

Re: UnicodeDecodeError help please?

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2006-04/msg01035.html>

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Robin Haswell wrote:

Could someone explain to me what I'm doing wrong here, so I can hope to throw light on the myriad of similar problems I'm having? Thanks :-)

Python 2.4.1 (#2, May 6 2005, 11:22:24)
[GCC 3.3.6 (Debian 1:3.3.6-2)] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

```
import sys
sys.setdefaultencoding()

'utf-8'
```

that's bad. do not hack the default encoding. it'll only make you sorry when you try to port your code to some other python installation, or use a library that relies on the factory settings being what they're supposed to be. do not hack the default encoding.

back to your code:

```
import htmlentitydefs
char = htmlentitydefs.entitydefs["copy"] #
this is an HTML &copy; - a copyright
symbol
print char
```

©

that's a standard (8-bit) string:

```
type(char)

<type 'str'>
```

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ord(char)

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