

Re: variable declaration

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2005-02/1821.html>

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To: python-list@python.org

Brian van den Broek said unto the world upon 2005-02-07 20:36:

> *Steve Holden said unto the world upon 2005-02-07 17:51:*

<SNIP>

>> *The reason global is a wart can clearly be seen in the following example:*

>>

>> >>> *x = 3*

>> >>> *def f(tf, v):*

>> ... *if tf:*

>> ... *global x*

>> ... *x = v*

>> ...

>> >>> *f(0, 5)*

>> >>> *x*

>> *5*

>> >>>

<SNIP>

> *Hi,*

>

> *Steve's example makes my brain hurt. :-)*

>

> *I'd appreciate it if someone could tell me if I am understanding the*

> *example correctly. (My grasp of the terminology and issues at play is a*

> *bit shaky.)*

<SNIP>

> *Thanks for any confirmation of my understanding / rectification of same.*

> *Best,*

>

> *Brian vdB*

Thanks to everyone whose contributed to this sub-thread! I've learned a lot. :-)

And, for posterity, some one wrote me off-list to correct my claim that in

```
if False:  
    # thousands of lines of code here
```

the thousands of lines "would never get executed". Simplifying their example, they pointed out:

```
>>> False = 'evil trickery'  
>>> if False:  
... print 'Surprise!'  
...  
Surprise!  
>>>
```

Which leads me naturally to the differences between 'if False:' and 'if):' that Duncan Booth pointed to. (Where'd I put the Tylenol.)

Thanks again to all,

Brian vdB