

Python Style Rules

- Two PEPs (Python Enhancement Proposals) you should be familiar with:
 - PEP 8 – Style Guide for Python Code
 - PEP 257 – Docstring Conventions

Docstring Conventions

- A string literal for documenting a module, function, class, or method.
- Such string literals are accessible as the `__doc__` attribute of the object

Docstring Conventions

- Use triple quotes to surround the literal:
- A triple quote that ends a multiline docstring should be on a line by itself, and preferably preceded by a blank line

```
def blah(a,b):  
    """Does something with a,b."""  
  
def bar(a,b):  
    """Does something really  
    complex with a and b, and then  
    returns a new value.  
  
    """
```

Docstring Conventions

- Your docstrings should be informative and tell the reader what the module/function/etc. does.
- E.g. for a function docstring, do not simply reiterate the function signature, or for a class docstring, do not say “this is a class of type `<classname>`”.

Coding Style

- 4 spaces per indentation level
- Never mix tabs and spaces (and preferably use only spaces)
- Max line length: 79 characters
- Top level functions separated from class definitions by 2 blank lines
- Methods in a class separated by a single blank line

Coding Style

- Surround binary operators by a single space
 - e.g. (“x + y” not “x+y”).

Coding Style

- Comments should not contradict the code, and should be complete sentences.
- Use inline comments sparingly, and never use them when they state the obvious

Coding Style

- Class names should begin with a capital, and each distinct word in a class name should be capitalized. (e.g. `class FileMonitor`)
- Module names, function names, and variable names should be lower case with words separated by underscores (e.g. `def do_something()`)

Coding Style

- Python doesn't have public/protected/private modifiers like in Java.
- Instead, you can use the convention that a class attribute that begins with an underscore is private (e.g. `_myvar`).
- Technically, it can be accessed, but you shouldn't.