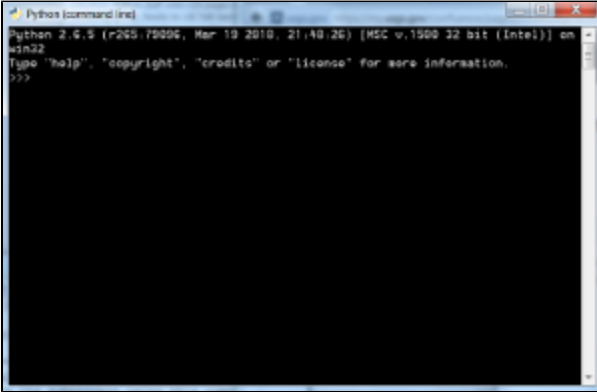


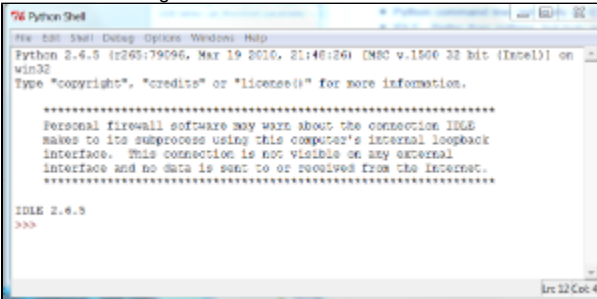
# Integrated Development Environments for Python

There's an externally maintained list of IDEs that's pretty comprehensive at <http://wiki.python.org/moin/IntegratedDevelopmentEnvironments>. We'll cover some basics and some favorites here. One of the main install/configuration issues with using an IDE is specifying the version of Python. This usually isn't difficult, but can be confusing to a new user. This is especially important to do if you wish to write Python code that works with ArcGIS, each version of which comes with a particular version of Python. For your code to successfully manipulate your instance of ArcGIS, it needs to run using the ArcGIS version of Python. Most of the time, developers use their IDE to run their Python scripts. Therefore the IDE needs to know which version of Python to use (i.e., you probably can't just use the default version that came with the IDE).

- Python command line - not really an IDE. You can type in blocks of functional code or import them from files and run these from memory. Comes with ArcGIS



- IDLE - Better than nothing, but truly an awful interface. Doesn't work much like any other IDE we know. Comes with ArcGIS. Do yourself a favor and find something else. Comes with ArcGIS.



- Eclipse - Really pretty good. It is usable for a variety of other languages (notably Java). Can be used for python by installing [the PyDev plugin to this IDE](#). Free.
- NetBeans - Like Eclipse, can deal with other languages.
- PyScripter - Also pretty good. Free.
- Wing - Well liked. Costs??
- Spyder - Good. Has support specifically for scipy, numpy, and matplotlib, some of the more important plug-ins for Python. Free.
  - [installation instructions for using with ArcGIS 10.0](#).