



PYTHON DEBUGGING BY USING ASSERTIONS

Debugging Python Program by using assert keyword:

The process of identifying and fixing the bug is called debugging.

Very common way of debugging is to use `print()` statement. But the problem with the `print()` statement is after fixing the bug, compulsory we have to delete the extra added `print()` statements, otherwise these will be executed at runtime which creates performance problems and disturbs console output.

To overcome this problem we should go for `assert` statement. The main advantage of `assert` statement over `print()` statement is after fixing bug we are not required to delete `assert` statements. Based on our requirement we can enable or disable `assert` statements.

Hence the main purpose of assertions is to perform debugging. Usually we can perform debugging either in development or in test environments but not in production environment. Hence assertions concept is applicable only for dev and test environments but not for production environment.

Types of assert statements:

There are 2 types of `assert` statements

1. Simple Version
2. Augmented Version

1. Simple Version:

```
assert conditional_expression
```

2. Augmented Version:

```
assert conditional_expression, message
```

`conditional_expression` will be evaluated and if it is true then the program will be continued.

If it is false then the program will be terminated by raising `AssertionError`.

By seeing `AssertionError`, programmer can analyze the code and can fix the problem.

Eg:

```
1) def squareIt(x):  
2)     return x**x
```