**Setting up Python Interpreter on your Local PC/Mac**

To get started with Python, it is best to download the Python interpreter on your local PC or Mac. This allows you to create, test and run Python code locally on your own machine.

1. **Download the Python Interpreter**
   1. Go to: <https://www.python.org/downloads/>
   2. Download the Python interpreter to your local PC or Mac
2. **Check to see if your download process automatically updated your PATH variable** 
   1. Open a PC DOS session “cmd prompt”, or Mac Terminal (Go 🡪 Utilities 🡪 Terminal.app)
   2. Type: **python -V** 🡪 you should get Python’s version. **If not, go to step 3**
3. **Update you PATH variable - *Optional (but highly recommended)***

Do this step only if python –V in step 2 was not recognized.

*Most likely this step is necessary on the PC, but may not be necessary on the Mac.*

On the PC

* 1. Go to Control Panel 🡪 System 🡪 Advanced system settings 🡪 Advanced tab
  2. Click on Environment Variables…
  3. Under System variables
  4. Double click on the Variable: Path
  5. Go to the end of the variable value
  6. Add a **;C:\*name\_of\_python\_directory***  (the name of the directory that Python interpreter was downloaded into)
  7. Click OK, then another OK, then another OK

On the Mac

Perform similar steps as above if needed. (*research instruction on the web*)

1. **Test to see if step #3 above worked properly**
   1. Redo step 2
   2. If python –V is still not recognized, retrace/fix your steps for #3
2. **Create a small python program**
   1. Open your favorite text editor
   2. Create the following program, with the following line of code:  
      **print("Hello World")**
   3. Save the program as: **hello.py**
   4. Open a DOS or Mac Terminal session
   5. Navigate to the directory where you saved your hello.py program (using: cd *dirName*).
   6. Run your program by typing: **python hello.py**
   7. I you see “Hello World”… Welcome to Python.