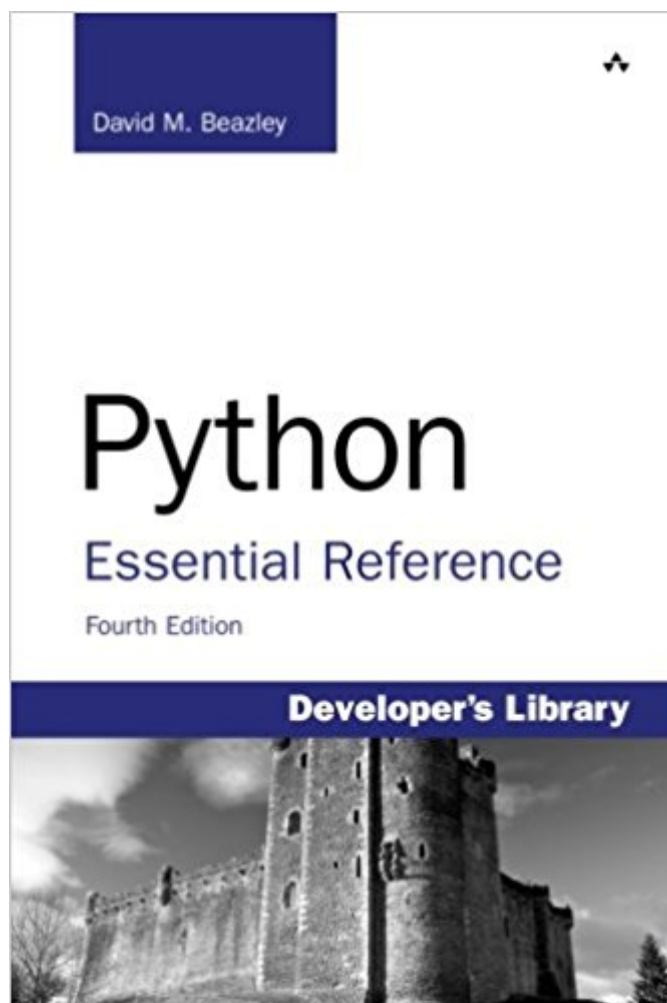


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Python Essential Reference (4th Edition)



Synopsis

Python Essential Reference is the definitive reference guide to the Python programming language – the one authoritative handbook that reliably untangles and explains both the core Python language and the most essential parts of the Python library. Designed for the professional programmer, the book is concise, to the point, and highly accessible. It also includes detailed information on the Python library and many advanced subjects that is not available in either the official Python documentation or any other single reference source. Thoroughly updated to reflect the significant new programming language features and library modules that have been introduced in Python 2.6 and Python 3, the fourth edition of Python Essential Reference is the definitive guide for programmers who need to modernize existing Python code or who are planning an eventual migration to Python 3. Programmers starting a new Python project will find detailed coverage of contemporary Python programming idioms. This fourth edition of Python Essential Reference features numerous improvements, additions, and updates:

- Coverage of new language features, libraries, and modules
- Practical coverage of Python's more advanced features including generators, coroutines, closures, metaclasses, and decorators
- Expanded coverage of library modules related to concurrent programming including threads, subprocesses, and the new multiprocessing module
- Up-to-the-minute coverage of how to use Python 2.6's forward compatibility mode to evaluate code for Python 3 compatibility
- Improved organization for even faster answers and better usability
- Updates to reflect modern Python programming style and idioms
- Updated and improved example code
- Deep coverage of low-level system and networking library modules – including options not covered in the standard documentation

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Customer Reviews

"Python Essential Reference" is the definitive reference guide to the Python programming language - the one authoritative handbook that reliably untangles and explains both the core Python language and the most essential parts of the Python library. Designed for the professional programmer, the book is concise, to the point, and highly accessible. It also includes detailed information on the Python library and many advanced subjects that is not available in either the official Python documentation or any other single reference source. Thoroughly updated to reflect the significant new programming language features and library modules that have been introduced in Python 2.6 and Python 3, the fourth edition of "Python Essential Reference" is the definitive guide for programmers who need to modernize existing Python code or who are planning an eventual migration to Python 3. Programmers starting a new Python project will find detailed coverage of contemporary Python programming idioms. This fourth edition of "Python Essential Reference" features numerous improvements, additions, and updates: Coverage of new language features, libraries, and modules Practical coverage of Python's more advanced features including generators, coroutines, closures, metaclasses, and decorators Expanded coverage of library modules related to concurrent programming including threads, subprocesses, and the new multiprocessing module Up-to-the-minute coverage of how to use Python 2.6's forward compatibility mode to evaluate code for Python 3 compatibility Improved organization for even faster answers and better usability Updates to reflect modern Python programming style and idioms Updated and improved example code Deep coverage of low-level system and networking library modules - including options not covered in the standard documentation

David M. Beazley has been programming Python since 1996. While working at Los Alamos National Laboratory, he helped pioneer the use of Python with scientific computing software. Through his company, Dabeaz LLC, he provides software development, training, and consulting related to the practical use of dynamic programming languages such as Python, Ruby, and Perl, especially in systems programming. He is author of all previous editions of Python Essential Reference, and was contributing author of Steve Holden's [Python Web Programming](#). He is a member of the Python Software Foundation.

I am not sure about all of you but I almost never buy technical books anymore. They are way too expensive and with the web, mostly unnecessary and become obsolete in short order. However, I recently picked up a copy of David Beazley's python reference and I have to say it's one of the best tech books I've read in many, many years. There is a wealth of very accessible information in it that, while sometimes possible to dig out on the web, his descriptions and good examples are the best you will find. It is very concise - he clearly has thought out the presentation of the material so that he says exactly what needs to be said and wastes no one's time with fluff. He digs into many areas of python that are very difficult to find good references on elsewhere (such as generators, coroutines, etc.) I have been reading the book slowly from the beginning and it is a great teaching lesson. I highly recommend this for anyone doing python for a living. Or interested in seeing if python will float their future programming boat.

I'm an experienced programmer whose been working professionally for 20 years. I don't need a lot of hand-holding when learning a programming language; I just want a succinct presentation of the language and an overview of the popular library interfaces. I know how to program. I just need enough information to map my existing expertise into a new language. I already own a couple of other Python books, but they were either too introductory or too formulaic. This book, on the other hand, was perfect. It packs a lot of information into 717 pages and includes an extremely rigorous introduction to the language. If you're comfortable with a variety languages (say C and Lisp), you should be able to pick up Python with a reasonable degree of sophistication by reading the first 100 pages of this book. If you like "The Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs", I daresay you'll have no trouble with the pace here. I was also looking for a summary of the major Python modules, and Mr. Beazley devotes the remaining 500 pages to that topic. This section of the book isn't trying to provide an exhaustive reference to all of the Python modules; rather, I think the intent was to provide an basic overview so that someone new to Python would have an idea of what is available. This book has everything one might want in a language reference: the table of contents is thorough, the section names are descriptive, and the index is complete. The designer also included a grey bar along the edge of the page at the beginning of every chapter, so it is easy to page through it. In summary, this book is everything I was hoping for in a Python reference.

I like the content of this book, but it is terrible as a Kindle book. As a REFERENCE book, I need automatic links from one section to another. Even in the "Go To" menu, there is no link to the "Table Of Contents". As an example, one section on 'repr' does not offer links to another section on 'repr'.

Python Essential Reference (4th Edition) is a nice reference guide. the table of contents is well organized into 2 groups actually, which is helpful when looking for a concept rather than a specific syntax issue. unfortunately, the book uses python2 as the foundation (It still references py3 but often as a throw away--example: 2 paragraphs of explanation and a side note that it's done a different way in py3), so in that respect, it is a little outdated. If you use Python3 (which, at this point, you likely do), wait for the 5th edition.

I'm a newbie to Python, and I like it because it is reminded me of BASIC: simple to use with lots of power. I have looked at on-line books and documents and wanted a general REFERENCE BOOK, a dictionary of the language, if you will. This is EXCELLENT. I got the print edition as some reviews said the PDF version does not display well on Kindle. If you need to add a reference to your library, GET THIS BOOK!

This is a fantastic reference book for the seasoned programmer. I would not suggest this text for a beginner. This is a quick reference guide for a intermediate to advanced programmer learning a new language. Say you know PERL and C like the back of your hand, and you are starting to learn Python for the first time. This is the book for you. These days people would just google what they need, but I think books like this are still necessary. Throw in post-its in important pages and flip open to what you need instantly.

I have worked as a programmer for over 15 years professionally, many more if you consider I started at age 12. I have programmed in C, C++, Java, Ruby, ASP and substantially in Perl. Several years ago I heard about Python from a respected source and have been watching its growth in popularity ever since. I have long wanted to try Python, but always reverted back to a language I already knew. Recently I was forced to make a switch and have to program a project in Python in order to use a provided API. I am so happy that I found this resource, it is exactly what I needed as an experienced programmer to make the shift. The information is provided with the assumption you know how to code. It is dense without much filler. So many programming language books devote the majority of the time to the general process of programming and insufficient time to the language. It is not so with this one. On top of that this book goes the extra mile to help you jump into the evolving world of Python as it makes the shift from Python 2 to 3. The book is very informative about what is changing and helps you know what works in 2 and what changes will be required for 3.

would highly recommend this Python book to someone looking at Python for the first time with significant experience in another language.

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