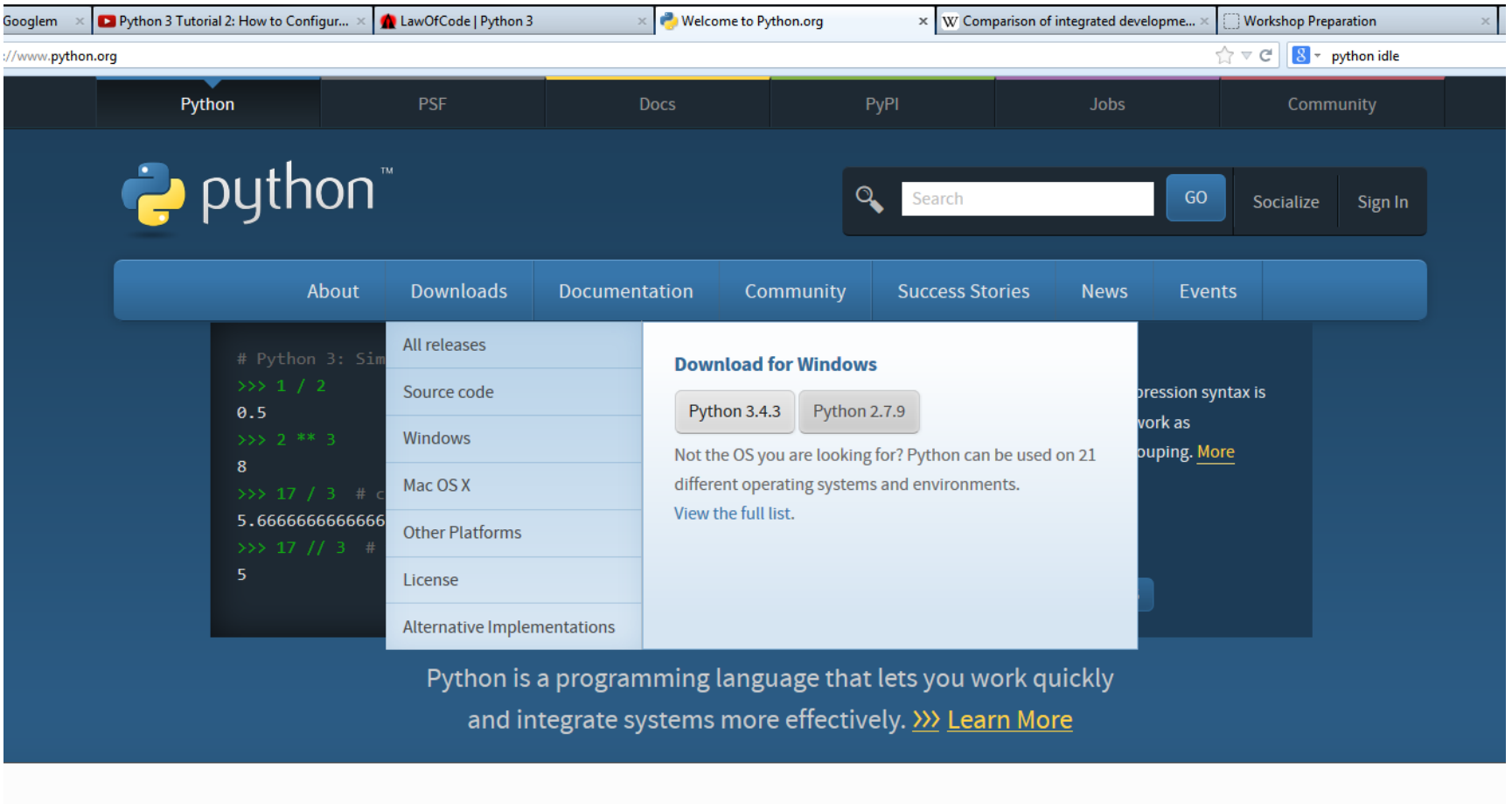
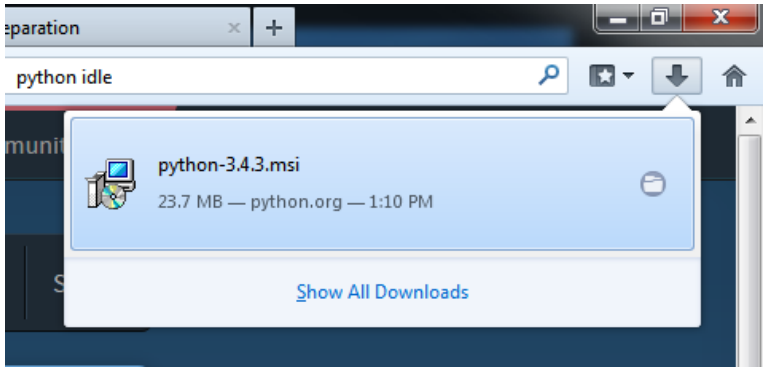
Installing and using python on Windows

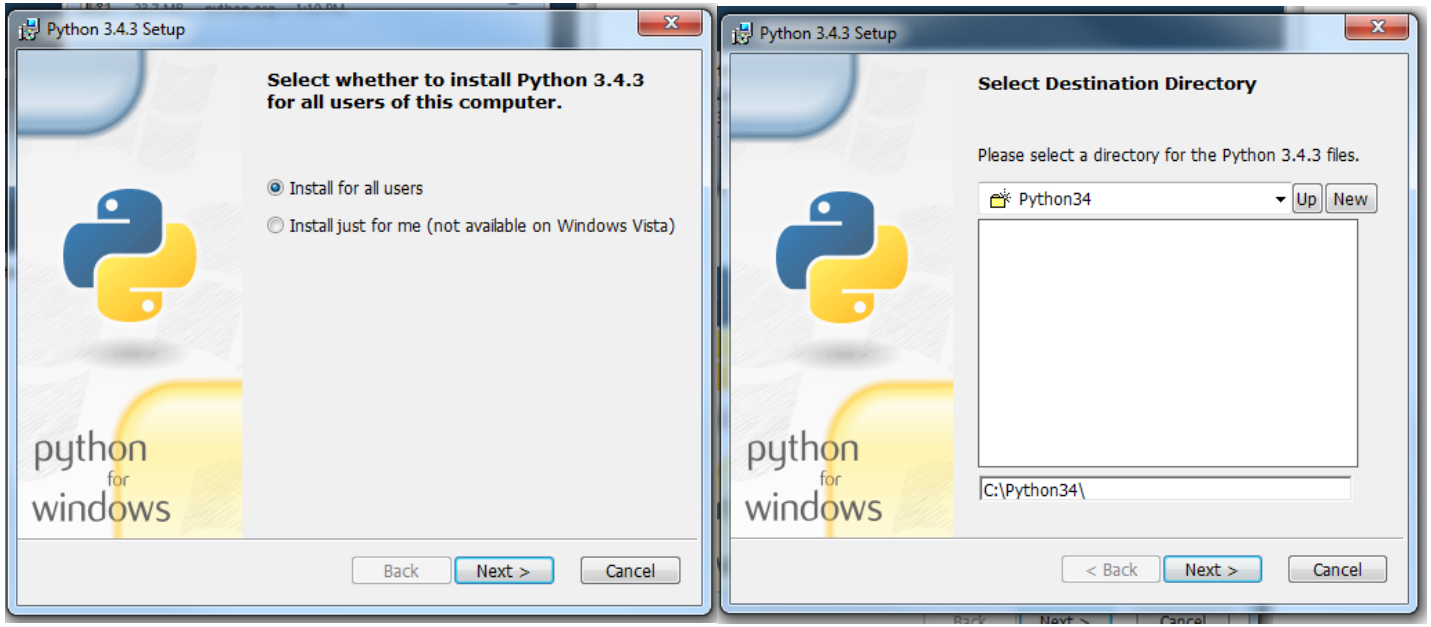
1. Go to www.python.org and download the current version of python (python 3.4.3)

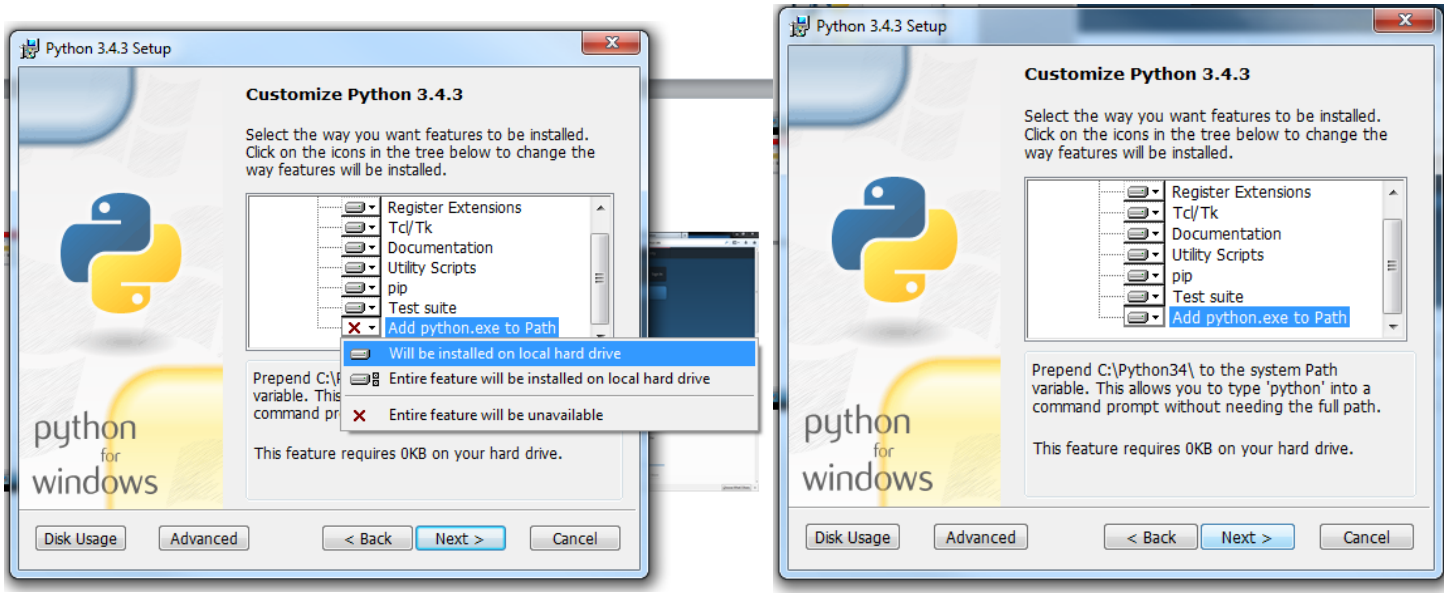


2. Run the downloaded installer python-3.4.3.msi.

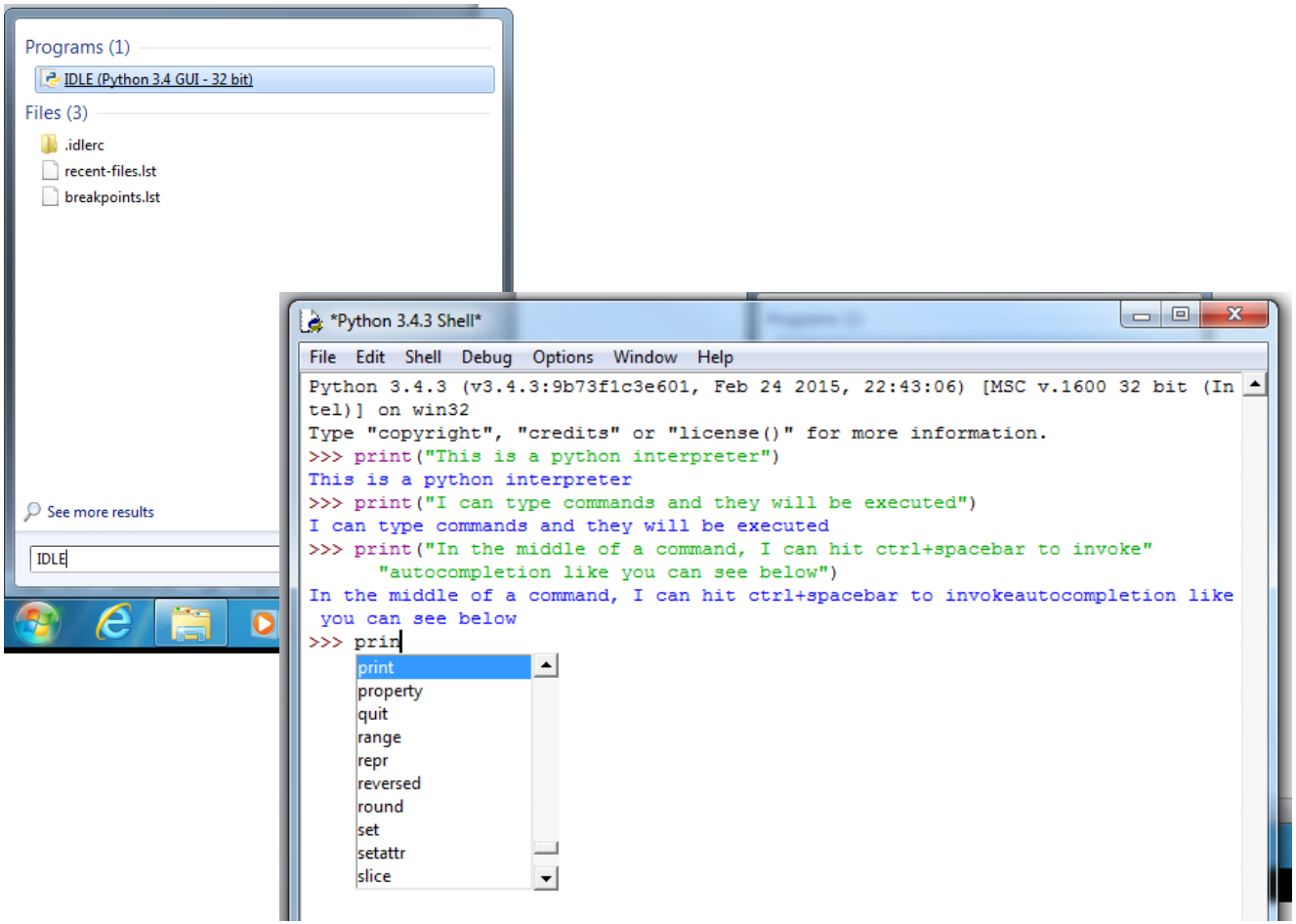


3. Follow the instructions. Install python for all the users. You can keep the default location, or you can change it. However, do allow the installer to add python to your PATH variable.

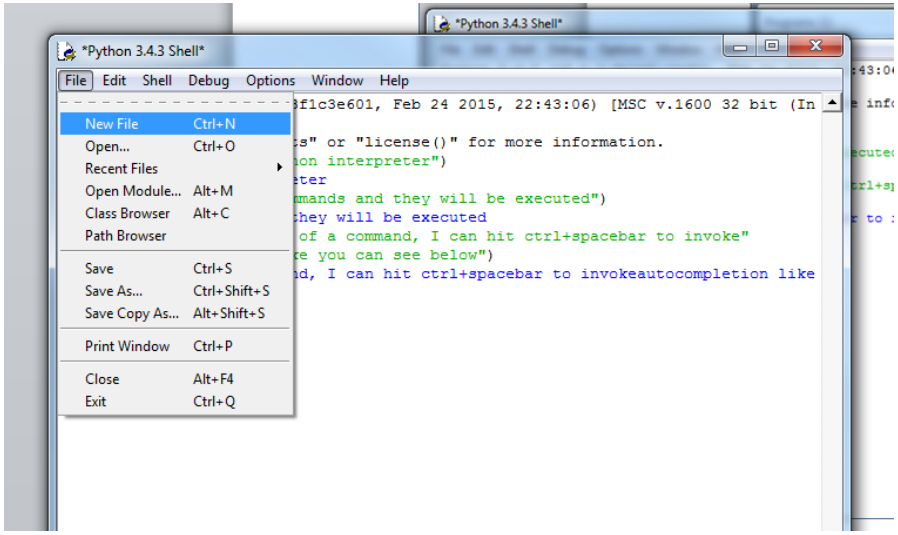


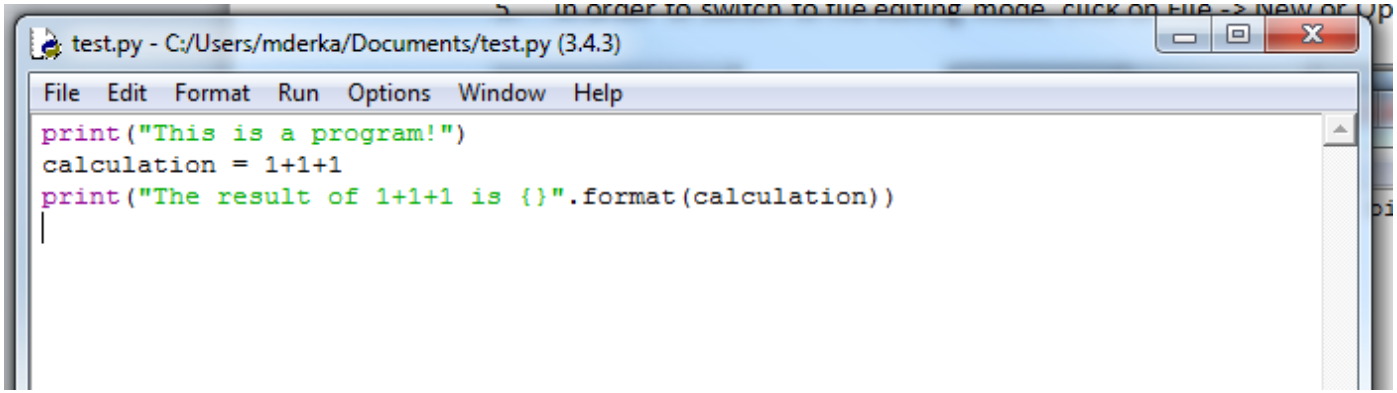

Python 3.4.3 Setup
Customize Python 3.4.3
Select the way you want features to be installed. Click on the icons in the tree below to change the way features will be installed.
Register Extensions
Tcl/Tk
Documentation
Utility Scripts
pip
Test suite
Add python.exe to Path
Will be installed on local hard drive
Entire feature will be installed on local hard drive
Entire feature will be unavailable
Prepend C:\Python34\ to the system Path variable. This allows you to type 'python' into a command prompt without needing the full path.
This feature requires 0KB on your hard drive.
python for windows
Disk Usage
Advanced
< Back
Next >
Cancel

4. Once you finish the installation, run IDLE. IDLE is a python interpreter which can be also used for editing programs. In the interpretation mode, every python command will be immediately executed. Note that IDLE supports automatic completion – you can any time hit ctrl+spacebar to invoke a context menu with suggestions for functions that you may have in mind.

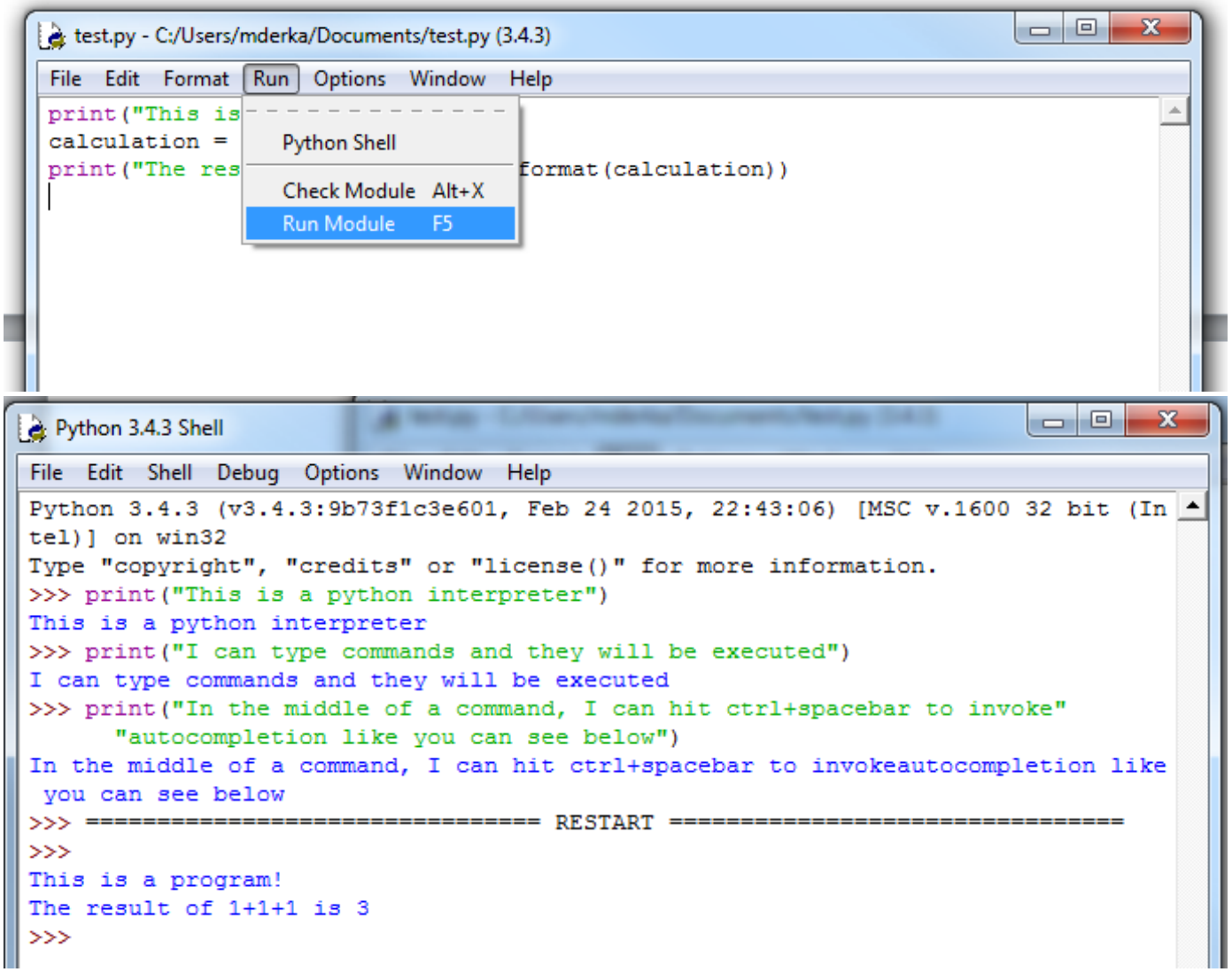


5. In order to switch to file editing mode, click on File -> New or Open. Then you can write a python source code.



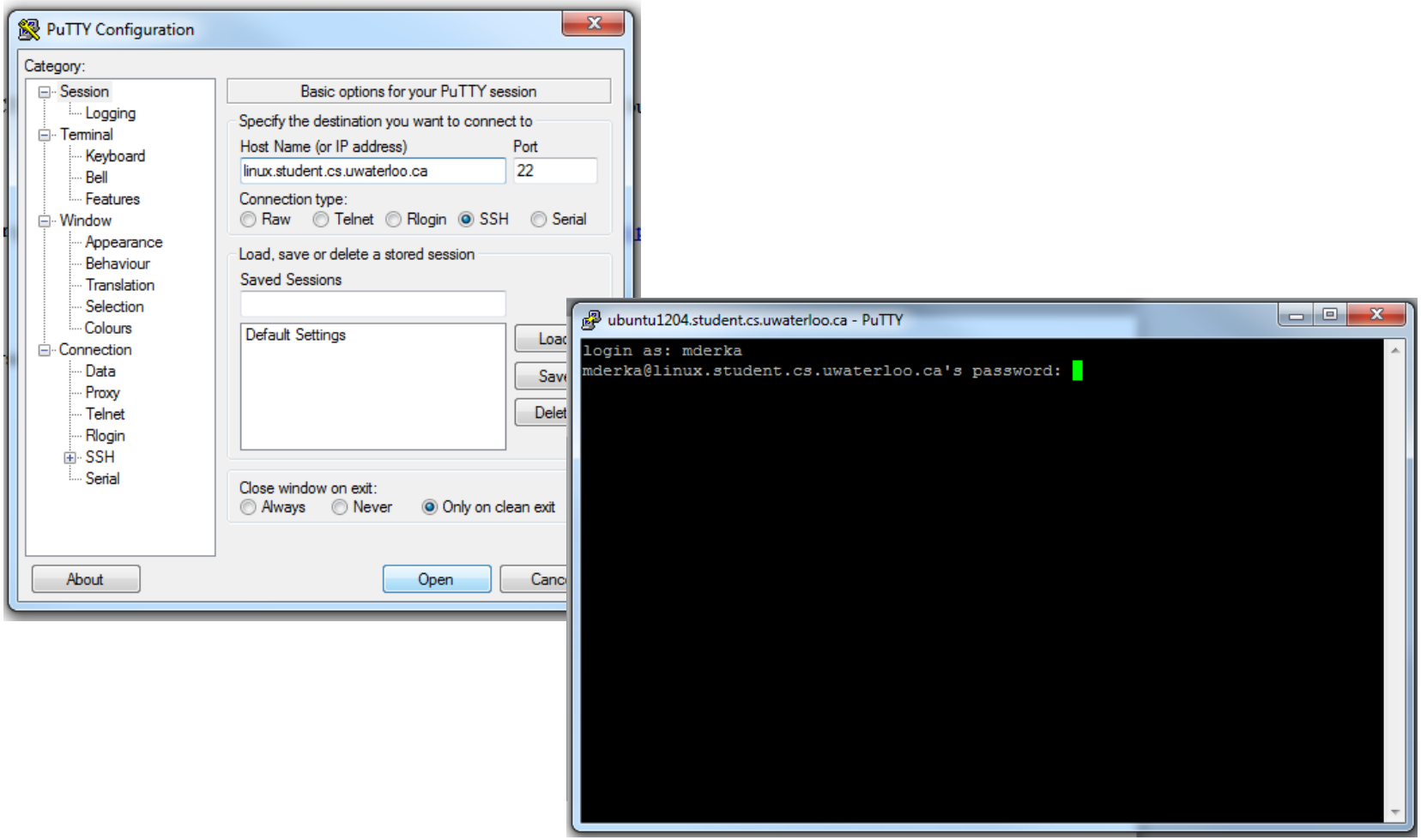


6. To execute your program, save your code and click on Run -> Run Module.



Using python on school's Linux servers

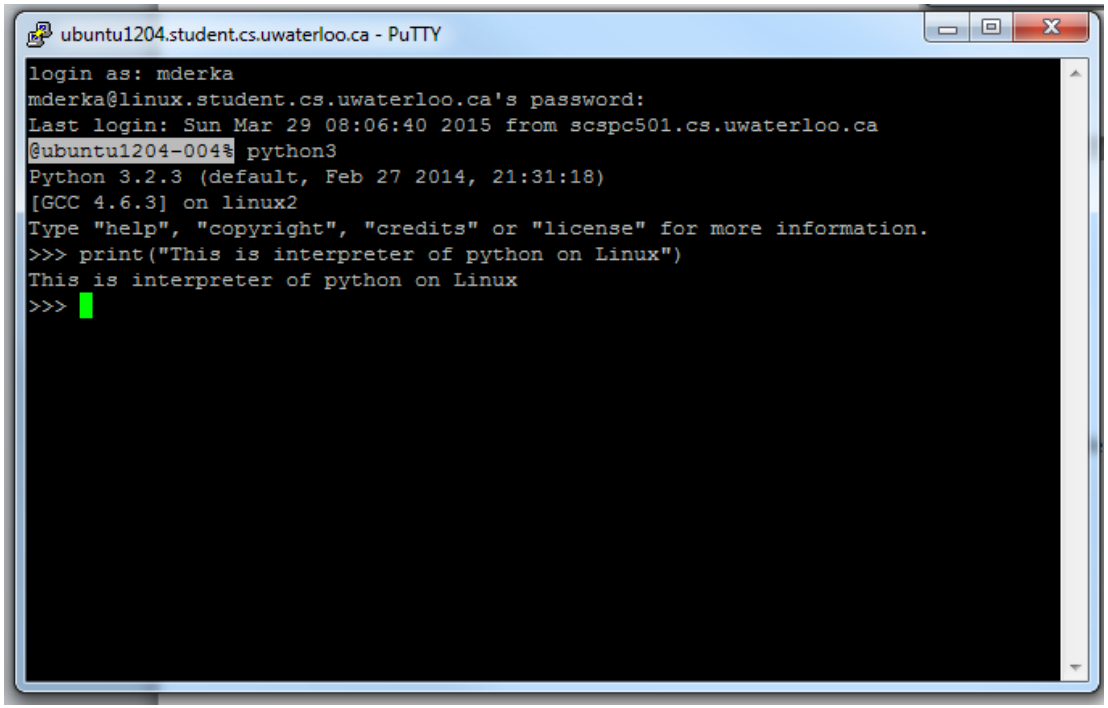
If you are on Windows, download putty from http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/download.html. Fill in linux.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca as host and click connect. If this is your first time connecting to the server, you may be asked to confirm the fingerprint of the server by clicking on 'Yes'. Then you will be prompted for your user name and password. Type both in. Note that your password will not be showing on the screen as you are type (a safety feature).



If you are on Mac on Linux, simply run Terminal or xterm and type:

```
ssh uwid@linux.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca
```

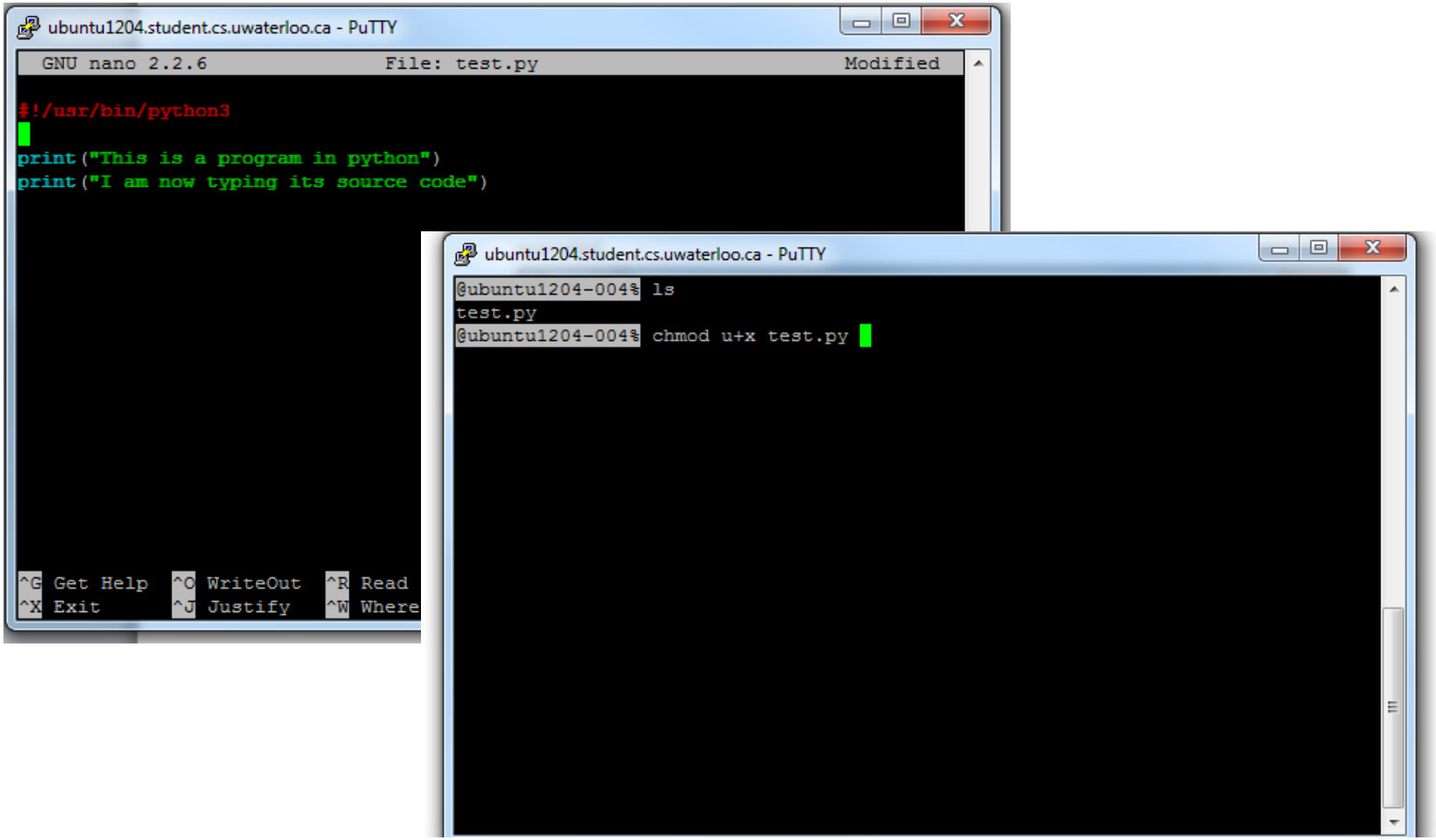
where uwid is your UW username. I would be typing mderka@linux.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca. You will be prompted for your password. Type it and hit enter. This logs you into the school server where python is already installed. You can start the interpreter by typing `python3` (do not forget about 3, it really is important!). Now you can enter python commands which will be immediately executed. You can exit by pressing ctrl+d.



To write programs, run you favourite editor, for instance `nano` (by typing `nano test.py`). Start the program by typing `#!/usr/bin/python3` on the very first line. This specifies what kind of program should be used to interpret this source code when executed. Then type your source code. Save it and make it executable by running

```
chmod u+x test.py
```

where `test.py` is the name of the program.



You can now execute the code by typing `./test.py` (make sure not to forget about the dot at the beginning).