ECS 10
Sept 25

Introductions
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- TBA

A first programming class
- For people with no programming experience
- Learn the computer language Python
- Write six programs

Why learn to program?
- Understand computers
- Computers are used in almost every career
- The programs you have are never exactly what you want.
- The data you have is almost never in the format you want.

How does programming help?
- You can handle little problems yourself
- When you hire someone you have some idea of what she is doing.
- You have some idea of what is possible.
- A good programmer has lots of job options (you’ll need more than this one class, though)

Example of What You’ll Know
- One program last year.
- Get data on population, foreclosures and display it by California county.
It teaches you to think!
- The computer is your genie in a bottle
- It does exactly what you tell it to
- Your job is figuring out what to tell it
- Learning the language is the easy part; learning to give exact directions is the hard part.
- Imagine telling a Martian how to tie their shoes....

Why Python?
- Great for interfacing one program to another
- Free!
- Used in industry – Google, ILM, NASA....
- Easy to get started with!
- Lots of “libraries” (add-ons) that do things like sound editing, computational biology, Web database access....

Other options
- ECS 15 – More conceptual overview. Understanding how computers and the internet work, a little programming.
- ECS 30 – More intensive class for those with some programming experience (Basic?). Learn C. Required for ECS majors.

Course Structure
- Six programs – 32% of grade.
- Tentative breakdown:
  - “hello” – 2%
  - “quiz” – 6%
  - “finance” – 6%
  - “census data” – 6%
  - “map” – 6%
  - “graphing” – 6%
- FIRST PROGRAM DUE 10PM TUES NOV 29

Exams
- Two midterms – 18% each
  - 10/16 and 11/16
  - Email me if you will miss the midterm
  - Makeups will include later material
- Final – 32%
  - Dec 11 10:30-12:30 in this room
  - DO NOT miss the final
  - Missed final will be an incomplete
- All exams open book, open notes

Weekly activities
- Lecture – 3 hours
  - If you have a laptop, maybe try typing along.
- Discussion section – 1 hour
  - Bring laptops
- Lab hours – 10 hours, optional
  - For help with programs.
- Office hours – 1 hour, optional
  - Administrative things. I will not help you with your program during office hours.
Lab Facilities

- You can often use the labs where we have lab hours during other times; check for availability.
- You can always use 75 Hutchinson.
- Best to install Python on your own computer!

Flash drive

- If you work in the computer classrooms, you should bring a flash drive.

Professional Conduct

- I am expecting professional, adult behavior
- Politeness
  - No eating in class
  - No phone calls
  - “Business letter” emails
- Honesty
  - Write and understand every line of every program
  - No cut-and-paste
  - No looking at other people’s programs while typing

H1N1

- Expect lots of people to get the flu
- Stay healthy!
  - Get an H1N1 shot as soon as possible.
  - Don’t come to this lecture if you have a fever or for two days after that.
  - The slides will always be on-line.
  - There are suggested readings in the book and on the Web.
  - Cough into a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands or the air.
  - Sit in the back if you’re coughing.

Late Work and Makeups

- One assignment can be up to 10 days late.
- If you email me beforehand, you can take a makeup midterm the following week.
- Makeups will include more material than the original test.
- No makeup finals; if you miss it, you get an incomplete.

Getting started!

- First assignment due 10PM Tues 10/29.
- Get on a computer and start Web browser
- Find first assignment on course Web site: http://www.cs.ucdavis.edu/~amenta/f09/ecs10.html (can get there from SmartSite)
- Start using Python
Install Python on your computer

- Link to Python download page and directions on course Web site
- We can help during lab hours if you have a laptop

What to do this weekend

- Look at the first assignment on the Web page
- Install Python on your computer OR go to the lab and log on and try starting Python
- Get the book and read the first 11 pages while sitting in front of a computer and typing along.

Announcements

- No sections met this week
- Lab hours starting Monday
- I will be at Tuesday lab hour
- My office hour is W 2pm. Administrative issues only.