

Re: What language to manipulate text files

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2005-06/msg01654.html>

- *From:* "Roose" <b@xxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 12 Jun 2005 06:53:25 GMT
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Why do people keep asking what language to use for certain things in the Python newsgroup? Obviously the answer is going to be biased.

Not that it's a bad thing because I love Python, but it doesn't make sense if you honestly want an objective opinion.

R

ross wrote:

- > I want to do some tricky text file manipulation on many files, but
- > have only a little programming knowledge.
- >
- > What are the ideal languages for the following examples?
- >
- > 1. Starting from a certain folder, look in the subfolders for all
- > filenames matching *FOOD*.txt Any files matching in each folder should
- > be copied to a new subfolder within the current folder called EATING
- > with a new name of *FOOD*COPY.txt
- >
- > 2. Process each file as follows:
- > Here is a simplified example of what I want as input and output.
- >
- > ----- input
- > 'several unknown lines of text file
- > Get apples from apples shop
- > Get oranges from oranges shop
- > Get plums from plums shop
- > Get pears from pears shop
- > Eat from apples, oranges,
- > plums, pears 'whitespace at start of line is unimportant
- > 'more unknown lines of text file
- > Chapter 1
- > Several lines of text about apples in here
- > Chapter 2
- > Several lines of text about oranges in here
- > Chapter 3
- > Several lines of text about plums in here
- > Chapter 4
- > Several lines of text about pears in here

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- >
- > ----- output
- > 'several unknown lines of text file
- > Get apples from apples shop
- > Get oranges from oranges shop
- > Get plums from plums shop
- > Get pears from pears shop
- > Get bagels from bagels shop 'the Get lines...
- > Get donuts from donuts shop 'can be in any order
- > Eat from apples, bagels, oranges,
- > plums, donuts, pears 'whitespace at start of line is unimportant
- > 'more unknown lines of text file
- > Chapter 1
- > Several lines of text about apples in here
- > Chapter 2
- > Several lines of text about bagels in here
- > Chapter 3
- > Several lines of text about oranges in here
- > Chapter 4
- > Several lines of text about plums in here
- > Chapter 5
- > Several lines of text about donuts in here
- > Chapter 6
- > Several lines of text about pears in here
- >
- > Summary:
- > I have added two new items to Get;
- > I have put them into the comma-delimited list after searching for a
- > particular fruit to put each one after;
- > The Chapters are renumbered to match their position in the
- > comma-delimited list.
- > The "several lines of text" about each new item can be pulled from a
- > new_foods.txt file (or a bagels.txt and a donuts.txt file).
- >
- > My first objective is to process the files as described.
- > My second objective is to learn the best language for this sort of
- > text manipulation. The language should run on Windows 98, XP and
- > Linux.
- >
- > Would Python be best, or would a macro-scripting thing like AutoHotKey
- > work?
- > I thought about Perl, but think I would learn bad habits and have hard
- > to read code.
- >
- > Thanks, Ross

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- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ *Re: What language to manipulate text files*

- ◇ *From:* Jim

- ◆ *Re: What language to manipulate text files*

- ◇ *From:* Brian

- ◆ *Re: What language to manipulate text files*

- ◇ *From:* ross

- *References:*

- ◆ *What language to manipulate text files*

- ◇ *From:* ross

- Prev by Date: *Re: Dealing with marketing types...*

- Next by Date: *Re: Dealing with marketing types...*

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