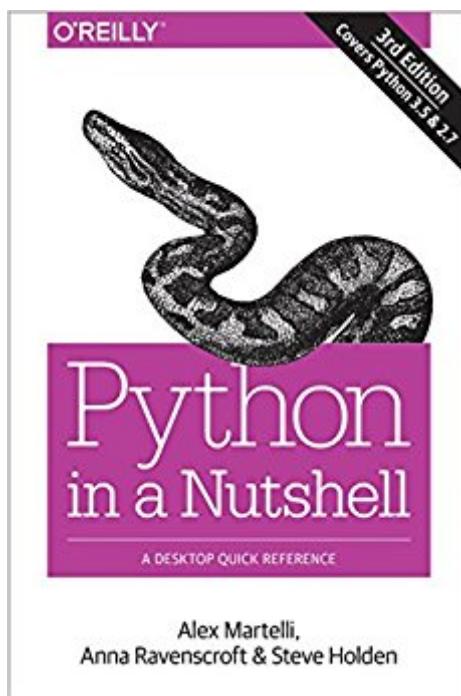


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# Python In A Nutshell: A Desktop Quick Reference



## Synopsis

Useful in many roles, from design and prototyping to testing, deployment, and maintenance, Python is consistently ranked among today's most popular programming languages. The third edition of this practical book provides a quick reference to the language—including Python 3.5, 2.7, and highlights of 3.6—commonly used areas of its vast standard library, and some of the most useful third-party modules and packages. Ideal for programmers with some Python experience, and those coming to Python from other programming languages, this book covers a wide range of application areas, including web and network programming, XML handling, database interactions, and high-speed numeric computing. Discover how Python provides a unique mix of elegance, simplicity, practicality, and sheer power. This edition covers: Python syntax, Object-Oriented Python, standard library modules, and third-party Python packages. Python's support for file and text operations, persistence and databases, concurrent execution, and numeric computations. Networking basics, event-driven programming, and client-side network protocol modules. Python extension modules, and tools for packaging and distributing extensions, modules, and applications.

## Book Information

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[View larger](#) [View larger](#) [Colophon](#) The animal on the cover of Python in a Nutshell, Third Edition, is an African rock python (Python sebae), one of approximately 18 species of python.

Pythons are nonvenomous constrictor snakes that live in tropical regions of Africa, Asia, Australia, and some Pacific Islands. Pythons live mainly on the ground, but they are also excellent swimmers and climbers. Both male and female pythons retain vestiges of their ancestral hind legs. From the Preface The Python programming language reconciles many apparent contradictions: both elegant and pragmatic, 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, and it's suitable for programming novices as well as 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 languages. The book is a quick reference to Python itself, the most commonly used parts of its vast standard library, and a few of the most popular and useful third-party modules and packages, covering a wide range of application areas, including web and network programming, 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. This book covers Python 3.5, referred to as v3, and Python 2.7, referred to as v2. Highlights of Python 3.6 (released as this book was about to go to print) are called out as 3.6. This book has five parts with several chapters each, as follows: Part I, Getting Started with Python Part II, Core Python Language and Built-ins Part III, Python Library and Extension Modules Part IV, Network and Web Programming Part V, Extending, Distributing, v2/v3 Migration

"Holden, Ravenscroft, and Martelli are well known Python masters. Their exceptional lucidity shines through in one of Python's best references, covering the core language, libraries, and essential parts of the Python ecosystem."-- Raymond Hettinger, Distinguished Python Core Developer

Alex Martelli spent 8 years with IBM Research, then 13 at think3 inc., followed by 4 years as a consultant (mostly for AB Strakt in Göteborg, Sweden), and lately 12 years at Google (currently as tech lead of 1:many tech support for Google Cloud Platform). He has also taught programming languages, development methods, and numerical computing at Ferrara University and other venues. He's a Fellow of the Python Software Foundation, a winner of the Frank Willison Memorial Award for contributions to the Python community, and a top-page reputation hog on Stack Overflow. Books he's authored or co-authored include two editions of the Python Cookbook, three of Python in a Nutshell, and "Beautiful Teams." Dozens of his tech talks at conferences, and interviews with him,

are available on YouTube. Alex's proudest achievement are the articles that appeared in Bridge World (January and February 2000), which were hailed as giant steps towards solving issues that had haunted contract bridge theoreticians for decades, and still get quoted in current bridge-theoretical literature, after all these years. Anna Martelli Ravenscroft is an experienced speaker and trainer, with a background developing curricula for a wide range of topics, from church, to regional transit, to disaster preparedness; developing web applications for therapy, learning, and fitness; and writing and reviewing technical books, articles, and presentations. While not a professional programmer, She is a Python enthusiast, and an active member of the Open Source community: she's a PSF Fellow, and winner of the 2013 Frank Willison Memorial Award for contributions to the Python community. Anna co-authored the second edition of the Python Cookbook and the third edition of Python in a Nutshell. She lives in Silicon Valley with her husband Alex, two dogs, one cat, and eight chickens. Steve Holden Is CTO of a stress-management startup in the UK. He has taught many classes on TCP/IP, network security, database and programming topics, and was the author of "Python Web Programming", the O'Reilly School of Technology's "Certificate series in Python" and O'Reilly Media's "Intermediate Python" video series. Steve has spent time on both sides of the "academic divide", and was an early researcher into the integration of text, graphics and database while teaching system development topics at Manchester University. This research led him to form Desktop Connection Limited, the first UK reseller of Frame Technology's (now Adobe's) FrameMaker software. His customers included British Telecom, British Aerospace, British Gas, and Sun Microsystems. Born and raised in the UK, Steve has travelled throughout Europe and the USA on teaching assignments. He recently returned to the UK after 20 years in the USA and now lives in Hastings, where when not working or writing he enjoys looking for worthwhile beers, entertaining friends and family, and reading science fiction.

Python in a Nutshell, 3rd Edition is fantastic! This treatment of the Python language is thorough, and most important for clarity is systematic and consistent. Explanations of inner workings - why and how things work as they do - enrich this work and left me with much greater understanding about areas I thought I already understood well. Python V2 and V3 are both covered comprehensively with examples of each given in cases where they differ, the differences clearly shown and not left to chance. This book is both an introduction and guide to Python and a language reference. Most worthy and highly recommended! (We obtained this book in e-book form directly from O'Reilly Media in pre-release in December 2016.)

The font used in the paperback version of this book is too small for comfortable reading. It is comparable to that of O'Reilly's pocket-size books rather than full-size ones.

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