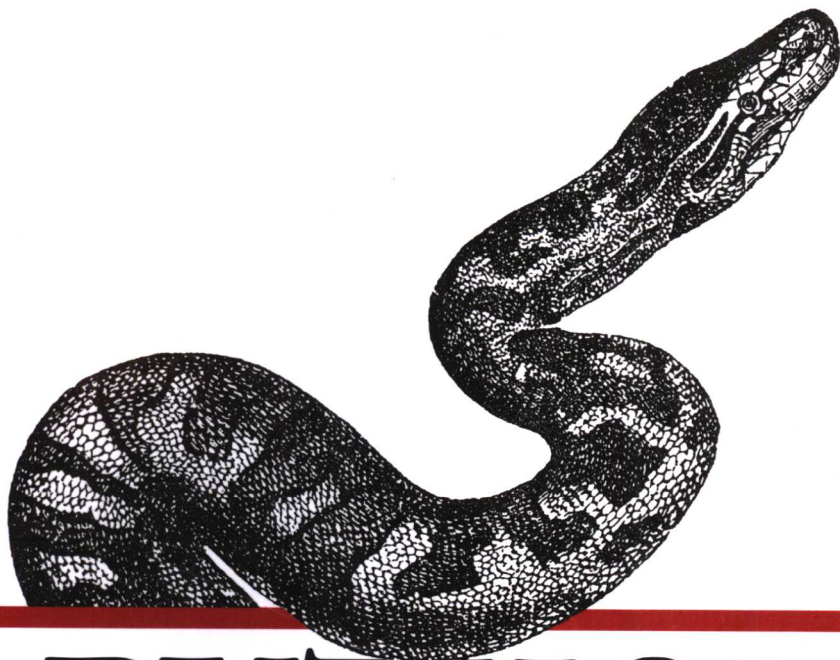


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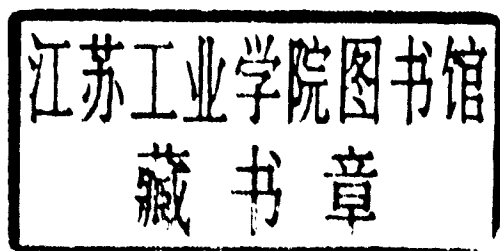
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PYTHON

IN A NUTSHELL

第二版



Alex Martelli

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Preface

The Python programming language manages to reconcile many apparent contradictions: it's both elegant and pragmatic, it's both simple and powerful, it's very high-level yet doesn't get in your way when you need to fiddle with bits and bytes, it's suitable for programming novices and great for experts, too.

This book is aimed at programmers with some previous exposure to Python, as well as experienced programmers coming to Python for the first time from other programming languages. The book is a quick reference to Python itself, the most commonly used parts of its vast standard library, and some of the most popular and useful third-party modules and packages, covering a wide range of application areas, including web and network programming, GUIs, XML handling, database interactions, and high-speed numeric computing. The book focuses on Python's cross-platform capabilities and covers the basics of extending Python and embedding it in other applications, using either C or Java™.

How This Book Is Organized

This book has five parts, as follows.

Part I, Getting Started with Python

Chapter 1, *Introduction to Python*

Covers the general characteristics of the Python language and its implementations, and discusses where to get help and information.

Chapter 2, *Installation*

Explains how to obtain and install Python on your computer(s).

Chapter 3, *The Python Interpreter*

Covers the Python interpreter program, its command-line options, and how it is used to run Python programs and in interactive sessions. The chapter also

mentions text editors that are particularly suitable for editing Python programs and auxiliary programs for thoroughly checking your Python sources, and examines some full-fledged integrated development environments, including IDLE, which comes free with standard Python.

Part II, Core Python Language and Built-ins

Chapter 4, *The Python Language*

Covers Python syntax, built-in data types, expressions, statements, and how to write and call functions.

Chapter 5, *Object-Oriented Python*

Explains object-oriented programming in Python.

Chapter 6, *Exceptions*

Covers how to deal with errors and abnormal conditions in Python programs.

Chapter 7, *Modules*

Covers how Python lets you group code into modules and packages, how to define and import modules, and how to install third-party Python extensions that are packaged in standard Python ways.

Chapter 8, *Core Built-ins*

Refers to built-in data types and functions, and some of the most fundamental modules in the standard Python library (roughly, modules supplying functionality that, in some other languages, is built into the language itself).

Chapter 9, *Strings and Regular Expressions*

Covers Python's powerful string-processing facilities, including Unicode strings and regular expressions.

Part III, Python Library and Extension Modules

Chapter 10, *File and Text Operations*

Explains how to deal with files and text processing using built-in Python file objects, many modules from Python's standard library, and platform-specific extensions for rich text I/O. The chapter also covers issues of internationalization and localization, and the specific task of defining interactive text-mode command sessions with Python.

Chapter 11, *Persistence and Databases*

Introduces Python's serialization and persistence mechanisms, as well as Python's interfaces to DBM databases, the Berkeley Database, and relational (SQL-based) databases.

Chapter 12, *Time Operations*

Covers how to deal with times and dates in Python, using the standard library and popular extensions.

Chapter 13, *Controlling Execution*

Explains how to achieve advanced execution control in Python, including execution of dynamically generated code and control of garbage-collection operations. The chapter also covers some Python internal types, and the

specific issue of registering “clean-up” functions to be executed at program-termination time.

Chapter 14, *Threads and Processes*

Covers Python’s functionality for concurrent execution, both via multiple threads running within one process and via multiple processes running on a single machine. The chapter also covers how to access the process’s environment, and how to access files via memory-mapping mechanisms.

Chapter 15, *Numeric Processing*

Shows Python’s features for numeric computations, both in standard library modules and in third-party extension packages; in particular, the chapter covers how to use decimal floating-point numbers instead of the default binary floating-point numbers. The chapter also covers how to get and use pseudorandom and truly random numbers.

Chapter 16, *Array Processing*

Covers built-in and extension packages for array handling, focusing on the traditional Numeric third-party extension, and mentions other, more recently developed alternatives.

Chapter 17, *Tkinter GUIs*

Explains how to develop graphical user interfaces in Python with the Tkinter package included with the standard Python distribution, and briefly mentions other alternative Python GUI frameworks.

Chapter 18, *Testing, Debugging, and Optimizing*

Deals with Python tools and approaches that help ensure your programs are correct (i.e., that your programs do what they’re meant to do), find and correct errors in your programs, and check and enhance your programs’ performance. The chapter also covers the concept of “warning” and the Python library module that deals with it.

Part IV, Network and Web Programming

Chapter 19, *Client-Side Network Protocol Modules*

Covers many modules in Python’s standard library that help you write network client programs, particularly by dealing with various network protocols from the client side and handling URLs.

Chapter 20, *Sockets and Server-Side Network Protocol Modules*

Explains Python’s interfaces to low-level network mechanisms (sockets), standard Python library modules that help you write network server programs, and asynchronous (event-driven) network programming with standard modules and the powerful Twisted extension.

Chapter 21, *CGI Scripting and Alternatives*

Covers the basics of CGI programming, how to perform CGI programming in Python with standard Python library modules, and how use “cookies” to deal with session-state in HTTP server-side programming. The chapter also mentions many alternatives to CGI programming for server-side web programming through popular Python extensions.

Chapter 22, *MIME and Network Encodings*

Shows how to process email and other network-structured and encoded documents in Python.

Chapter 23, *Structured Text: HTML*

Covers Python library modules that let you process and generate HTML documents.

Chapter 24, *Structured Text: XML*

Covers Python library modules and popular extensions that let you process, modify, and generate XML documents.

Part V, Extending and Embedding

Chapter 25, *Extending and Embedding Classic Python*

Shows how to code Python extension modules using C and other classic compiled languages, how to embed Python in applications coded in such languages, and alternative ways to extend Python and access existing C, C++, and Fortran libraries.

Chapter 26, *Extending and Embedding Jython*

Shows how to use Java classes from the Jython implementation of Python, and how to embed Jython in applications coded in Java.

Chapter 27, *Distributing Extensions and Programs*

Covers the tools that let you package Python extensions, modules, and applications for distribution.

Conventions Used in This Book

The following conventions are used throughout this book.

Reference Conventions

In the function/method reference entries, when feasible, each optional parameter is shown with a default value using the Python syntax *name=value*. Built-in functions need not accept named parameters, so parameter names are not significant. Some optional parameters are best explained in terms of their presence or absence, rather than through default values. In such cases, I indicate that a parameter is optional by enclosing it in brackets ([]). When more than one argument is optional, the brackets are nested.

Typographic Conventions

Italic

Used for filenames, program names, URLs, and to introduce new terms. Also used for Unix commands and their options.

Constant width

Used for all code examples, as well as for all items that appear in code, including keywords, methods, functions, classes, and modules.

Constant width italic

Used to show text that can be replaced with user-supplied values in code examples.

Constant width bold

Used for commands that must be typed on the command line, and occasionally for emphasis in code examples or to indicate code output.

Using Code Examples

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As always, even though they're back in my native Italy and my career with Google has taken me to California, my thoughts go to my family: my children Flavia and Lucio, my sister Elisabetta, and my father Lanfranco.

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