




Wing Personal Tutorial



This tutorial introduces Wing Personal by taking you through its feature set with a small coding example. For a faster introduction, see the [Quick Start Guide](#).

If you are new to programming, you may want to check out the book [Python Programming Fundamentals](#) and accompanying screen casts, which use Wing 101 to teach programming with Python.

A collection of [Wing Tips](#), available on our website and by weekly email subscription, provides additional tips and tricks for using Wing productively.


To get started, press the  **Next Page** icon in the toolbar immediately above this page.

The screenshots in this tutorial were made with Wing Pro and may contain some tools that are not available in Wing Personal. These can be ignored and will not be discussed in the text that follows.

Tutorial: Why Wing?

Wing Personal is a simple Python IDE designed for students and hobbyists or those using Python occasionally for fairly simple development tasks. If you have never used Wing before, starting with Wing Personal is one way to learn the basics of the Wingware Python IDE approach without being distracted by the larger feature set of Wing Pro.

However, if you are working intensively with Python, you should switch to Wing Pro. You will be much more productive, and chances are you will have no problem understanding and appreciating Wing Pro's more advanced features.

Let's get started! To get to the next page in the tutorial, use the  **Next Page** icon in the toolbar immediately above this page.

Tutorial: Getting Started

To get started using this tutorial, you will need to:

Install Python

If you don't already have it on your system, install Python from python.org. Wing also supports Python provided by Anaconda ActivePython, MacPorts, Fink, Homebrew, cygwin, and others. See [Supported Python Versions](#) for details.

Install Wing

Then install [Wing](#). For detailed instructions, see [Installing Wing](#).

Start Wing

Wing can be started from a menu, desktop, or tray icon, or by using the command line executable. For detailed instructions, see [Running Wing](#).

Switch to the Integrated Tutorial

Once Wing is running, you should switch to using the **Tutorial** listed in Wing's **Help** menu because it contains links directly into the IDE's functionality. This includes the next step below.

Copy the Tutorial Directory

Copy the entire **tutorial** directory out of the **Install Directory** listed in Wing's **About box** to another location on disk. You can do this manually or use the following link, which will prompt you to select the target directory:

Copy Tutorial Now

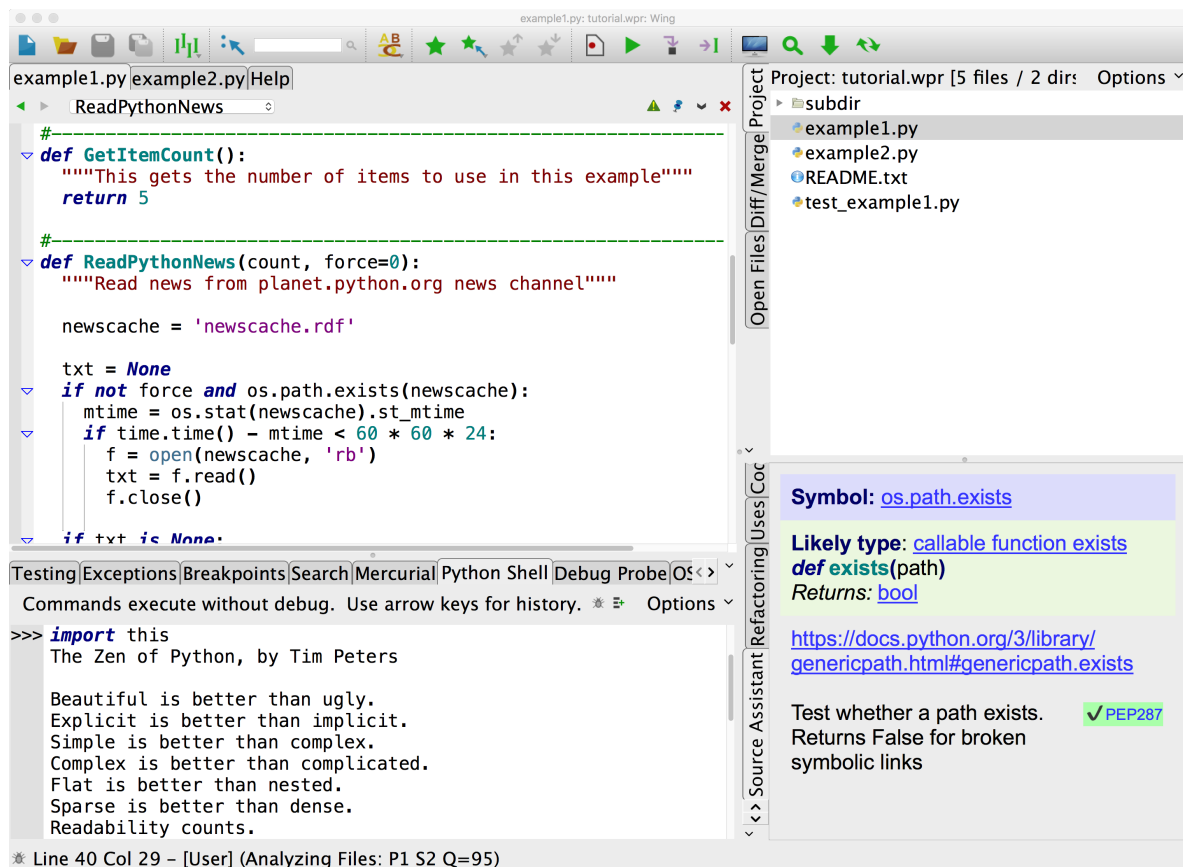
Note

We welcome feedback, which can be submitted with **Submit Feedback** in Wing's **Help** menu or by emailing support@wingware.com

Tutorial: Getting Around Wing

Let's start with some basics that will help you get around Wing while working with this tutorial.

Wing's user interface is divided into an editor area and two toolboxes separated by draggable dividers. Try pressing **F1** and **F2** now to show or hide the two toolboxes. Also try **Shift-F2** to maximize the editor area temporarily, hiding both tool areas and toolbar until **Shift-F2** is pressed again.



Tool and editor tabs can be dragged to rearrange the user interface, optionally creating a new split or moving them to a separate window. Right click on the tabs for a menu of additional options, such as adding or removing splits or to move the toolbox from right to left. The number of splits shown by default in toolboxes will vary according to the size of your display.

Notice that you can click on an already-active tool tab to minimize that tool area. Click again on any tab to restore the toolbox to its previous size.

See [User Interface Layout](#) for details.

Context Menus

In general, right-clicking provides a menu for interacting with or configuring a part of the user interface. On some systems you may need to configure your track pad to allow right-clicking, or use a keyboard modifier to emulate a right mouse click.

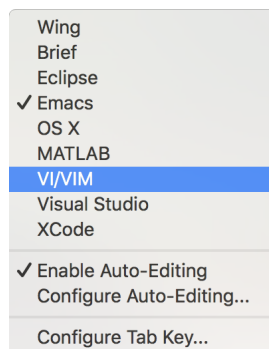
Splitting the Editor Area

Splitting your editor area makes it easier to get around this tutorial. To do this now, right-click on the editor tab area and select **Split Side by Side**. On small monitors and laptops, it may be preferable to create a new window for the tutorial by right-clicking on its tab and selecting **Move Wing Help to New Window**.

By default, the editor shows all open files in all splits, making it easy to work on different parts of a file simultaneously. This can be changed by unchecking **Show All Files in All Splits** in the right-click context menu on the editor tabs.

Configuring the Keyboard

Use the **Edit > Keyboard Personality** menu to tell Wing to emulate another editor, such as Visual Studio, VI/Vim, Emacs, Eclipse, XCode, MATLAB, or Brief.



The **Configure Tab Key** item in the **Edit > Keyboard Personality** menu can be used to select among available behaviors for the **Tab** key. The default is to match the selected Keyboard Personality.

When the Keyboard Personality is set to **Wing**, **Tab** acts differently according to context. For example, if lines are selected, repeated presses of **Tab** moves the lines among syntactically valid indent positions. And, when the caret is at the end of a line, pressing **Tab** adds one indent level.

See [Keyboard Personalities](#) for details.

Accessing Preferences

Preferences for controlling how Wing Personal looks and behaves are available from the **Edit > Preferences** menu item (or **Wing Personal >> Preferences** on macOS). Try this now so you will remember how to bring up the preferences dialog as you work through the rest of this tutorial. However, it's best not to delve into all of the available options right away. The next few sections will highlight some of the more important ones that are worth looking at now.

Auto-Completion

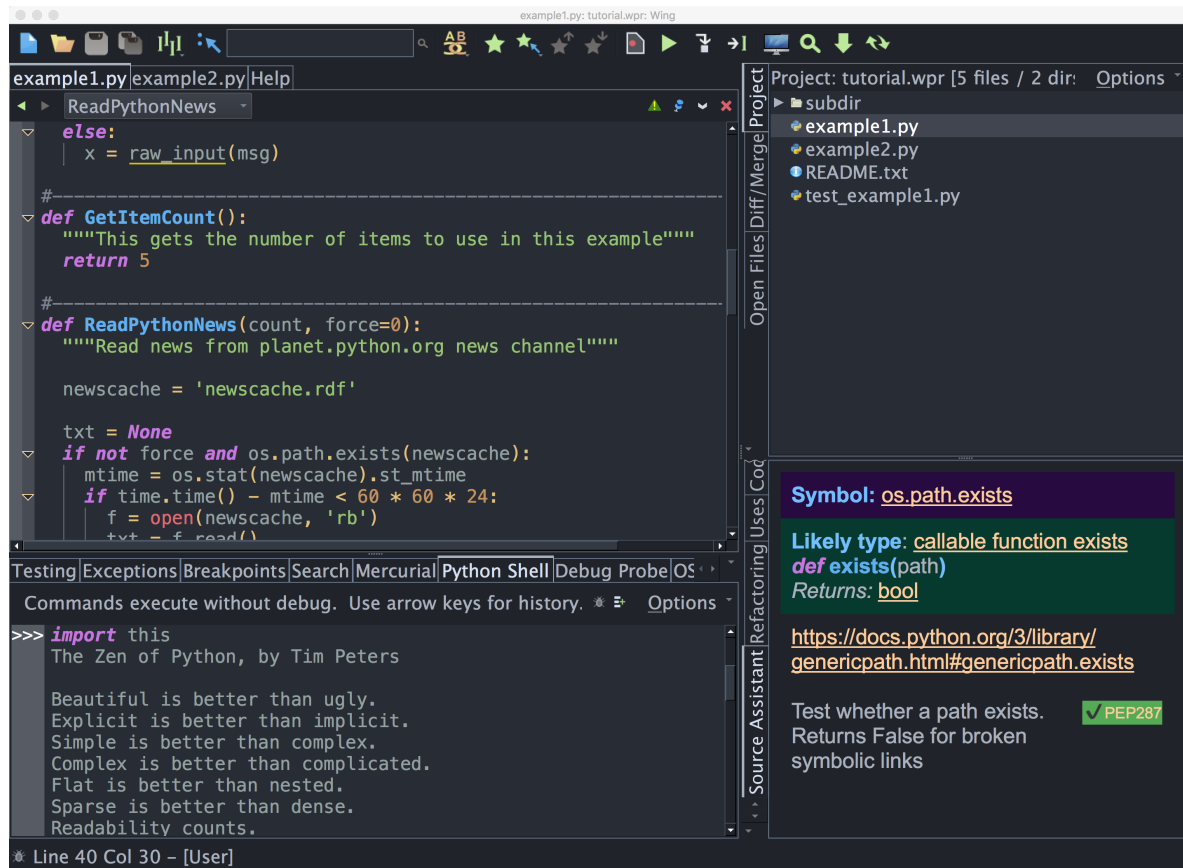
There are many options for Wing's auto-completer. These are set in the **Editor > Auto-completion** preferences group. For example, if you want to use the **Enter** key for completion, you may wish to select that now in the **Editor > Auto-completion > Completion Keys** preference.

Colors and Dark Mode

colors for the user interface can be selected with the **User Interface > Display Mode**, **User Interface > Light Theme** and **User Interface > Dark Theme** preferences.

The colors used in editor areas and some of the tools, including the Python Shell, can be set independently with the **User Interface > Light Editor** and **User Interface > Dark Editor** preferences.

The following screenshot was created by setting **Display Mode** to **Use Dark Theme** and selecting **One Dark** for the **Dark Display Theme**. This display mode will be used in the rest of this tutorial:



Other Configuration Options

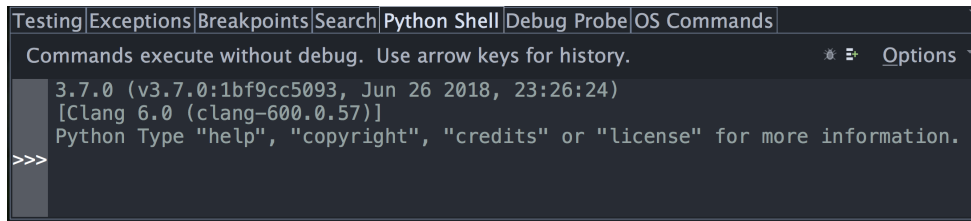
To set the fonts in the user interface and editor, change the **User Interface > Fonts > Display Font/Size** and **User Interface > Fonts > Editor Font/Size** preferences.

The size and type of tools used in the toolbar at the top of Wing's window can be changed by right-clicking on one of the enabled tools.

For more information on adjusting the user interface to your needs, see [Customization](#).

Tutorial: Check your Python Integration

Before starting with some code, let's make sure that Wing has succeeded in finding your Python installation. Bring up the **Python Shell** tool now from the **Tools** menu. If all goes well, it should start up Python and show you the Python command prompt like this:



If this is not working, or the wrong version of Python is being used, you can point Wing in the right direction with **Python Executable** in **Project Properties**, accessed from the **Project** menu.

An easy way to determine the value to use for **Python Executable** is to start the Python you wish to use with Wing and type the following at Python's **>>>** prompt:

```
import sys
print(sys.executable)
```


You can also use a virtualenv or Anaconda environment by selecting the **Activated Env** option here, but for now let's just use the base Python installation.

You will need to **Restart Shell** from the **Options** menu in the **Python Shell** tool after altering **Python Executable**.

Once the shell works, copy/paste or drag and drop these lines of Python code into it:

```
for i in range(0, 10):
    print('*' * i)
```

This should print a triangle as follows:



Notice that the shell removes common leading white space when blocks of code are copied into it. This is useful when trying out code from source files.

Now type something into the shell, such as:

```
import sys
sys.getrefcount(i)
```

Note that Wing offers auto-completion as you type and shows call signature and documentation in the **Source Assistant** tool. Use the **Tab** key to enter a selected completion. Other keys can be set up as completion keys with the **Editor > Auto-completion > Completion Keys** preference.

You can create as many instances of the **Python Shell** tool as you wish by right-clicking on a tool tab and selecting **Insert Tool**. Each one will run in its own process space.

Tutorial: Set Up a Project

Now we're ready to get started with some coding. The first step is to set up a project file so that Wing can find and analyze your source code and store your work across sessions.

If you haven't already copied the **tutorials** directory from your Wing installation, please do so now as described in [Tutorial: Getting Started](#).

Wing starts up initially with the default project. Instead of using that, create a new project now with **New Project** in the **Project** menu. Select **Create Blank Project** and then click on **OK**:

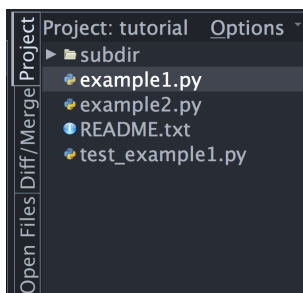


Wing will display a confirmation dialog after creating the new blank project:



Click **Save Now** to save the new project. Use **tutorial.wpr** as the project file name and place it in the **tutorial** directory that you created earlier.

Next, use the **Add Existing Directory** item in the **Project** menu to add your copy of the **tutorials** directory. Leave the default options checked so that all files in that directory are added to the project.



Note that most of the time when you are creating a project in Wing you will use **New Project** in the **Project** menu and not **Save Project As**, which we've done here just to keep things simpler for the moment. We'll come back to this later in the tutorial.

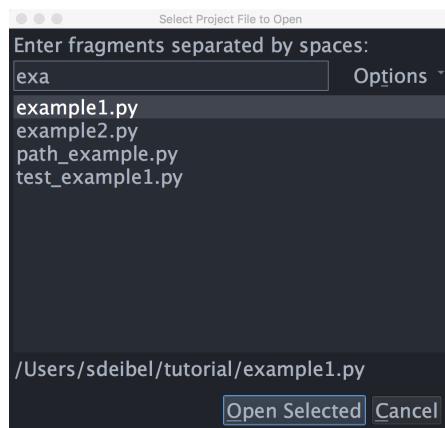
Note

To make it easier to work on source code and read this tutorial at the same time, you may want to right-click on the editor tab area and select **Split Side by Side**.

Opening Files

Files in your project can be opened by double-clicking in the **Project** tool, by typing fragments into the **Open From Project** dialog, and in other ways that will be described later.



Try **Open From Project** now, from the **File** menu. Type **ex** as the file name fragment and then use the arrow keys and press **Enter** to open the file **example1.py**. Now try it again with the fragment **sub ex**. This matches only files with both **sub** and **ex** in their full path names. In larger projects, **Open From Project** is usually the easiest way to open a file, so you'll probably want to learn the key binding listed for this command in the **File** menu. The binding varies according to which keyboard personality you have chosen to use.




Transient, Sticky, and Locked Files

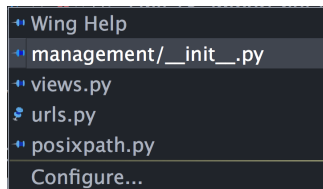
Wing opens files in one of several modes, in order to keep more relevant files open while auto-closing others. To see this in action, click on **os** in **import os** at the top of **example1.py** and press **F4** to go to the definition of **os**. The file **os.py** will be opened in non-sticky transient mode, so that it is automatically closed in least-recently-used order when you navigate away from it to other files.

The mode in which a file is opened is indicated with an icon in the top right of the editor area:

-  - The file is sticky and will be kept open until it is closed by the user.
-  - The file is non-sticky and may be closed when it is no longer visible. When a non-sticky transient file is edited, it immediately converts to sticky.

 - The file is locked in the editor, so that the editor split will not be used to display other newly opened files. This mode is only available when multiple editor splits are present.

Clicking on the stick pin icon toggles between the available modes. Right-clicking on the icon displays a menu of recently visited files. This contains both non-sticky transient and sticky files, while the **Recent** list in the **File** menu contains only sticky files.



The number of non-sticky transient editors to keep open, in addition to those that are visible, is set with the **Editor > Advanced > Maximum Non-Sticky Editors** preference (default=5).

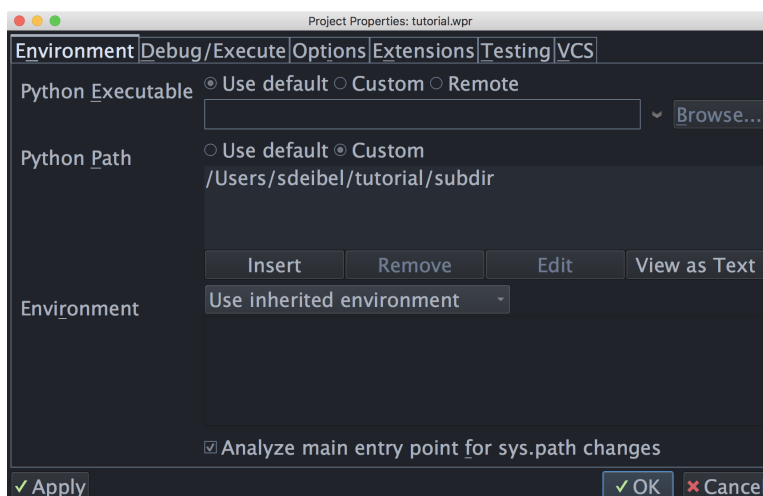
This mechanism is also used in multi-file searching, debugging, and other features that navigate through many files. In general you can ignore the modes and Wing will keep open the files you are actually working on, while auto-closing those that you have only visited briefly.

Tutorial: Setting Python Path

Python uses a search path referred to as the Python Path to find modules that are imported into code with the **import** statement. Most code only imports modules that are already on the default path, for example modules in the Python standard library, or modules installed into Python by **pip**, **poetry**, **pipenv**, **conda**, or some other package manager.

However, in some cases code will depend on a different path provided either by setting the environment variable **PYTHONPATH** before starting Python, or by modifying **sys.path** at runtime before importing modules.

If the **Python Path** is changed by one of these methods, you may also need to tell Wing about this change. This is done with **Python Path** in **Project Properties**, accessed from the **Project** menu:



For this tutorial, you need to add the **subdir** sub-directory of your **tutorials** directory to **Python Path**, as shown above. This directory contains a module used as part of the first coding example.

Note that the full path to the directory **subdir** is used. This is strongly recommended because it avoids potential problems finding source code during debugging, if the starting directory is ambiguous or changes over time. If relative paths are needed to make a project work on different machines, use an environment variable like **\${WING:PROJECT_DIR}/subdir**. This is described in more detail in [Environment Variable Expansion](#).

The configuration used here is for illustrative purposes only. You could run the example code without altering the **Python Path** by moving the **path_example.py** file to the same location as the example scripts.

Startup Environment

Wing uses its startup environment as the default environment for your Python code. As a result, if **PYTHONPATH** is set when you start Wing, it will also be used with your code. If this inherited path matches the needs of your code, then you don't need to set **Python Path** in Wing. However, if you have different Python environments on your system or code with different path expectations, then you should set **Python Path** in the project so that switching projects will also switch to the correct environment.

Virtualenv and Anaconda Environments

If you are using **virtualenv**, Anaconda environments, Poetry, or **pipenv** to set up your Python environment, you don't need to set **Python Path**. Instead, set **Python Executable** to **Activated Env** and enter the command that activates your environment. This causes Wing to pick up the correct path and other environment needed to run code in the environment. In this case, Python is launched by running **python** in that environment.

You can also create a new virtualenv or Anaconda environment at the same time as creating a Wing project by selecting the **Create New Virtualenv** or **Create New Anaconda Environment** project types in the **New Project** dialog, accessed from the **Project** menu.

But don't do this now; you'll need the current project as you work through this tutorial.

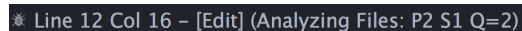
Python Path Analysis

If your main entry point alters **sys.path**, and the file is set as the **Main Entry Point** in **Project Properties** then Wing may be able to automatically determine the correct path to use.

When in doubt, compare the value of **sys.path** at runtime in your code with the value reported by **Show Python Environment** in the **Source** menu. If they match then there is no need to set **Python Path** in your project.

Tutorial: Introduction to the Editor

Now that you have set up your project, Wing will have found and analyzed the tutorial examples, and all the modules that are imported and used by them. This analysis process runs in the background and is used to provide auto-completion, call tips, goto-definition, code warnings, and other editing and navigation features. With larger code bases, you may notice the CPU load from this process, and Wing will indicate that processing is active by displaying **Analyzing Files** in the status area at the bottom left of the main IDE window:



* Line 12 Col 16 - [Edit] (Analyzing Files: P2 S1 Q=2)

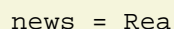
However, with this tutorial analysis will have happened instantaneously after the project was configured.

Editing with Wing

Let's start by trying out a subset of Wing's editor features, focusing on the auto-completer and **Source Assistant**.

Open the file **example1.py** from the **Project** tool. Then bring up the **Source Assistant** from the Tools menu or by clicking on its tab. This is where Wing shows documentation, call signature, and other information as you move around in your source code or work with other tools.

Scroll down to the bottom of **example1.py** and enter the following code by typing (not pasting) it into the file:

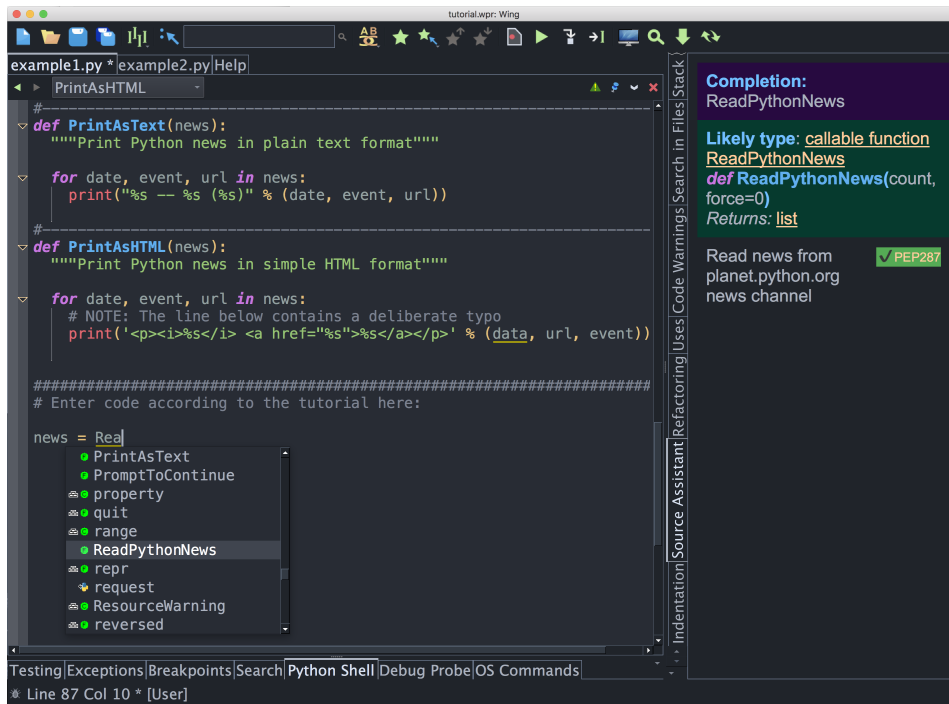


```
news = Rea
```

Wing displays a context-sensitive auto-completer as you type. You can scroll around in the list with the arrow keys, type **Esc** or **Ctrl-G** to abort completion, or **Tab** to enter the currently selected completion.

If you are used to using the **Enter** key for auto-completion, add it to the **Editor > Auto-Completion > Completion Keys** preference now.

When you first typed "news" this completer wasn't helpful because you had not yet defined **news** as a symbol in your source. However, once you move on to type **= Re**, Wing displays another completion list with **ReadPythonNews** highlighted. Notice that the **Source Assistant** updates to show call information for that function, or for whatever symbol is selected in the auto-completer:

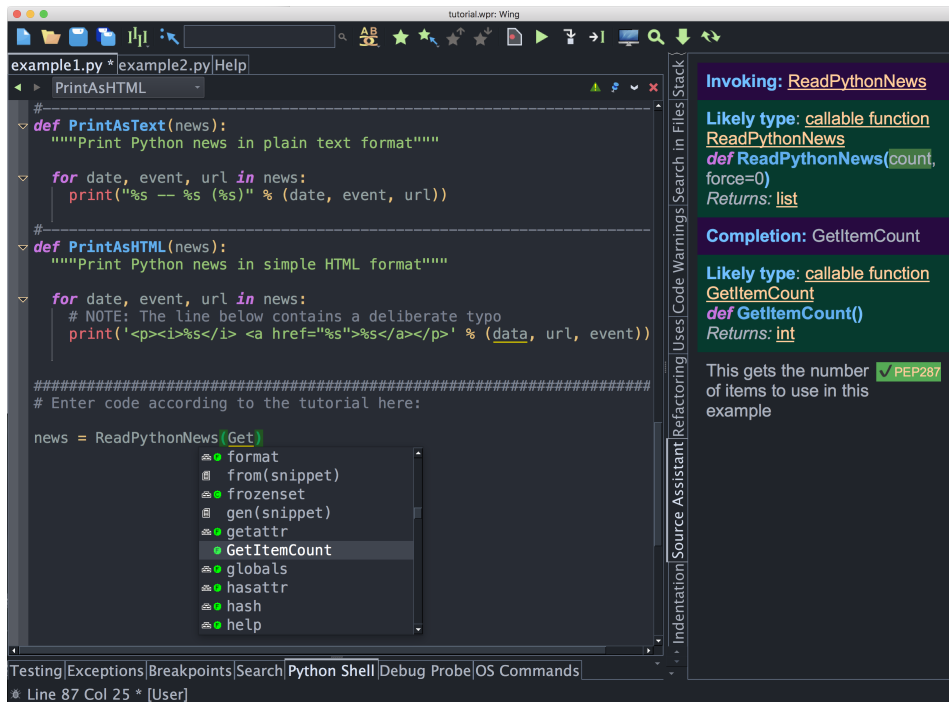


Next, press the **Tab** key to enter the completion of **ReadPythonNews** and enter `(`. You should now have the following code in the editor:

```
news = ReadPythonNews(
```

If you are used to using the **Enter** key for auto-completion, add it to the **Editor > Auto-completion > Completion Keys** preference now.

Then type **Get** to start entering arguments for your invocation of **ReadPythonNews**. You will see the **Source Assistant** alter its display to highlight the first argument in the call signature for **ReadPythonNews** and add information on the argument's completion value:



The docstring for `ReadPythonNews` is temporarily hidden to conserve screen space. This behavior can be toggled with the **Show docstring during completion** option in the **Source Assistant's** right-click context menu.

Now continue entering the rest of the line so you have the following complete line of source code:

```
news = ReadPythonNews(GetItemCount())
```

To play around with the editor a bit more, enter the following additional lines of code:

```
PrintAsText(news)
PromptToContinue()
PrintAsHTML(news)
```

At this point you have a complete program that can be run in the debugger. Don't try it yet, however. It contains some deliberate bugs and first we should take a look at some of Wing's code navigation features.

Tutorial: Navigating Code

As already noted, the **Source Assistant** updates as you move your insertion caret around the editor, or when browsing through the auto-completer. This includes links to the point of definition of symbols. For example, try moving between the invocation of `PrintAsText` and the variable `news` in the code you just typed. The blue links in the **Source Assistant** can be used to jump to the points of definition of each symbol listed there.

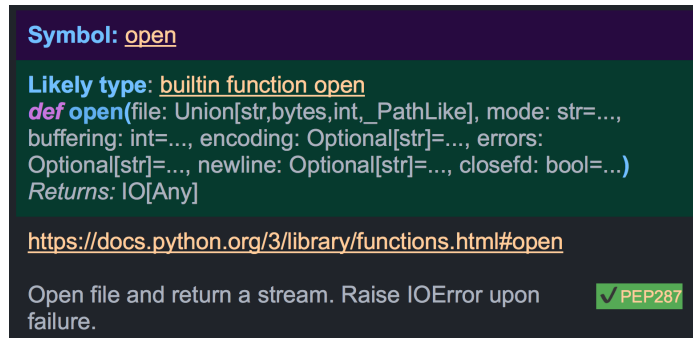
After visiting the point of definition with one of these links, use the green back arrow at the top left of the editor to return from the value or type definition:



The link after **Symbol:** goes to the point of definition of that variable, while any links after **Type:** or **Likely Type:** go to the point of definition of that data type. These are the same if the symbol is a function, method, or class, but they differ for variables and attributes. For example, for **news** the point of definition is the line where **news** is first assigned a value and the type is a Python list.

Python Documentation

For built-ins and code in the Python standard library, Wing tries to add links into the Python documentation. For example, type **open** in the editor and try out the <https://docs.python.org> link. The documentation will be opened in your default web browser.



Now use **Undo** or the **Delete** key to remove **open** from your code.

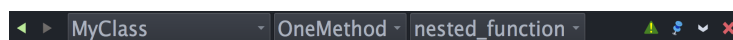
Goto-Definition

A quicker way to visit the point of definition of a symbol is to click on it and press **F4** or right-click and use one of the **Goto Definition** context menu items. Again, you can use the history back/forward arrows at the top left of the editor to return from the point of definition.

Try this for **ParseRDFNews** in **example1.py**. Wing will open up the file **path_example.py** and show the point of definition of **ParseRDFNews**.

Source Index

Wing maintains a set of source index menus at the top of the editor area. The menus are updated as you move around code, and additional levels of menus are added as needed, based on context.

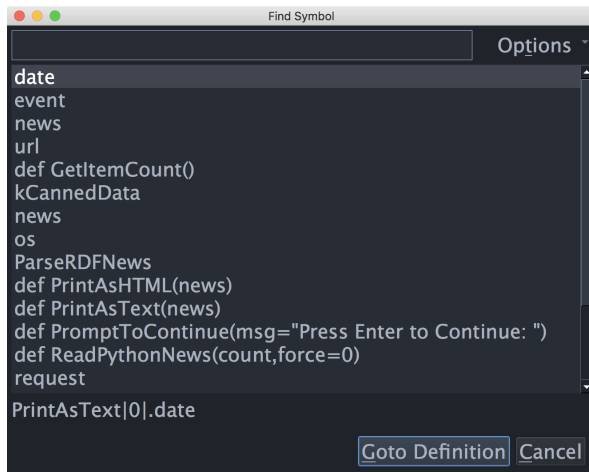


Try these now to navigate to **CHandler** in **path_example.py**, and then use the second menu to navigate to **endElement**.

Then use the history back arrow at top left of the editor area to return to the invocation of **ParseRDFNews** in **example1.py**. You will need to press the arrow several times to move back through your visit history.

Find Symbol


If you are looking for a symbol defined in the current scope, use **Find Symbol** in the **Source** menu. This displays a dialog where you can type a fragment matching the symbol name. Use the arrow keys to traverse the matches and press **Enter** to visit the symbol's point of definition.

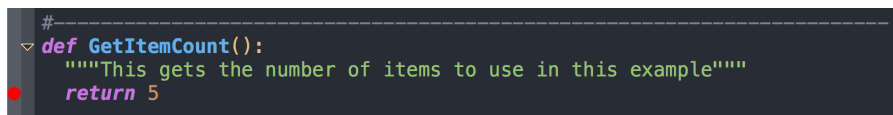



There are many other editor features worth learning, but we'll get back to those later in this tutorial, after we try out the debugger.

Tutorial: Debugging

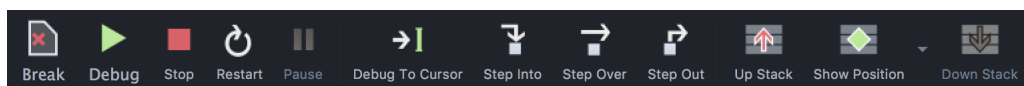
The **example1.py** program you have just created connects to **python.org** via HTTP, reads and parses the Python-related news feed in RDF format, and then prints the most recent five items as text and HTML. Don't worry if you are working offline. The script has canned data it will use when it cannot connect to **python.org**.

To start debugging, set a breakpoint on the line that reads **return 5** in the **GetItemCount** function. This can be done by clicking on the line and selecting the  **Break** toolbar item, or by clicking on the left-most margin to the left of the line. The breakpoint should appear as a filled red circle:



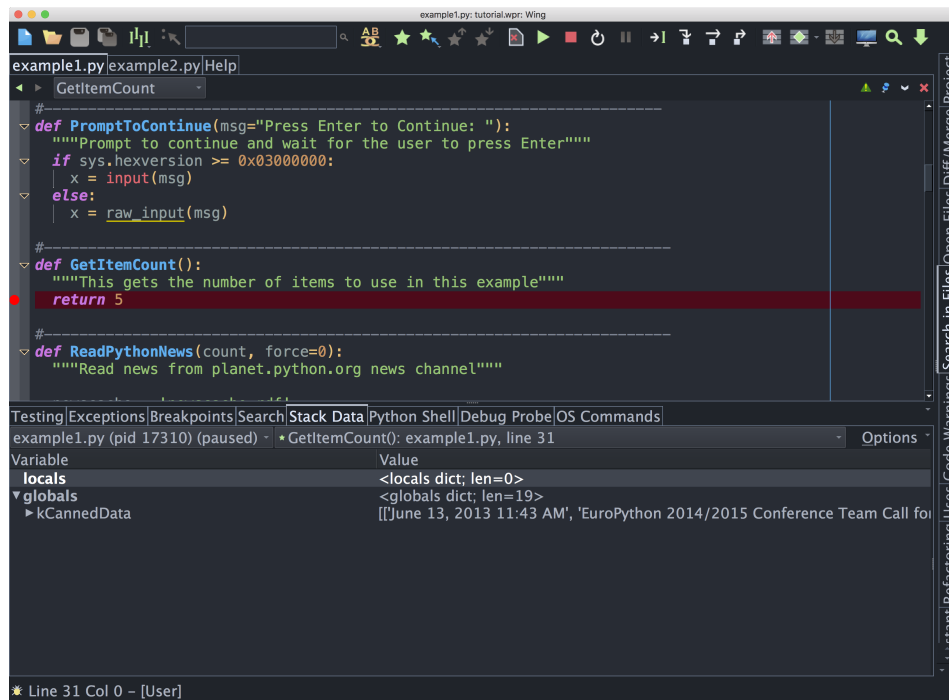
Next start the debugger with  **Debug** in the toolbar or the **Start/Continue** item in the **Debug** menu. Wing will show the **Debug Properties** dialog with the properties that will be used during the debug run. Just ignore this for now, uncheck the **Show this dialog before each run** checkbox at the bottom, and press **OK**.

Wing will run to the breakpoint and stop, placing a red indicator on the line. Notice that the toolbar changes to include additional debug tools, as shown below:



Your display may vary depending on the size of your screen, or if you have altered the toolbar's configuration. Wing displays tooltips explaining what the items do when you hover the mouse over them.

Now you can inspect the program state at that point with the **Stack Data** tool and by going up and down the stack with **Up Stack** and **Down Stack** in the toolbar or from the **Debug** menu. The stack can also be viewed as a list using the **Call Stack** tool:



Notice that the debug status indicator in the lower left of Wing's main window changes color depending on the state of the debug process. Hover the mouse over the indicator to see detailed status in a tooltip.

Next, try stepping out to the enclosing call to **ReadPythonNews**. In this particular context, you can achieve this in a single click with the **Step Out** in the toolbar or **Debug** menu. Two clicks on **Step Over** also work. **ReadPythonNews** is a good function to step through in order to try out the basic debugger features described above.

Try stepping or running to a breakpoint on the last line of this function, which reads **return news[:count]**. In this context, right-clicking on **news** under **locals** in **Stack Data** allows viewing the value in textual form or as an array. The latter loads data incrementally for only the visible portion of the value, which is useful with **numpy** arrays, pandas **DataFrames**, **sqlite** query results, and other larger data sets.

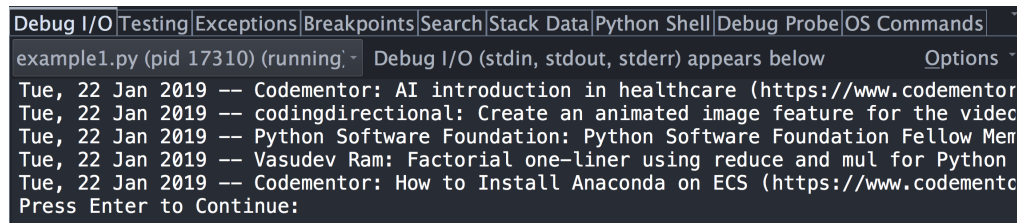
Data can also be viewed in tooltips on the editor by hovering the mouse over a value. Try this with **count** to see the value **5**.


Finally, try **Step Over** to reach the return event in **ReadPythonNews**, which is indicated by a change from the solid debug line marker to an underline. Notice that hovering the mouse over **return** in the editor displays the value that is being returned from the function. Similarly, **<return value>** is added to the **locals** shown in the **Stack Data** tool.

9.1. Tutorial: Debug I/O

Before continuing any further in the debugger, bring up the **Debug I/O** tool so you can watch the subsequent output from the program. This is also where keyboard input takes place in debug code that requests it.

Once you step over the line **PrintAsText(news)** you should see output similar to the following:

A screenshot of the Wing IDE's 'Debug I/O' tool window. The window has a menu bar with 'Debug I/O', 'Testing', 'Exceptions', 'Breakpoints', 'Search', 'Stack Data', 'Python Shell', 'Debug Probe', and 'OS Commands'. Below the menu bar, it shows 'example1.py (pid 17310) (running)' and 'Debug I/O (stdin, stdout, stderr) appears below'. There is an 'Options' button. The main area displays a list of log entries: 'Tue, 22 Jan 2019 -- Codementor: AI introduction in healthcare (https://www.codementor', 'Tue, 22 Jan 2019 -- codingdirectional: Create an animated image feature for the videoc', 'Tue, 22 Jan 2019 -- Python Software Foundation: Python Software Foundation Fellow Mer', 'Tue, 22 Jan 2019 -- Vasudev Ram: Factorial one-liner using reduce and mul for Python', and 'Tue, 22 Jan 2019 -- Codementor: How to Install Anaconda on ECS (https://www.codementc'. At the bottom, it says 'Press Enter to Continue:'.


For code that reads from **stdin** or uses **input()** or Python 2.x's **raw_input()**, the **Debug I/O** tool is where you would type input to your program. Try this now by stepping over the **PromptToContinue** call with  **Step Over** in the toolbar. You will see the prompt "Press Enter to Continue" appear in the **Debug I/O** tool and the debugger will not complete the **Step Over** operation until you press **Enter** while keyboard focus is in the **Debug I/O** tool.

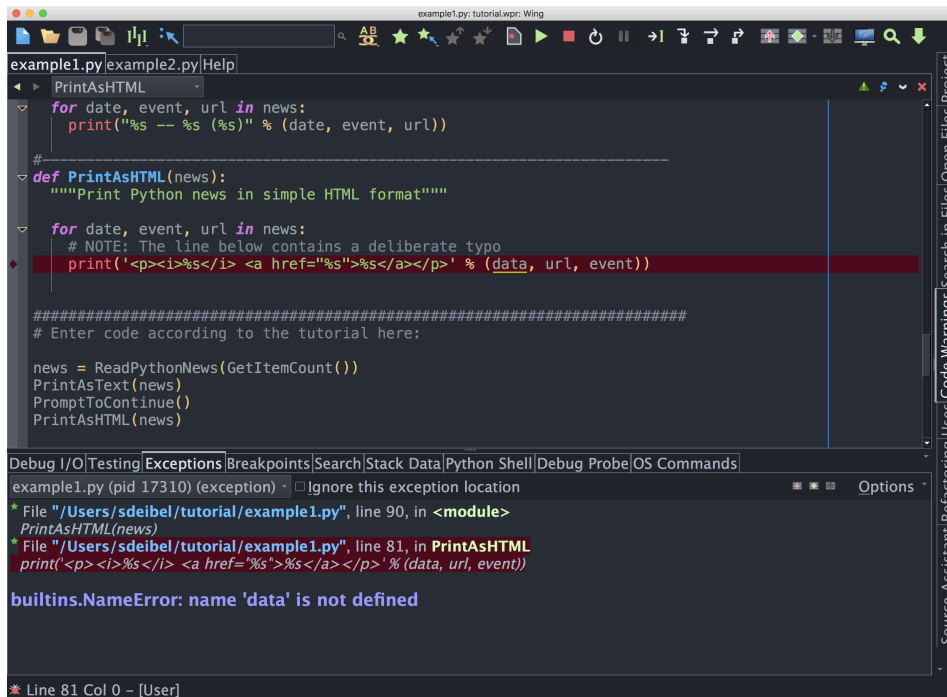
You can also configure Wing to use an external console from the **Options** menu in the **Debug I/O** tool. This is useful for programs that requires a more complete console implementation to run correctly, for example those that use the **curses** module.

See [Debug Process I/O](#) for details.

9.2. Tutorial: Debug Process Exception Reporting

Wing's debugger reports any exceptions that would be printed when running the code outside of the debugger.

Try this out by continuing execution of the debug process with the  **Debug** toolbar icon or **Start / Continue** in the **Debug** menu. Wing will stop on an incorrect line of code in **PrintAsHTML** and report the problem in the **Exceptions** tool:



The **Exceptions** tool highlights the current stack frame as you move up and down the stack. You can click on frames to navigate the exception backtrace, showing the source code for each frame.

Whenever you are stopped on an exception, the debugger status indicator in the lower left of Wing's main window turns red.

After reaching an exception in the debugger, you can correct your code, stop the debugger with the **Stop** icon in the toolbar, and then start debugging again.

Exception Handling Options

In Wing Pro and Wing Personal, the debugger provides several exception handling modes, which differ in how they determine when exceptions should be reported. It is also possible to ignore specific exceptions and to specify exception types to always report or never report. Most users will not need to alter these options, but being aware of them is useful.

See [Managing Exceptions](#) for details.

9.3. Tutorial: Execution Environment

In this tutorial we've been running code in the default environment and with the default Python interpreter. In a real project you may want to specify one or more of the following:

- Python interpreter and version
- PYTHONPATH
- Environment variables
- Initial run directory
- Options sent to Python
- Command line arguments

Wing lets you set these for your project as a whole and for specific files.

Project Properties

The **Environment** and **Debug/Execute** tabs in the **Project Properties** dialog, accessed from the **Project** menu, can be used to select the Python interpreter that is being used, the effective **PYTHONPATH**, the values of environment variables, the initial directory for the debug process, and any options passed to Python itself.

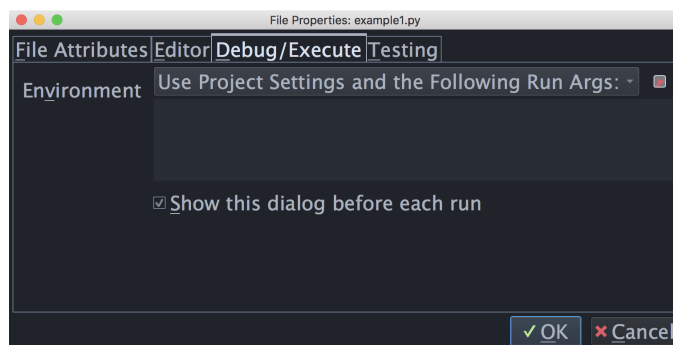
In most cases, **Project Properties** is where you will make changes to the runtime environment for all the project code that you execute and debug.

Try this out now by adding an environment variable **TESTPROJECT=1** to **Environment** in **Project Properties**. Then restart the **Python Shell** from its **Options** menu and type **os.environ** to confirm that the new environment variable is defined. The same environment will be defined in any debug processes that you start from the IDE.

File Properties and Launch Configurations

File Properties are used to configure the command line arguments sent to a file when it is executed or debugged, and optionally to override the project-defined environment on a file by file basis.

The **File Properties** dialog is accessed from the **Current File Properties** item in the **Source** menu or by right-clicking on a file in the editor or **Project** tool and selecting **Properties**.



The most common use of **File Properties** is simply to set the command line arguments to use with the file. Try this now by bringing up **File Properties** for **example1.py** and set the run arguments in the **Debug/Execute** tab to **test args**.

Now if you restart debugging, **os.environ** will contain the environment variable **TESTPROJECT** and **sys.argv** will end in **test args**.

To also override the project-defined environment for a particular file, define a **Launch Configuration** and select it in **File Properties**. This sets up an environment like that which can be specified in **Project Properties** and pairs it with a particular set of command line arguments. A launch configuration can be reused with multiple files or in **Named Entry Points** (see below).

Try this now by bringing up **File Properties** for **example1.py** again and selecting **Use Selected Launch Configuration** for **Environment** under the **Debug/Execute** tab. Press the **New** button that appears, use ``My Launch Config`` as the name for the new launch configuration, and press **OK**. Wing will show the properties dialog for the new launch configuration.

Next enter run arguments **other args** and change the **Environment** to **Add to Project Values** and enter **TESTFILE=2** and **TESTPROJECT=**. This adds environment variable **TESTFILE** and removes the **TESTPROJECT** from the inherited project-defined environment.

Now restart debugging again and **os.environ** will contain the environment variable **TESTFILE** but not **TESTPROJECT** and **sys.argv** will end in **other args**.

See [File Properties](#) and [Launch Configurations](#) for details.

Main Entry Point

You can specify one file in your project as the main entry point for debugging and execution. When this is set, debugging will always start there unless you use **Debug Current File** in the **Debug** menu.

To set a main entry point use **Set Current as Main Entry Point** in the **Debug** menu, right click on the **Project** tool and select **Set as Main Entry Point**, or use the **Main Entry Point** property under the **Debug** tab of the **Project Properties** dialog.

Try this now by setting **example1.py** as the main entry point. After doing so, it is no longer necessary to bring **example1.py** to front in order to start debugging it.

Whether or not you set a main entry point depends on the nature of your project.

See [Specifying Main Entry Points](#) for details.

Named Entry Points

In some projects it is more convenient to define multiple entry points for executing and debugging code. To accomplish this, **Named Entry Points** can be set up from the **Debug** menu. Each named entry point binds an environment, either specified in the project or in a launch configuration, to a particular file. Once defined, they can be assigned a key binding or accessed from the **Debug Named Entry Point** and **Execute Named Entry Point** items in the **Debug** menu.


Named Entry Points are a good way to launch a single file with different arguments or environment.

See [Named Entry Points](#) for details.

9.4. Tutorial: Debugging from the Python Shell

In addition to launching code to debug from Wing's menu bar and **Debug** menu, it is also possible to debug code that is entered into the **Python Shell**.

Enable this now by clicking on the bug icon in the top right of the **Python Shell**. Once this is done, the status message at the top of the **Python Shell** should change to include **Commands will be debugged** and an extra margin is shown in which you can set breakpoints. Wing will reach those breakpoints, as well as any breakpoints in editors for code that is invoked. Any exceptions will be reported in the debugger.

Let's try this out. First stop any running debug process with the  **Stop** icon in the toolbar. Then paste the following into the **Python Shell** and press **Enter** so that you are returned to the **>>>** prompt:

```
def test_function():  
    x = 10
```

```
print(x)
x += 5
y = 20
print(x+y)
```

Next place a breakpoint on the line that reads **print(x)** by clicking in the breakpoint margin to the left of the prompt on that line.

Then type this into the **Python Shell** and press **Enter**:

```
test_function()
```

Wing should reach the breakpoint on **print(x)**.

You can now work with the debugger in the same way that you would if you had launched code from the toolbar or **Debug** menu. Try stepping and viewing the values of **x** and **y** as they change, either in the **Stack Data** tool or by hovering the mouse over the variable names.

Take a look at the stack in the **Call Stack** or **Stack Data** tool to see how stack frames that occur within the **Python Shell** are listed. You can move up and down the stack just as you would if your stack frames were in an editor.

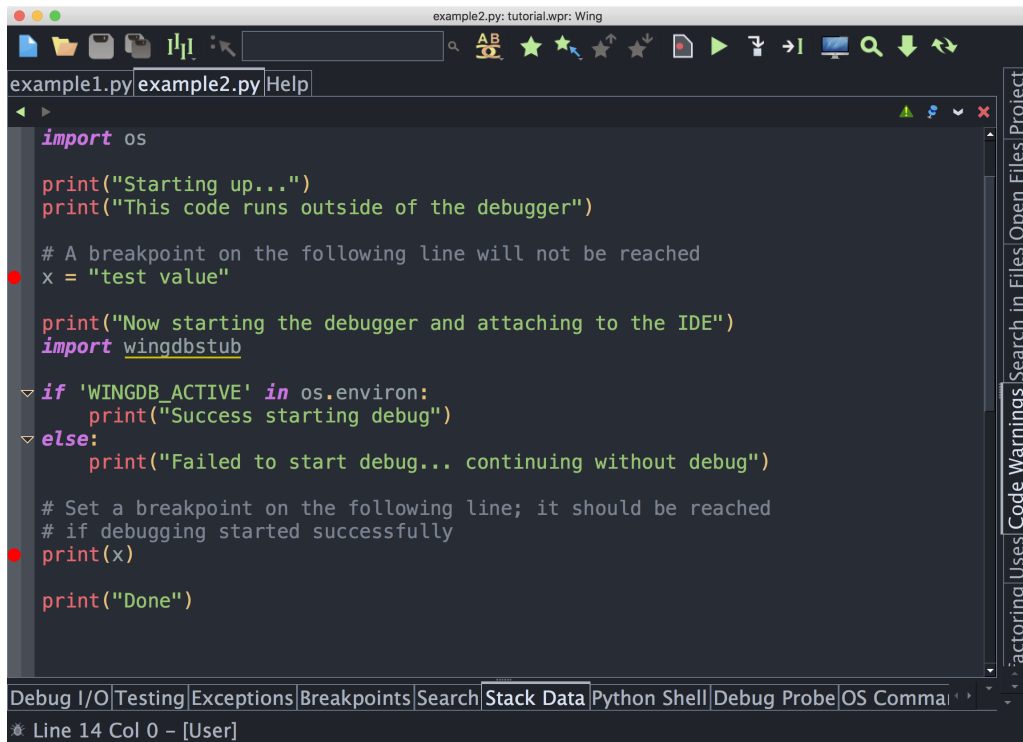
Notice that if you step off the end of the call, you will return to the shell prompt. If you press the **Stop** item in the toolbar or select **Stop Debugging** from the **Debug** menu, Wing will complete execution of the code without debug and return you to the **>>>** prompt. Note that the code is still executed to completion in this case because there is no way to simply abandon a number of stack frames in the Python interpreter.

See [Debugging Code in the Python Shell](#) for details.

9.5. Tutorial: Debugging Code Not Launched by the IDE

So far we've been debugging code launched from inside of Wing. Wing can also debug processes that are running within a web framework, as scripts in a larger application, or that get launched from the command line. These are cases where a debug process cannot be launched from the IDE, so another method is needed to initiate debug.

Let's try this now with **example2.py** in your tutorial directory. First, copy **wingdbstub.py** out of the **Install Directory** listed in Wing's **About** box. Place **wingdbstub.py** in the same directory as **example2.py**. Next, click on the bug icon in the lower left of Wing's main window and select **Accept Debug Connections**. Then set a breakpoint on lines 10 and 22 of **example2.py**:



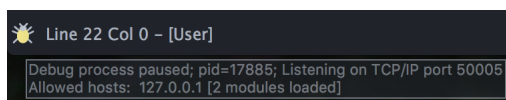
If you are working on macOS, or used the Windows **zip** or Linux **tar** installers for Wing, you will need to edit **wingdbstub.py** in order to set **WINGHOME** to the full path to the **Install Directory** you copied it from. This is done automatically by the other installers. If you are using one of those you can skip this step.

Now we're ready to debug **example2.py** when it is launched from outside of the IDE. To launch it, use the DOS Command prompt on Windows, a bash or similar command prompt on Linux, or Terminal or an xterm on macOS to type:

```
python example2.py
```

You may need to specify the full path to python if it is not on your path.

This should start up the code, print some messages, connect to the IDE, and stop on the breakpoint on line 22. Notice that the breakpoint on line 10 was not reached because debugging had not yet been initiated at that point. Read through the code and the messages printed to better understand what is happening. You can verify that the debugger attached by looking at the color of the bug icon in the lower left of the IDE window, and by hovering the mouse over it:



Once you are stopped at a breakpoint or exception in externally launched code, the debugger works just as it would had you launched the debug process from the IDE. The only difference is that the environment is set up by the process itself and the settings specified in **Project Properties** and **File Properties** are not used.

When you continue the debugger from the toolbar or **Debug** menu, the program should print the value of **x** and exit.

This is a very simple example to illustrate how externally launched code can be debugged. The import of **wingdbstub** can also be placed in functions or methods, and there is a [debugging API](#) that provides control over starting and stopping debugging.

See [Debugging Externally Launched Code](#) for details.

Remote Debugging

Using the same mechanism, but with some additional configuration, it is also possible to debug Python code launched on another machine. This is documented in [Manually Configured Remote Debugging](#) in the Wing manual. If you need to do this, you may also want to consider using Wing Pro, which has expanded and easier-to-use support for remote development.

Tutorial: Indentation Features

Since indentation is syntactically significant in Python, Wing provides a number of features to make working with indentation easier.

Auto-Indentation

By now you will have noticed that Wing auto-indents lines as you type, according to context. This can be disabled with the **Editor > Indentation > Auto-Indent** preference.

Wing also adjusts the indentation of blocks of code that are pasted into the editor. If the indentation change is not what you wanted, a single **Undo** removes the indentation adjustment, if there was one.

See [Auto-indent](#) for details.

Block Indentation

One or more selected lines can be increased or reduced in indentation, or adjusted to match indentation according to context, from the **Indentation** toolbar group:



Repeated presses of the **Match Indent** tool will move the selected lines among the possible syntactically correct indent levels for that context. The default action of the **Tab** key does the same thing.

These indentation features are also available in the **Source** menu, where their key bindings are listed.

Converting Indentation Styles

In Wing Pro and Wing Personal, the **Indentation** tool can be used to analyze and convert the style of indentation found in source files.

See [Indentation Tool](#) for details.

Folding

Unless the feature is disabled with the **Editor > Folding > Enable Folding** preference, Wing Pro and Wing Personal can fold editor code by indentation levels to hide areas that are not currently of interest, or as a way to see a quick summary of the contents of a source file.

The folding operations are enumerated in the **Folding** sub-menu of the **Source** menu and in the fold margin's right-click context menu.

Folding acts in such a way that selecting across a fold and copying will copy the text, including its hidden portions.

See [Folding](#) for details.

Other Features

Wing Pro and Wing Personal can also show indentation guides on the editor and set preferred indentation style and policies, among other things. See [Indent Guides, Policies, and Warnings](#) for details.

Tutorial: Other Editor Features


There are a number of other editor features that are worth knowing about:

Goto-Line

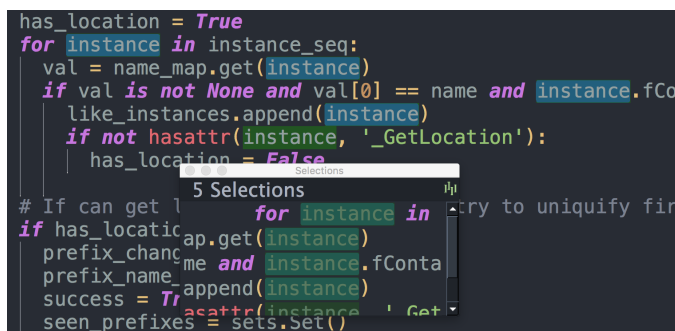
You can navigate quickly to a numbered source line with **Goto Line** in the **Edit** menu, or with the key binding displayed there. Type the line number and then press **Enter** to complete the action.

In Wing Pro and Wing Personal, line numbers can be shown in the editor with the **Show Line Numbers** item in the **Edit** menu.

Multiple Selections

In Wing Pro and Wing Personal, multiple selections can be made on the editor with the **Edit > Multiple Selections** menu items and  **Multiple Selections** in the toolbar.

This provides a quick way to select several identical occurrences of text either sequentially, or within a particular file, class, function, or block:



```
has_location = True
for instance in instance_seq:
    val = name_map.get(instance)
    if val is not None and val[0] == name and instance.fCo
        like_instances.append(instance)
    if not hasattr(instance, '_GetLocation'):
        has_location = False
        # If can get l
        for instance in try to uniquify fir
        if has_locatic
        prefix_chang
        prefix_name
        success = Tr
        seen_prefixes = sets.Set()
```

Once there are multiple selections, edits made will be applied to all the selections concurrently.

Multiple selections may also be made by pressing **Ctrl+Alt** (or **Command+Option** on the Mac) while making a selection with the mouse.

Selection Mode and Structural Code Selection

Wing supports character, line, and block mode selection from **Selection Mode** in the **Edit** menu, and the key bindings shown there.

In Python code, the **Select** sub-menu in the **Edit** menu can be used to easily select and traverse logical blocks of code. The **Select More** and **Select Less** operations are particularly useful when preparing to type over or copy/paste ranges of text.

Try these out now on `urllib` in `ReadPythonNews` in `example1.py`. Each repeated press of **Ctrl-Up** will select more code in logical units. Press **Ctrl-Down** to select less code.

The other operations in the **Select** sub-menu can be used for selecting and moving forward or backward over whole statements, blocks, or scopes.

See [Selecting Text](#) for details.

Code Warnings

As you probably noticed while working through the tutorial, Wing flags some types of incorrect code by underlining it. This is done for syntax errors, indentation errors, code that can't be reached, and other types of errors. Hovering the mouse cursor over an indicator on the editor displays details for that warning or error in a tooltip.

Note that Wing Pro implements a much richer code warnings capability that supports more error types and can display warnings from external checkers like `ruff`, `flake8`, `mypy`, `pep8`, and `pylint`.

Line Editing

In Wing Pro and Wing Personal, lines can quickly be inserted, deleted, duplicated, swapped, or moved up or down with the operations in the **Line Editing** sub-menu of the **Source** menu.

If your keyboard personality does not support them, then you can add your own key bindings with the **User Interface > Keyboard > Custom Key Bindings** preference. The command names are: **new-line-before**, **new-line-after**, **duplicate-line-above**, **duplicate-line**, **move-line-up**, **move-line-down**, **delete-line**, and **swap-lines**.

Block Commenting

Lines of code can be commented out or un-commented quickly from the **Source** menu. In Python code, the **Editor > Block Commenting Style** preference controls the type of commenting that is used. The default is to use indented single `#` characters since this works better with some of Wing's other features.

Brace Matching

Wing highlights brace matches as you type, unless this is disabled from the **Editor > Brace Matching > Brace Highlighting** preference. The **Match Braces** item in the **Source** menu causes Wing to select all the code that is contained in the nearest matching braces, as found from the current insertion point on the editor. Repeated invocations of the command will traverse outward or forward in the file.

Text Reformatting

Code can be re-wrapped to the column configured in the preference **Editor > Line Wrapping > Reformatting Wrap Column** with the **Rewrap Text** item in the **Source** menu. This will limit

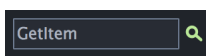
wrapping to a single logical line of code, so it can be used to reformat function or method arguments or long list or tuple without altering surrounding code.

Tutorial: Searching

Wing Personal provides several different interfaces for searching your code. Which you use depends on what you want to search and how you prefer to interact with the search and replace functionality.

12.1. Tutorial: Toolbar Search

A quick way to search through the current editor or documentation page is to enter your search string into the search area provided by the toolbar:



If you enter only lower case letters, then the search will be case-insensitive. Entering one or more upper-case letters causes the search to become case-sensitive.

Try this now in **example1.py**: Type **GetItem** into the toolbar search area. Wing will search incrementally, starting when the first letter is typed. Press the **Enter** key to move on to the next match, wrapping around to the top of the file if necessary.

Toolbar-based searches always go forward in the file from the current editor caret position.

See [Toolbar Quick Search](#) for details.

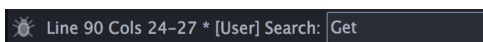
12.2. Tutorial: Keyboard-Driven Search and Replace

If you prefer a more powerful search interface using the keyboard only, try the key bindings listed in the **Mini-search** sub-menu of the **Edit** menu. The bindings vary according to the currently selected [Keyboard Personality](#).

Mini-search supports searching forward and backward in the current editor, documentation, **Python Shell**, **Debug Console** (Wing Pro only), or **Debug I/O** tool, optionally using the current selection in the editor as the search string, or using regular expression matching. You can also initiate replace operations.

Try this in the **example1.py** file: If you are using the default keyboard personality, press **Ctrl-U**. For other keyboard personalities, refer to **Mini-search** in the **Edit** menu.

This will display an entry area at the bottom of the IDE window and will place focus there:



Continue by typing **G**, then **e**, then **t**. Notice how Wing searches incrementally with each key press.

Search Behavior

As in toolbar search, typing only lower case letters results in case-insensitive search, while using one or more upper case letters results in case-sensitive search.

While the mini-search area is still active, try pressing the same key combination you used to display it again. Wing will search for the next matching occurrence.

If no match is found **Failed Search** will be displayed. After this, pressing the mini-search key combination again will wrap around and start searching at the top of the file, if there are any matches.

To start searching again using the most recently used search string, press the key combination for search twice, once to display the search entry area, and once again to recall the previous search string.

Search direction can be changed during a search session, by switching to the key bindings assigned to the desired direction.

You can exit from the search by pressing the **Esc** key or **Ctrl-G**, or with arrow keys and other editor commands.

Regular Expression Search

The regular expression search options found in **Mini-search** in the **Edit** menu work similarly but expect regular expressions for the search criteria.

Replace

Keyboard-driven mini-replace works similarly, except that you will be presented with two entry areas, one for your search string and one for the replace string.

Two replace operations are available. Both of these operate only on text that follows the caret in the file and do not wrap:

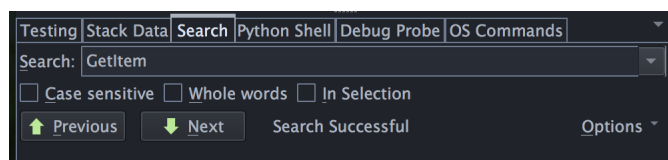
Query/Replace prompts for **Y** and **N** for each replace location

Replace String replaces all following matches in the file without prompting.

See [Keyboard-Driven Search and Replace](#) for details.

12.3. Tutorial: Search Tool

The **Search** tool provides simple search and replace operations on the current editor or documentation page. Key bindings for operations on this tool are given in the **Search and Replace** group in the **Edit** menu.

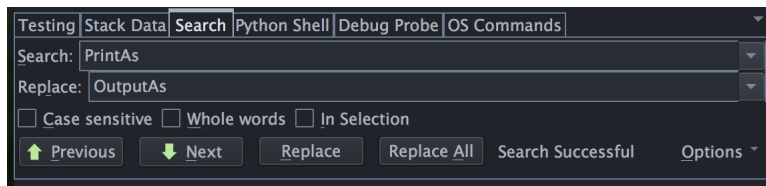


Searches may span the whole file or be constrained to the current selection, can be case sensitive or insensitive, and may optionally be constrained to matching only whole words.

By default, searching is incremental while you type your search string. To disable this, uncheck **Incremental** in the **Options** menu.

Replacing

When the tool is displayed with **Replace**, or when the **Show Replace** item in the **Options** menu is activated, Wing will show an area for entering a replace string and add **Replace** and **Replace All** buttons to the Search tool:



Try replacing **example1.py** with search string **PrintAs** and replace string **OutputAs**.

Select the first result match and then **Replace** repeatedly. One search match will be replaced at a time. Search will occur again after each replace automatically unless you turn off the **Find After Replace** option. Changes can be undone in the editor, one at a time. Do this now to avoid saving this replace operation.

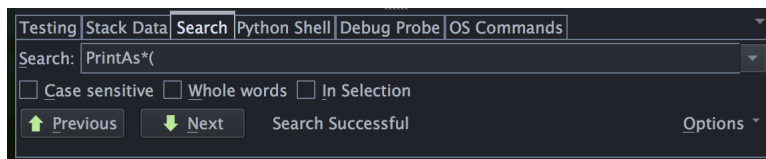
Next, try **Replace All** instead. Wing will simply replace all occurrences in the file at the same time. When this is done, a single undo in the editor will cancel the entire replace operation.

Wildcard Searching

By default, Wing searches for straight text matches on the strings you type. In Wing Pro and Wing Personal, wildcard and regular expression searching are also available in the **Search** tool's **Options** menu.

Wildcard searching allows you to specify a search string that contains ***** to match anything, **?** to match a single character, or ranges of characters specified within **[** and **]** to match any of the specified characters. This is the same syntax supported by the Python **glob** module and is described in more detail in [Wildcard Search Syntax](#).

Try a wildcard search now by selecting **Wild Card** from the **Options** menu while **example1.py** is your current editor. Set the search string to **PrintAs*(**. This should display all occurrences of the string **PrintAs**, followed by zero or more characters, followed by **(**:



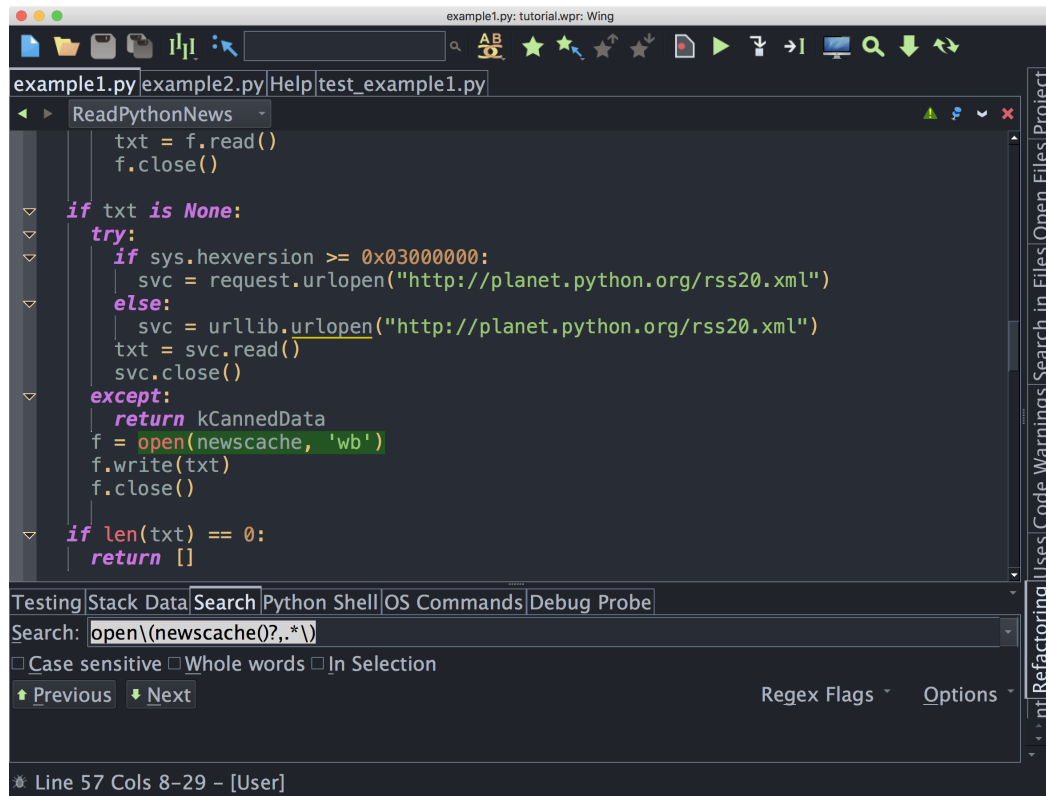
Also try searching on **PrintAs*[A-Z](** with the **Case Sensitive** search option turned on. This matches all strings starting with **PrintAs** followed by zero or more characters, followed by any capital letter from **A** to **Z**, followed by **(**.

Finally, try **PrintAsT???**, which will match any string starting with **PrintAsT** followed by any three characters.

Regular Expression Search

Regular expressions are most useful for complex search tasks, such as finding all calls to a particular function that occur as part of an assignment statement.

For example, `open(newscache) ? ,.*\)` matches only calls to the function `open` where the first argument is named `newscache` and there are at least two parameters. If you try this with `example1.py` after selecting **Regex search** from the **Options** menu then you should get exactly one search match:



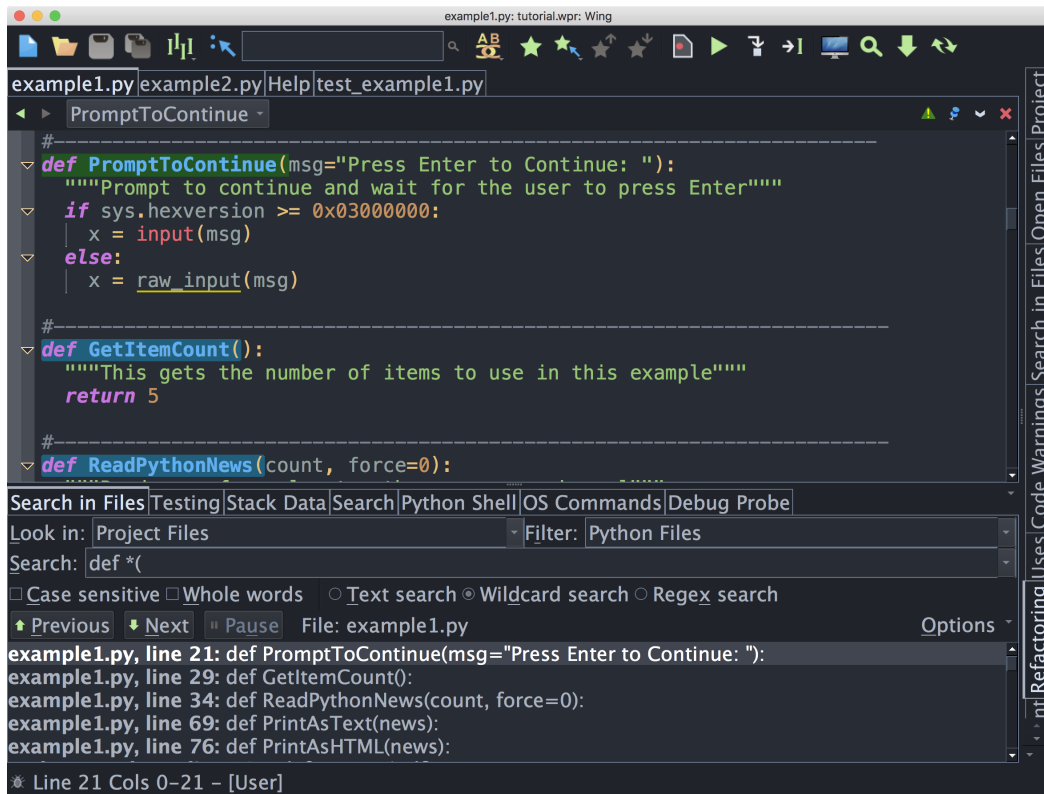
In this mode, the replace string can reference regex match groups with `%1`, `%2`, etc, as in the Python `re.sub()` call.

The details of regular expression syntax and usage see [Regular Expression Syntax](#) in the Python manual.

See also [Search Tool](#) for more information.

12.4. Tutorial: Search in Files

The **Search in Files** tool in Wing Pro and Wing Personal supports multi-file batch search of the disk, project, open editors, documentation, or other sets of files. It can also search and replace using wildcards and regular expressions.



Before worrying about the details, try a simple batch search on the **example1.py** file. Select **Current File** from the **Look in** selector on the **Search in Files** tool. Then enter **PrintAs** into the search area.

Wing will start searching immediately, restarting the search whenever you alter the search string or make other changes that affect the result set, or if the files being searched change.

When you are done typing, you should see results similar to those shown in the screen shot above. Click on the first result line to display **example1.py** in the editor with the corresponding search match highlighted.

Next, change the **Look in** selector to **Project Files** and change your search string to **HTML**. This works the same way as searching a single file, but lists the results for all files that have been added to your project.

You can also search all currently open files or within Wing's documentation by instead selecting **Open Files** or **Documentation** from **Look in**.

File Filters

In many cases, searching is more useful if constrained to a subset of files in your projects such as only Python files. This can be done with by selecting **Python Files** in the **Filter** selector. You can also define your own file filters using the **Create/Edit Filters** item in the **Filter** selector. This will display the **Files > File Types > File Filters** preference:

File Filters	Name	Specification
	All Source Files	: Wild Card on File Name: *.pyo; Wild Card
	C/C++ Files	Mime Type: text/x-c-source; Mime Typ
	HTML and XML Files	Mime Type: text/html; Mime Type: text
	Hidden & Temporary Files	Wild Card on File Name: *.pyo; Wild Car
	Key Maps	Wild Card on File Name: keymap.*;
	Insert	Remove Edit

Each file filter has a name and a list of include and exclude specifications. Each of these specifications can be applied to the file name, directory name, or the file's MIME type. An example would be to specify ***.js** wildcard for matching Javascript files by name, or using the **text/html** mime type for all HTML files.

Searching Disk

Wing can also search directly on disk. Try this by typing a directory path in the **Look in** area. Assuming you haven't changed the search string, this should search for **HTML** in all text files in that directory.

Disk search can be recursive, in which case Wing searches all sub-directories as well. This is done by selecting a directory in the **Look in** scope selector and enabling **Recursive Directory Search** in the **Options** menu.

You can alter the format of the result list with the **Show Line Numbers** item and **Result File Name** group in the **Options** menu.

Note that searching **Project Files** is usually faster than searching a directory structure because the set of files is precomputed and thus the search only needs to look in the files and not spend time discovering them.

Multi-file Replace

When replacing within multiple files, Wing opens each changed file into an editor, whether or not it is already open. This allows you to undo changes by not saving files or by issuing **Undo** within each editor.

If you check **Replace Operates on Disk** in the **Options** menu, Wing will change files directly on disk instead of opening editors into the IDE. This can be much faster but is not recommended unless you are using a revision control system that can be used to undo mistakes.

Note that even when operating directly on disk, Wing will replace changes in already-open editors only within the IDE. This avoids creating two versions of a file if there are already edits in the IDE's copy. We recommend selecting **Save All** from the file menu immediately after each replace operation. This avoids losing parts of a global replace operation.

See [Multi-File Search and Replace](#) for details.

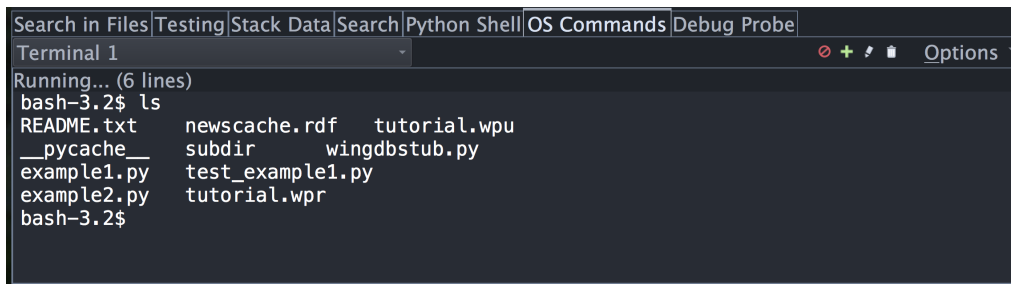
Tutorial: Other IDE Features

By now you have seen many of the IDE's features. Before we call it a day, let's look at a few other major features that are worth knowing about.

OS Commands

The **OS Commands** tool can be used to set up, execute, and interact with external commands, for building, deployment, and other tasks. The **Build Command** field in the **Debug/Execute** tab of

Project Properties can be used to configure and select one command to execute automatically before any debug session begins. OS Commands can also be bound to keys, and the **Start Terminal** item in the **Tools** menu uses it to start command prompt in Wing:

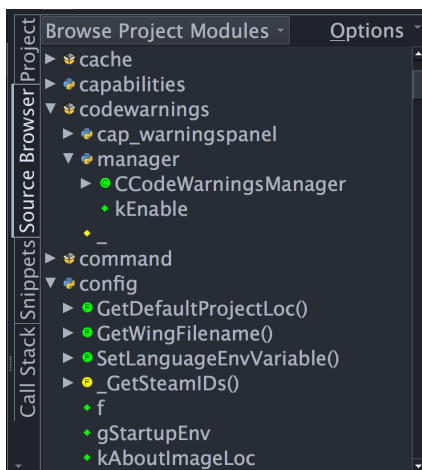


The screenshot shows the 'OS Commands' window in Wing IDE. It has a tabbed interface with 'Terminal 1' selected. The terminal output shows a 'Running... (6 lines)' status followed by a 'bash-3.2\$ ls' command. The output of the command is a directory listing: README.txt, newscache.rdf, tutorial.wpu, __pycache__, subdir, wingdbstub.py, example1.py, test_example1.py, example2.py, and tutorial.wpr. The prompt 'bash-3.2\$' is shown at the bottom.

See [OS Commands Tool](#) for details.

Source Browser

The **Source Browser** in Wing Pro and Wing Personal can be used to inspect and navigate the module and class structure of your Python source code.



Double-clicking on items in the **Source Browser** opens them into an editor. When **Follow Selection** is enabled in the **Options** menu, Wing also opens files that are single-clicked or visited by keyboard navigation within the **Source Browser**.

The popup menu at the top left of the **Source Browser** selects whether to browse the current file, all project modules, or all project classes. The **Options** menu in the top right allows sorting and filtering symbols by type.

Notice that the **Source Assistant** tool is integrated with the **Source Browser**, and will update its content as you move around the **Source Browser**.

File Sets

Wing allows you to create named sets of files which you can open as a group or search in the **Search in Files** tool. See [File Sets](#) for details.

File Operations

Files can be created, deleted, moved, and renamed from the **Project** tool by right-clicking, dragging, and clicking on names in the tree. Deleted files are moved to the system's trash or recycling bin.

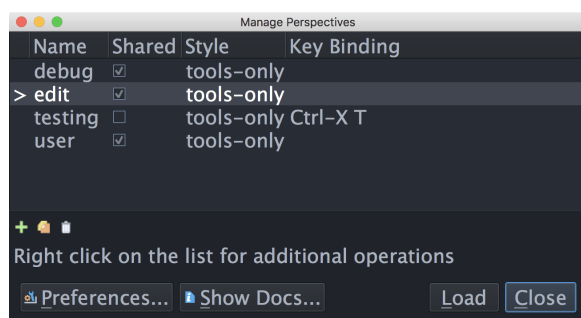
When files are in a revision control system, Wing will also issue the necessary revision control commands to create, delete, move, or rename the file in the repository.

See [File Operations](#) for details.

Perspectives

Perspectives are a way to store and later revisit particular arrangements of the user interface. For example, you may set up one set of visible tools to use when testing, another for working on documentation, and still another for debugging.

Perspectives are accessed from the **Tools** menu.



Wing can optionally switch perspectives automatically whenever debugging starts or stops, so that the user interface differs according to how the tools were left when last editing or debugging. This is done by selecting **Enable Auto-Perspectives** in the **Tools** menu.

See [Perspectives](#) for details.

Command Set and Key Bindings

Wing's complete command set is documented in the [Command Reference](#). Any of these commands can be bound to a key binding with the **User Interface > Keyboard > Custom Key Bindings** preference. A key binding may be a single chord such as **Shift-Ctrl-X** or a sequence like **Ctrl-; A**.

To invoke a command directly even if it does not appear in a menu or toolbar item, use the **Command by Name** item in the **Edit** menu.

The default key bindings are documented in [Key Binding Reference](#). You can check what command a key is bound to using the command **describe-key-briefly**, also invoked from **Command by Name** in the **Edit** menu.

Extending the IDE

Wing can be extended by writing Python scripts that call into the IDE's scripting API. This is useful for adding everything from simple editor commands and debugger add-ons to new tools.

Script-defined commands may be bound to keys, added to menus, or invoked from the toolbar just like Wing's built-in commands.

There is a collection of user-contributed scripts for Wing in the [contributed materials](#) area.

For details see [Scripting and Extending Wing](#).

Tutorial: Further Reading

Congratulations, you've finished the tutorial!

As you work with Wing Personal on your own software development projects, the following resources may be useful:

[Wing Reference Manual](#) which documents all the features in detail.

[Wing Support Website](#) which includes a Q&A support forum, mailing lists, documentation, links to social media, and other information for Wing users.

A collection of [Wing Tips](#), available on our website and by weekly email subscription, provides additional tips and tricks for using Wing productively.

Thanks for using Wing Personal!