Application Coding For Your Daily Needs: Handout 0: Installing Python

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Installing Python on your machines at home is really easy. Most of you probably already have it but just don't know it. In our class we'll be using some version of Python 2. Yes, we know that there's a Python 3 out there, but most existing libraries you'll find are written in Python 2. Follow these directions to get up and running. Let us know if you have any problems.

Mac OS X

You should have Python installed on your computer by default. To check which version you're running, open a terminal and type `python -V`. It should hopefully say 2 point something, probably 2.6 if you're running Snow Leopard. If not download this. Install the disk image and you should be all set.

Windows

Windows does not come with Python by default, so you'll have to install it. If you have a 32-bit OS, download this, or if you have a 64-bit OS, download this. Start installing it and accept all the default options. Now you can start IDLE from your programs menu to get started.

Linux

You should have Python installed by default. To check the version, open a terminal and type `python -V`. If you don't have version 2.*, use your distribution's package manager to get Python (probably something like `apt-get install python2.7`). Also, on Linux, IDLE isn't installed with Python by default, so you'll have to install that as well by running `apt-get install idle`.