online applications on your iPad, including iTunes, App Store and Books.

Apple Menu
The menu that's opened by clicking on the Apple icon in the left of the menu bar, when using a Mac or MacBook computer. It gives access to system functions such as Preferences, App Store, Force Quit and more.

Archos
A manufacturer of Android tablets.

ASUS
A well-known manufacturer of Android smartphones and tablets.

AT&T
One of the "Big Four" of American carriers

B...

Bit
A contraction of binary digit, the smallest unit of information storage or digital information that can take on one of two values, 0 and 1.

Bit Depth
Defines how many bits of colour data are used to describe each pixel or channel. For example, 2 bits per pixel only allows for black or white. 8 bits provides 256 colours. When referring to an 8-bit colour image, 256 is multiplied by the three primary channels (red, green and blue) to create what is commonly called 24-bit colour, with a possible 16,777,266 colours.

Black Point
In image editing, the black point is a tonal adjustment that sets the point at which the deepest shadow detail in the histogram is clipped to black.

Bloatware
The name given to unwanted applications preloaded onto your phone. Bloatware cannot usually be removed by the end user unless they decide to root their handset.

BlueTooth
Short range file data system built into almost every Android smartphone ever made. Can be used to send files and connect speakers or headphones wirelessly to your phone.

Books
Apple's eBook reader, available from the App Store. It handles the standard electronic publishing formats protected by FairPlay DRM and PDF. It was introduced in 2010 along with the iPad.

Bootloader
A normally hidden mode in Android that helps with flashing ROMs when rooting an Android phone.

Broadband
Wide bandwidth data transmission, that is, fast Internet as opposed to the older, dial-up services.

Browser
An app used to access websites found on the worldwide web. The iPad and iPhone come with Apple's Safari browser preinstalled but others are available in the App Store. Android devices use the Chrome browser

BSI
Backside Illumination. Sometimes used to improve smartphone camera performance.

C...

Calendar
This is one of several preloaded apps found on most devices. Use it to keep track of events, invitations and reminders on your phone and tablet.

Camera Raw
Proprietary raw file formats designed to hold image data and metadata generated by digital cameras. These formats are non-standard and undocumented, although they are usually based on the TIFF/EP file format standard.

Carrier
Another name for a mobile network provider (Vodafone, AT&A, Sprint, etc.)

Casting
The process of converting one data-type into another. For example, sometimes a number may stored as text but need to be converted in to an integer.

CCD (Charged Coupled Device)
A type of image sensor found in digital cameras and scanners. It is a light-sensitive chip that converts light into an electrical charge that is then processed by an analogue to digital converter. CCD differs from the other common sensor type (CMOS) in the way that it processes the electrical charges captured by sensor elements.

CDMA
One of the two main cell phone communication standards. Not often used in phones outside of the U.S.

Chromatic Aberration
Known also as colour fringing, chromatic aberration is caused when a camera lens does not focus the different wavelengths of light onto the exact same focal plane. The effect is visible as a thin coloured halo around objects in the scene, often the border between dark and light objects.

Class
A class provides a means of bundling data and functionality together. They are used to encapsulate variables and functions into a single entity.

Clipping
The loss or either highlight or shadow details when tone information is forced to pure white or black. For example, over-exposure can produce clipping by forcing highlights that should contain detail to register as pure white. Clipping can also be caused either intentionally as a creative effect or unintentionally because of excessive corrections. Saturation clipping can occur when colours are pushed beyond the range of a colour space.

Comments
A comment is a section of real world wording inserted by the programmer to help document what's going on in the code. They can be single line or multi-line and are defined by a # or '".

Constant
A number that does not change. It is good practice to name constants in capitals e.g. SPEED_OF_LIGHT

CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor)
A type of image sensor found in digital cameras and scanners. It is a light-sensitive chip that converts light into an electrical charge, which is then processed by an analogue to digital converter. CMOS differs from the other common sensor type (CCD) in the way that it processes the electrical charges captured by sensor elements.

CMYK
Also commonly referred to as process colour, CMYK is a subtractive colour model using cyan, magenta, yellow and black inks in colour printing.

Colour Profile
Also known as an ICC profile, the Colour Profile defines the information required to by a colour management system (CMS), to make the colour transformations between colour spaces. They can be device specific such as monitors, scanners or printers or abstract editing spaces.

Compression
The process of re-encoding digital information using fewer bits than the original file or source. This reduces transmission time and storage requirements. There are a number of different algorithms that provide either "lossy" or lossless compression. JEPG is a common file format that employs lossy compression to achieve smaller file sizes at the expense of image quality.

Cupcake
The nickname for Android version 1.5.

CyanogenMod
One of the best known and most often used series of custom ROMs.

D...

DECT
Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications. It's a wireless standard used mostly for cable-free telephone systems.

DLNA
Dynamic Living Network Alliance. A technology found on some high-end Android phones that lets users stream photos and videos from their phone to a compatible TV.

DNG (Digital Negative)
An open standard file format developed by Adobe Systems that provides an alternative to proprietary camera raw files. The DNG specification incorporates rich metadata along with embedded previews, camera profiles and editable notes. DNG uses lossless compression that can result in a significant file size reduction over the original proprietary raw.

Download
The term used when taking a file from the Internet or from a connected device such as a computer, to your phone or tablet.

Dock
The opaque strip at the bottom of the home screen. Apps in the dock remain in a special row of icons (or Folders post iOS 4) along the bottom of iPhone, iPod touch and iPad screens and do not change when you swipe between home screens.

DPI (Dots Per Inch)
The measurement of print resolution expressed in how many dots of ink are laid down either horizontally or vertically per inch. A higher number indicates a greater amount of output resolution. Not to be confused with pixel per inch (PPI). There is not necessarily a direct correlation between DPI and PPI.

Dream (HTC Dream or G1)
The very first phone to use the Android operating system.

Dynamic Range
In the context of photography, dynamic range describes the difference between the brightest and darkest light intensities of a scene. From capture to output, there can be a large difference in the size of the dynamic range that each device is capable capturing or reproducing. Dynamic range is commonly expressed in the number of f-stops that can be captured or the contrast ratio of the scene or device.

E...

Eclair
The nickname for Android version 2.0/2.1.

Emoticon
A small drawing used to augment a message or text. Typically these are yellow faces showing a variety of expressions.

Escape Sequence
When characters that have certain meanings in the Python coding language are required in strings they have to be "escaped" so that the computer knows they do not have their usual meaning. This is done by putting a slash in front of them e.g. \"

Ethernet
The format used for local cabled networks (LAN). Your router comes supplied with Ethernet cables and has ports for plugging them in.

Exposure
The total amount of light that strikes the sensor or film during an image capture. An optimal exposure takes full advantage of the dynamic range of the sensor without under-exposing the shadows or over-exposing the highlights.

Extender
A device that extends the range of a wireless network by creating a second entry point, which may, or may not, merge with the main one.

F...

Facebook
Currently the most popular social networking site on the Internet; there are currently over 835 million registered users.

FaceTime
Apple's video calling service. Requires a Wi-Fi connection and is currently only supported via a phone number on iPhone and Apple ID email address on iPod touch 4 and Mac.

Factory Reset
An option on your Android phone that allows you to return it to the state it was when it left the factory.

File Format
The structure of how information is encoded in a computer file. File formats are designed to store specific types of information, such as JPEG and TIFF for image or raster data, AI for vector data or PDF for document exchange.

Folder
An icon representing a container for a group of apps, files or icons.

Force Quit
In the Fast App Switcher, tapping and holding an app will put it in 'jiggly mode' and tapping the x badge will force it to quit. Built-in apps like Mail and Messages will automatically restart while third-party apps will restart the next time you launch them.

Froyo
The nickname given to Android version 2.2.

G...

G1
The very first phone to run the Android operating system. Also known and the HTC Dream.

Game Center
Apple's gaming service, where you can discover new games and share your game experiences with friends from around the world.

Gamut
The range of colours and tonal values that can be produced by a capture or output device or represented by a colour space.

Galaxy
A range of hugely popular handsets from Samsung, the biggest smartphone manufacturer in the world.

Geotagging
The act of digitally attaching your location to photos taken on your phone.

Gingerbread
The nickname given to Android version 2.3.

Gmail
Google's web-based email software. Comes pre-installed on every Android smartphone.

Google
Owner (although not the original creator) of Android. Also own a fairly well known search engine...

Google Now
An enhanced Google search app which bases the information displayed on current location. Currently only found in Jelly Bean.

Google Play
Previously known as Android Market, this is where you go to download Android compatible apps, books, music and movies.

Gorilla Glass
Increasingly popular scratch-resistant glass used for smartphone displays.

GPS
Global Positioning System. A system that uses satellites to pinpoint your current location.

Grayscale
A monochromatic digital image file with pixel values that use shades of grey to represent tonal information. The term is often used to describe digital black and white photographs.

GSM
One of the two main cell phone communication standards. Used in most countries outside of the U.S.

H...

Hacking
Most often means rooting when talking about Android.

Hard Reset
Also called Factory Reset. Returns the phone to its post-factory state.

HDR (High Dynamic Range)
A process that combines multiple exposure variations of an image to achieve a dynamic range exceeding that of a single exposure. Algorithms are used to blend the exposures into a high-bit file format that can then be converted to either 8 or 16 bit for printing or web presentation.

Histogram
A graphical representation of the tone and colour distribution in a digital image. This is typically based on a particular colour or working space by plotting the number of pixels for each tone or colour value. It can be used to interpret photographic exposure and reveal shadow or highlight clipping.

Home Button
The physical hardware button on the front of early models of the iPhone, iPod touch, iPad and many Android devices, located just below the screen. It's used to wake the device, return to the Home Screen and several other functions.

Home Screen
The front end of your smartphone or tablet. The screen you see, containing app icons, widgets, etc., when you first unlock the device.

Honeycomb
The nickname given to Android version 3.0. The only version designed specifically for tablets, but now superseded by ICS.

HTC
A large Taiwanese smartphone manufacturer.

HTTP
Hypertext Transfer Protocol, the protocol used by the World Wide Web (Internet) that defines how messages are sent, received and read by browsers and other connected software layers.

HTTPS
Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure, an encrypted and far more secure version of HTTP.

I...

Ice Cream Sandwich
The nickname given to Android version 4.0/4.1. The majority of new Android tablets now use this.

IMEI
International Mobile Equipment Identity. This is a unique identification number assigned to every phone.

Intel
Well known PC processor manufacturer. Has now started producing smartphone processors.

Internet
A global system of interconnected computers and networks which use the Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP) to link online devices.

Indentation
The coding language Python uses indentation to delimit blocks of code. The indents are four spaces apart, and are often created automatically after a colon is used in the code

iOS
Apple mobile operating system and the software that powers the iPhone, iPod touch, iPad and Apple TV.

IPS
In Plane Switching is a type of display used on some phones that increases the viewing angle of the screen.

I-Tunes
Mac and Windows music playing software, also used to activate and sync iPhone, iPod touch and iPad. It is also used to purchase and manage music, movies, TV shows, apps, books and other media.

ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation)
In photography, ISO refers to the standard for measurement of the sensitivity of film or digital sensors to light.

J...

Jelly Bean
The nickname given to Android 4.2, the latest version of the operating system.

JIT
The Just In Time compiler was introduced in Android 2.2. It helps to speed up apps on Android.

JPEG, JPG (Joint Photographic Experts Group)
A standard created by the Joint Photographic Experts Group for the compression of photographic images and the accompanying file format. It employs lossy compression that can reduce file size but at the expense of image quality and detail.

K...

Kernel
The basic Linux building block of Android.

Keyboard
Tablets and smartphones can feature either a physical or software keyboard.

Keyword
An element of metadata that is used to make a file more easily discoverable to searches. Keywords can be individual words or short phrases and can have a hierarchical structure.

L...

Landscape Mode
This describes a phone or tablet when you hold it horizontally; this is when it's wider than it is tall and the Home button is on the right or left of the screen.

Launcher
This is the part of the Android user interface on home screens that lets you launch apps and make phone calls.

LAN
Local Area Network. Devices that are connected to your router using Ethernet cables, are part of the LAN (see also WLAN).

LG
A large Korean electronics and smartphone manufacturer.

Linux
An open-source operating system that is used as the basis of Android.

Live Wallpapers
Animated wallpapers introduced in Android 2.1.

Loop
A piece of code that repeats itself until a certain condition is met. Loops can encase the entire code or just sections of it.

LTE
Long-Term Evolution. A name sometimes given to 4G data networks.

Luminance
The intensity of light as emitted or reflected by an object or surface. This is usually expressed in candelas per square meter (cd/m2). It is a measurement of the brightness of an object or light source.

M...

Magic
HTC phone also known as the MyTouch 3G. The first phone to use an Android operating system.

Mail
Built-in Apple app for handling POP3, IMAP, MobileMe and Exchange/ActiveSync email accounts.

Messages
One of Apple's built-in iPhone apps that handles SMS text messages and MMS multimedia messages. SMS messages are also more generally called "messages" on most devices.

MMS: (MultimediaMmessages)
MMS supports images, videos, sound, contact cards and location data. Sent and received via the Messages app.

Megapixel
A term used to describe digital camera resolution, 1 megapixel equals one million pixels or sensor elements. To calculate the megapixel value for a camera, multiply the horizontal by the vertical pixel counts of the recorded image.

Mesh
A means of combining two wireless access points into one, so they use the same settings and appear as a single network to devices that join it.

Metadata
Embedded or associated information describing a file's contents, used in digital photography to hold exposure information, GPS location data, copyright information and more. There are several metadata formats such as EXIF, IIM, IPTC Core, Dublin Core, DICOM and XMP.

Modem
Short for modulate-demodulate, a modem converts data into a signal that can be transferred over a phone line, and does so in reverse for incoming data.

Motorola
A large manufacturer or electronics and smartphones.

N...

News
Is an app in iOS that collected together magazine and newspaper apps and allowed the automatic downloading of new stories.

Nexus
A range of smartphones and tablets developed by Google. The Nexus range runs a pure version of Android.

NFC
Near Field Communication. A technology which allows data to be between phones or between your phone and another device.

Noise
The unwanted colour or luminance variations of pixels that degrade the overall quality of an image. Noise can result from several different sources including a low signal to noise ratio, the use of high ISO settings, long exposures, stuck sensor pixels and compression artefacts. It can appear as random colour speckles, a grain-like effect or banding.

Notification Centre:
A pull-down list of recent notifications, accessible from any iOS Home Screen or from within any iOS app. Similar to the Notification Panel found on Android.

O...

OEM
Original Equipment Manufacturer. A company which manufacturers devices for another brand (e.g. ASUS is the OEM of Google's Nexus 7.)

One Series
A range of smartphones from HTC. Includes the One X, One V and the One S.

Open GL
An open source graphics library, used on some smartphones.

Open Source
Software which is available to be studied, used and adapted by anyone. Android is open source software.

Operating System
Also OS. The program that's loaded into the computer after the initial boot sequence has completed. The OS manages all the other programs, graphical user interface (GUI), input and output and physical hardware interactions with the user.

Optimus
A range of smartphones from LG

OTA
Over The Air. A method which upgrades are wirelessly sent to smartphones.

Output
Data that is sent from the program to a screen, printer or other external peripheral.

P...

Pantech
A South Korean smartphone manufacturer.

PDF (Portable Document Format)
Developed by Adobe Systems, PDF is an open standard file format for cross-platform document exchange. PDF is highly extensible, preserves the integrity of the original document, is searchable and provides document security.

Photos
Built-in Apple app that handles your photo albums on your iPhone and iPod touch 4, and synced photos and videos for iPhone and all generations of iPad and iPod touch.

Photo Stream
Part of iCloud, Photo Stream stores your last thirty days or 1000 photos online and on your iOS devices, and all your photos on your Mac.

Pixel
Derived from the term picture element, this is the smallest unit of information in a digital image. It is also commonly used to describe the individual elements on a capture device such as a camera sensor.

PIN
Stands for Personal Identification Number. Used to lock smartphones and SIM cards.

Plug-In
A software application or module that provides extended and specific functionality from within a larger host application.

Portrait Mode
This describes a smartphone or tablet when you hold it vertically; this is when it's taller than it is wide and the Home button is at the top or bottom of the screen.

PSD
The .psd (Photoshop Document) format is a popular proprietary file format from Adobe Systems, Inc. It has support for most of the imaging options available in Photoshop, such as layer masks, transparency, text and alpha channels. In addition, spot colours, clipping paths and even duotone settings can be saved if you are preparing images for printing.

Project Butter
Software enhancements introduced in Android 4.1. Designed to smooth out frame rates and animations.

Q...

QR Code
A type of barcode which can be scanned by smartphones to reveal information such as text and website URL's.

QuickTime
Apple's 2D video and graphics player, used to play movies and other video on iOS.

R...

Raw Files
A Raw file is the unprocessed data captured by a digital camera sensor. In most cases, cameras write Raw files using a proprietary file format. Raw files give the photographer the advantage of managing image processing during post-production rather than letting the camera make the processing decisions, as happens when shooting in JPEG format. See also: DNG.

Recovery Mode
A separate operating mode of Android. Mainly used for device administration and repair.

Retina Display
Super sharp display available on Mac computers and iOS devices.

Resolution

A measurement of the ability of an optical, capture, or output system to record and reproduce detail. It can be defined in several different metrics such as Line Pairs, PPI, DPI, SPI and LPI. Also see DPI and PPI.

RGB
A colour model that uses the three primary additive colours (red, green, blue) that can be mixed in different ratios to make all other colours.

ROM
Read Only Memory. In Android a ROM is used to load software updates. Custom ROMs are software updates developed by third parties.

Root
In Android, to Root means to unlock the device to allow more access to the core software (or root).

Router
A device that manages and organises your home network devices, whether they connect to the router using a cable (LAN), or wirelessly (WLAN).

S...

Safari
Apple's web browser, both for Mac OS X and iOS (sometimes called Mobile Safari). Based on KHTML/ WebKit renderer and the Nitro JavaScript engine.

Samsung
A huge Korean smartphone and electronics manufacturer.

SD Card
A small memory card which can often be inserted into smartphones to increase storage capacity.

Sense
The user interface designed by and used on HTC phones.

Sharpening
The process of increasing or emphasising contrast around the edges of details in an image, to give the impression that the image is sharper than it really is.

Sideload
The process of installing an app onto your phone outside of the Google Play store.

SIM Card
The small plastic chip required in all GSM phones to connect to the mobile network.

Siri
Apple's intelligent virtual assistant, that replaces Voice Control on the iPhone.

Sleep/Wake Button
Physical hardware button. Used to power on, wake from sleep, put to sleep and power down most smartphones and tablets.

Sony Ericsson
The company formed by Sony and Ericsson to manufacture and distribute mobile devices.

Sprint
One of the large US mobile carriers.

SSID
Service Set ID. In a nutshell, this is the 'name' of your wireless network, and can be changed using your router.

Super AMOLED
An improvement of AMOLED displays, providing brighter, less power hungry and less reflective screens.

T...

T-Mobile
Large US mobile carrier and manufacturer of smartphones.

Tegra 2
NVIDIA's dual-core mobile processor.

Tegra 3
NVIDIA's newer, quad-core, mobile processor.

Tethering
Using your smartphones data connection to provide internet access for another device (laptops, etc.)

Text Field
Any area where you can add text. For example, the search field is where you type something you're looking for. Tap on a text field to bring up the virtual keyboard.

Thumbnail Image
A small, low-resolution image preview used on the web to link to a high-resolution version of the file. Thumbnails can also be embedded in file formats such as TIFF and PSD.

TIFF or TIF (Tagged Image File Format)
An open standard file format specifically designed for images. TIFF can incorporate several types of compression, including LZW, JPEG and ZIP. The format is suitable for the storage of high quality archive images. The DNG format is based on the main TIFF standard.

TouchWiz
Samsung's custom user interface.

Twitter
One of the most popular social networks built around a follower and following system rather than friends.

U...

UPnP
Universal Plug and Play. A protocol used by digital media players for enjoying video, music, and pictures over your home network.

URL
Uniform Resource Locator. This is a web address, used to access a web page on the Internet, and usually starts 'www' and ends in '.com', or some other top-level domain.

USB
Universal Serial Bus. The connection method now used by most smartphones to connect to a computer or power source (MicroUSB).

V...

Vanilla
Sometimes used to describe Android without any custom user interface applied.

VDSL
Very High Speed Digital Subscriber Line. It's another protocol for getting on the Internet using your phone line, and is sometimes shortened to DSL.

Verizon
One of the four large US mobile carriers.

Virtual Environment
A cooperatively isolated runtime environment that allows Python users and applications to install and upgrade Python distribution packages without interfering with the behaviour of other Python applications running on the same system.

Virtual Machine
A computer defined entirely in software. Can be used to test/run/create code that won't affect the host system.

VPN
(Virtual Private Network):
This provides secure access over the Internet to private networks, such as the network at your company or school.

W...

While Loop
A coding loop that repeats code while a comparative statement returns the value True.

White Balance (WB)
In digital photography, white balance establishes the colour balance of the image in relationship to colour temperature of the lighting conditions. Most digital cameras have several built-in white balance presets (tungsten, daylight, cloudy, fluorescent, etc.) along with an auto setting and the ability to set a custom WB.

Widgets
The name given to the home-screen gadgets which allow you to see app updates, news, etc.

Wi-Fi
A group of backwards-compatible radio technologies used to connect peripherals to a network wirelessly.

WLAN
Wireless Local Area Network. Your network of wireless devices, as opposed to devices connected with a cable (see LAN).

World Phone
A device which works on both CDMA and GSM networks outside of its home country.

WPS
Wi-Fi Protected Setup, an easier way of connecting wireless devices to your router.

XYZ...

Xperia
A range of smartphones developed by Sony Ericsson. Includes the Xperia T and the Xperia Play, the PlayStation smartphone.

YouTube
Google-owned, web-based video streaming service. A YouTube app is usually pre-installed on Android devices.