Why can't elephants use computers?

Thank you Hayden!

Because they're scared of the MOUSE!!

Source: https://heresajoke.com/computer-jokes/

CMPT 120

Lecture 12 – Cryptography and Encryption –

The realm of secret codes

Python – Functions and while Loop

Last Lecture

- Continued investigating the topic of Cryptography and Encryption
 - By finishing the implementation of our OddEvenEncryption program
 - Implementing the encryption algorithm
 - By adding decryption to our OddEvenEncryption program
- Introduced functions

Today's Menu

- Finish implementing the decryption algorithm
- Create functions in our OddEvenEncryption program
 - Encrypt()
 - Decrypt()
- We shall look at another way of iterating Python statements in our programs
 - while loop

Transposition algorithm decryption

odd&even

Definition: Algorithm that shuffles elements from their original positions in a sequence to new positions!

Transposition algorithm odd&even:

- 1. Find the middle of cipherMsg
- 2. Store the first half of cipherMsg into String3
 - This first half contains the characters originally located in odd positions of plainMsg
- 3. Store the last half of cipherMsg into String4
 - This second half contains the characters originally located in even positions of plainMsg
- Lastly, merge String3 with String4 to recreate plainMsg

So far ...

... we have used functions that were already built into Python by calling them

- Built-in functions (some came from modules)
 - For example: print(...), input(...), type(...), random.randint(1, 10)
- Built-in methods

Why creating functions?

Functions make our program easier to ...

- 1. Implement and test -> Incremental development
 - Dividing a long program into functions allows us to implement, test and debug the parts one at a time and then assemble them into a working program

2. Read

 Encapsulate code fragment that does one thing (functionality) in one location, i.e., a "module" (function) and give this location a descriptive name

3. Modify

 If we need to make a change to our program, we know where to go, i.e., where to find the code fragment we need to change

4. Reuse

- Once we write, test and debug a function, we can reuse it in other programs that need this particular functionality
- 5. No more repeated code
 - Functions can make a program smaller by eliminating repeated code - Repeated code is very error-prone

Review - Function

Syntax of function definition

def -> means "here is the
definition of a function"

Function header

def <functionName>([parameter(s)]):

< 1 or more statements >

return [expression]

Body of the function

1 return statement

- GPS about <functionName>
 - Function name is descriptive -> it describes the purpose of the function
 - Function name syntax: same as for variable name syntax

Execution flow and functions

- Let's examine what happens to the execution flow when we call functions
 - using the Python code visualizer

From last lecture: Your turn

Problem Statement:

 Write a program that encrypts and decrypts messages using the transposition algorithm odd&even

Requirement:

 Your program must go on encrypting and decrypting messages entered by the user until the user only presses the ENTER key.

Review - Syntax of a while loop

Review - Syntax of a while loop

- Important About Indentation
 - Statements inside the loop (i.e., statements executed at each iteration of the loop) are the statements indented with respect to the while keyword
 - Statements outside the loop (before and after the loop) are the statements that are not indented with respect to the while keyword – these statements are considered to be at the same level of indentation as the while loop

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Review - Difference between while and for loops

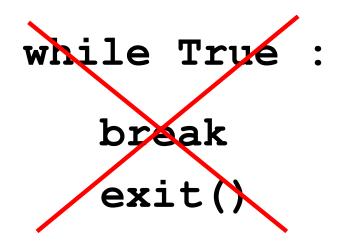
When best to use a while loop

- If there is a condition that will occur during the execution of our program and when this condition occurs, the execution of a set of statements in our program needs to stop, then we use a while loop
- This condition is often called a sentinel or flag
 - Examples:
 - User termination
 - User presses the ENTER key without typing anything -> empty string
 - User enters yes/no or some special value
 - User selects 'X' to eXit from a menu (menu-driven program)
 - Occurrence of an error
 - Reading data from a file -> EOF

When best to use a for loop

 If we know exactly how many times we must iterate a set of statements in our program, then we use a for loop

GPS: We cannot use a while loop with a **True** condition:



Can you see why?

Next Lecture

• Practice Exam #3