

Your First Python Program

Open Notepad and type the following, exactly as you see here:

```
# This is a comment
# comments can span one line only

print "Hello world!"
```

Now click on **File, Save as...** Make sure that you are saving the file in the TA folder! Name it *first.py* and click **Save**.

Now you can run your first program.

When you hit enter it should give the following output:

Hello world!

Did it work? You just wrote your first program!! Well done!

That's pretty boring. Let's do something a bit more advanced...
Try typing in the following program.

```
# Area calculation program

print "Welcome to the Area calculation program"
print "-----"
print

# Print out the menu:
print "Please select a shape:"
print "1  Rectangle"
print "2  Circle"

# Get the user's choice:
shape = input("> ")

# Calculate the area:
if shape == 1:
    height = input("Please enter the height: ")
    width = input("Please enter the width: ")
    area = height*width
    print "The area is", area
else:
    radius = input("Please enter the radius: ")
    area = 3.14*(radius**2)
    print "The area is", area
```

Save it with the name *area.py* and run the program and see if you can figure out what is happening...

Now try writing a simple program of your own to do something like finding the perimeter of a square, figuring a player's batting average or anything you're interested in!

There are three basic steps to programs of this type:

1. Get input from the user.
2. Do something with the input.
3. Output the results.

These basic ideas will help you to program in just about any language! Enjoy!