



# PYTHON FOR NETWORK & SYSTEMS ENGINEERS

COURSE GUIDE: 2020  
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# Python for Network & Systems Engineers

A specialist course

**Audience:** This is a course for network engineers and systems engineers, devops staff, hardware engineers, and back-end developers.

**Overview:** By the end of the course, you will have all the knowledge you need to write and interact with Python code for a variety of purposes, with a particular focus on controlling machines, automating system processes, and interacting with APIs.

**Skills:** You will understand the elegance and power of Python and have had experience using several important standard and third-party libraries, including for parsing text and log files, matching strings with regular expressions, and scripting tasks via SSH connections.

You will also have learned about consuming and creating web APIs and some best practices in Python for writing maintainable code.

**Format:** Each topic is a mixture of expert instruction, worked examples, and hands-on exercises.

**Expert instructors:** See bios below.

**Venues:** modern computer-based training facilities (CBD locations).

**Dates and locations in 2020:**

Melbourne: 27–30 July 2020

Sydney: 21–24 September 2020

**Duration:** 4 days

**Price:**

Full course: \$3,000 (excl GST)

Days 3-4 only (assumes Python experience): \$1600 (excl GST)

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# Topic outline

## Day 1: Python basics

Day 1 covers how to use Python for basic scripting and automation tasks, including tips and tricks for making this easy:

- Why Python? What's possible?
- The *Jupyter* notebook for rapid prototyping
- Modules and packages
- Python concepts: an introduction through examples
- Essential data types: strings, tuples, lists, dicts
- Worked example: fetching and ranking real-time data from a web API
- Raising and handling exceptions

# Topic outline

## Day 2: Handling, analyzing, and presenting data in Python

Python offers amazingly productive tools like Pandas for working with different kinds of data. Day 2 gives a thorough introduction to analyzing and visualizing data easily:

- Reading and writing essential data formats: CSV, Excel, SQL databases, JSON
- Indexing and filtering data in Pandas
- Data fusion: joining & merging datasets
- Summarization with “group by” operations; pivot tables
- Visualization and statistical graphics with *Seaborn*

# Topic outline

## Day 3: System automation

Day 3 gives you a tour of the amazing standard library and important 3rd-party tools for automating various systems-level tasks with Python:

### Morning:

- Files, bytes, and encodings
- Handling files & paths; dates, times, and IP addresses
- Compressing and uncompressing data (zip, tar, bzip2 etc.)
- Cryptographic hashing of file contents (SHA256, MD5 etc.)

### Afternoon:

- Parsing JSON, YAML, INI config files. [Optional: XML]
- Automatically creating config files via templating with *Jinja2*
- Process and system monitoring with *psutil*
- Automating local commands via *subprocess*
- Creating scripts with command-line arguments

# Topic outline

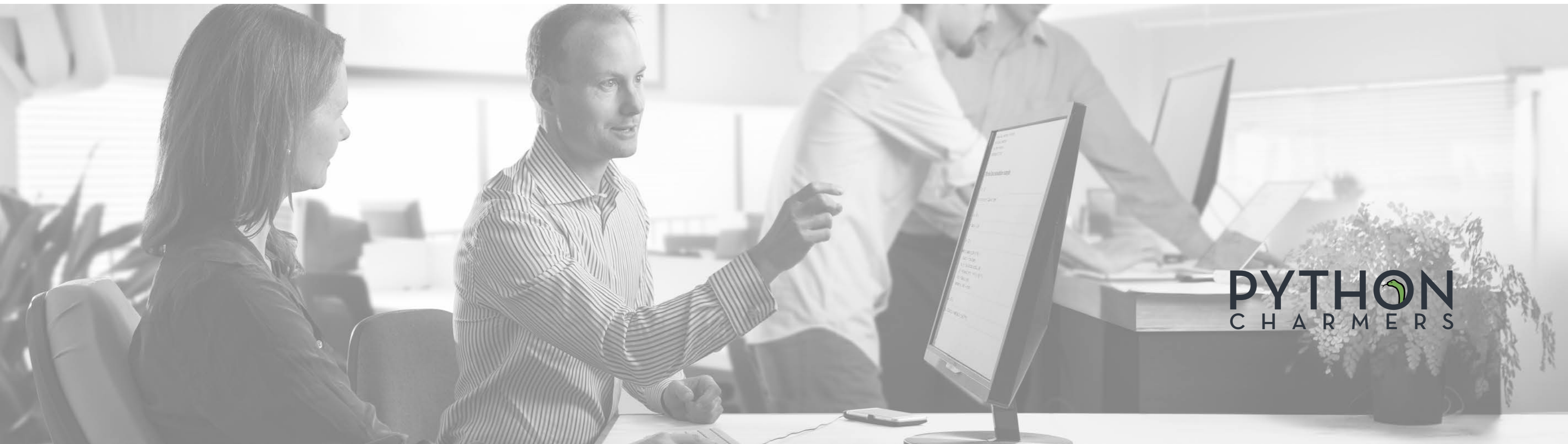
## Day 4: Network automation

Day 4 shows you how to automate various tasks involving networks and control network devices:

- Accessing REST web APIs in more depth (sessions, OAuth, ...)
- Network automation via SSH with *Fabric*
- Automating network device configuration via SSH with *Netmiko*
- Creating REST web APIs with *Flask*; OpenAPI
- Parsing log files (e.g. Cisco IOS) with regular expressions
- Working with DNS from Python; direct socket connections
- Email automation
- Intro to packet manipulation with Scapy, with applications (network discovery, penetration testing)

## Supplemental materials

We will provide you with printed course notes, cheat sheets, and a USB stick containing kitchen-sink Python installers for multiple platforms, solutions to the programming exercises, several written tutorials, and reference documentation on Python and the third-party packages covered in the course.



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# Instructor bio



**Janis Lesinskis**

Janis is a software developer who has been using Python since 2005. He has worked on several high-end Python projects across a variety of software industry sub-sectors, including: mathematical optimization engines for logistics, a game theory solver, controlling network-attached IoT devices, a variety of backend web apps with *Django* and *Flask*, and as a scalability consultant improving Python performance.

Janis loves open source and is the author of several open source Python projects on GitHub. He is involved in education in several ways: in an in-house capacity as a Python consultant, as a regular blogger, as a volunteer for events like Django Girls and Python community workshops, and as a frequent presenter about Python at local meetup events. As well as dozens of corporate training courses in Australia, he has run an intermediate bootcamp in web development for Python Charmers and Girls in Tech in San Francisco.



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# Instructor bio



**Dr Edward Schofield**

Ed has consulted to or trained over 2000 people from dozens of organisations in data analytics using Python, including A\*STAR, Atlassian, Barclays, Cisco, CSIRO, Dolby, Harvard University, IMC, Singtel Optus, Oracle, Shell, Telstra, Toyota, Verizon, and Westpac. He is well-known in the Python community as a former release manager of *SciPy* and the author of the widely used *future* package. He regularly presents at conferences in data science and Python in Australia and internationally.

Ed holds a PhD in machine learning from Imperial College London. He also holds BA and MA (Hons) degrees in mathematics and computer science from Trinity College, University of Cambridge. He has 20+ years of experience in programming, teaching, and public speaking.





# Instructor bio



**Henry Walshaw**

Henry has almost 15 years of experience in Python application development and has trained hundreds of people in how to use Python from organizations including AGL, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, ESRI, the NSW Department of Finance, National Australia Bank, and Telstra.

Henry's core technical expertise relates to the development and analysis of large scale spatial datasets (primarily using Python), and communicating this understanding to both subject matter experts and the general public.

Before joining Python Charmers, Henry worked in both government and industry — at Geoscience Australia, the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); as a consultant with Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM), a manager at we-do-IT, and as CTO of a startup. He holds a Bachelors in Computational Science.





# Instructor bio



**Dr Robert Layton**

Robert is the author of the book “Data Mining in Python”, published by O’Reilly. He provides analysis, consultancy, research and development work to businesses, primarily using Python. Robert has worked with government, financial and security sectors, in both a consultancy and academic role. He is also a Research Fellow at the Internet Commerce Security Laboratory, investigating cybercrime analytics and data-mining algorithms for attribution and profiling.

Robert is a contributor to the Python-based *scikit-learn* open source project for machine learning and writes regularly on data mining for a number of outlets. He is also the author of the website “LearningTensorflow.com”. He has presented regularly at a number of international conferences in Python, data analysis, and its applications.



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## Other information

**Computer:** An computer and internet connection will be provided for you during the course.

**Exercises:** There will be practical programming exercises throughout the course. These will be challenging and fun, and the solutions will be discussed after each exercise and provided as source code. During the exercises, the trainer(s) will offer individual help and suggestions.

**Timing:** The course will run from 9:00 to roughly 17:00 each day, with breaks of 50 minutes for lunch and 20 minutes each for morning and afternoon tea.

**Personal help:** Your trainer(s) will be available after each day for you to ask any one-on-one questions you like — whether about the course content and exercises or about specific problems you face in your work and how to use Python to solve them. We encourage you to have your own data sets ready to discuss if you wish.

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## **About Python Charmers**

Python Charmers is the leading provider of Python training in the Asia-Pacific region, based in Australia and Singapore. Since 2010, Python Charmers has given over 330 training courses and bootcamps to over 3000 delighted people from organizations such as AGL, Atlassian, Barclays, CSIRO, Cisco, Deloitte, Dolby, IMC, pwc, Singtel Optus, Shell, Sportsbet, Telstra, Toyota, Verizon, Westpac, and Woolworths. Python Charmers specializes in teaching programming and data science to scientists, engineers, data analysts, quants, and computer scientists in the Python language.

Python Charmers' trainers boast years of Python experience and deep roots in the open source community, as both speakers at events and contributors to well-known open source projects, including *NumPy*, *SciPy*, *Scikit-Learn*, *Pandas*, and *Python-Future*.









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