Homework 2-2

Due: Oct. 11, 2011

Python Basics

Create a folder on your desktop called 'HW2-2'. Download the starter program and the text of *Moby-Dick* from the course website and save them in this folder. Right click on the Python program and select 'Edit with IDLE'. **When you write your functions, remember to write down what your functions does, what the arguments mean, using the triple quotes as is done in the examples we provide.**

1. The starter program contains a function called `printMD1000` that takes no arguments, and print out the first one thousand characters in *Moby-Dick* which is located at

   `Z:/WinData/Desktop/HW2-2/MobyDick.txt.`

   Look at it and make sure you understand why it should work. Then press `F5` to run it. You should see another IDLE window comes up. Then after the prompt type `printMD1000()` to **call** your function. Make sure it produces the correct answer(you do not have to hand in anything for this part.)

2. Now, write another function called `print1000` which takes one argument. Suppose in the folder 'HW2-2', I have bunch of text files: `MobyDick.txt`, `Hamlet.txt`, `Bible.txt`, etc. You want the argument to this function tells the function which text file to print. For example, if after running the program, calling `print1000('MobyDick.txt')` should print the first one thousand characters of the file

   `Z:/WinData/Desktop/HW2-2/MobyDick.txt`

   and calling `print1000('Hamlet.txt')` should print the first one thousand characters of the file

   `Z:/WinData/Desktop/HW2-2/Hamlet.txt`

   assuming the file does exist. **Hint**: remember you can use the + operator to 'glue' strings together.

3. Write a third function, `printN`, that takes two arguments. The first one indicates which file to print (same as the last function) and the second is a number indicating how many characters from the beginning to print. For example, calling `printN('MobyDick.txt', 500)` should print out the first five hundred characters in the file located at

$$\texttt{Z:/WinData/Desktop/HW2-2/MobyDick.txt}$$

Handin

Rename your program `YOURNAME_HW2-2.py` and email it to `cs0931tas@cs.brown.edu`.