Twitter Thread by Pratham Prasoon

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How to learn Python for machine learning. ■

The beginner's guide.
(based on my real life experience of mentoring 300+ students)

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In this thread we'll look at all the concepts in Python you need to know for machine learning along with all the free resources that you'll need.

All of this is based on my experience of successfully teaching 300+ students how to code using Python.

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You can use many languages for machine learning, why Python?

Because of 2 reasons:
- Comparatively easier to learn than other languages
- Has the biggest and most mature community

This makes Python a no-brainer to learn for machine learning as a beginner.

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These are the absolute basics which you must know about:

- Basic terminal commands
- Basic arithmetic (+,-,/,*)
- Accepting user input
- For & While loops
- Exception handling
- If-Else statements
- Functions, modules & Imports

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Then comes the more tougher concepts which you must know about:

- Object oriented programming in Python:Classes, Objects, Methods
- PIP (Pypi)
- List slicing
- String formatting
- Dictionaries & Tuples
- Managing environments
- Dunder methods like __init__

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This are even more advanced concepts but you do not need then to start machine learning:

- Lambda functions
- Built in libraries like CSV, requests, Sqlite
- Map and Filter
- *args and **kwargs
- Async
- Decorators

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From what I've observed, most beginners just find it really difficult just to get the Python environment setup and then using the terminal becomes an even bigger nightmare for them.

Let's tackle this issue.

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You need to install:
- Anaconda for managing environments (different versions of Python)
- Python3
- Machine learning packages like Sckit learn and TensorFlow using pip when needed

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Anaconda installation guide for ■

MacOS: ■docs.■anaconda.■com/anaconda/install/mac-os/
Windows: ■docs.■anaconda.■com/anaconda/install/windows/
Linux: ■docs.■anaconda.■com/anaconda/install/linux/

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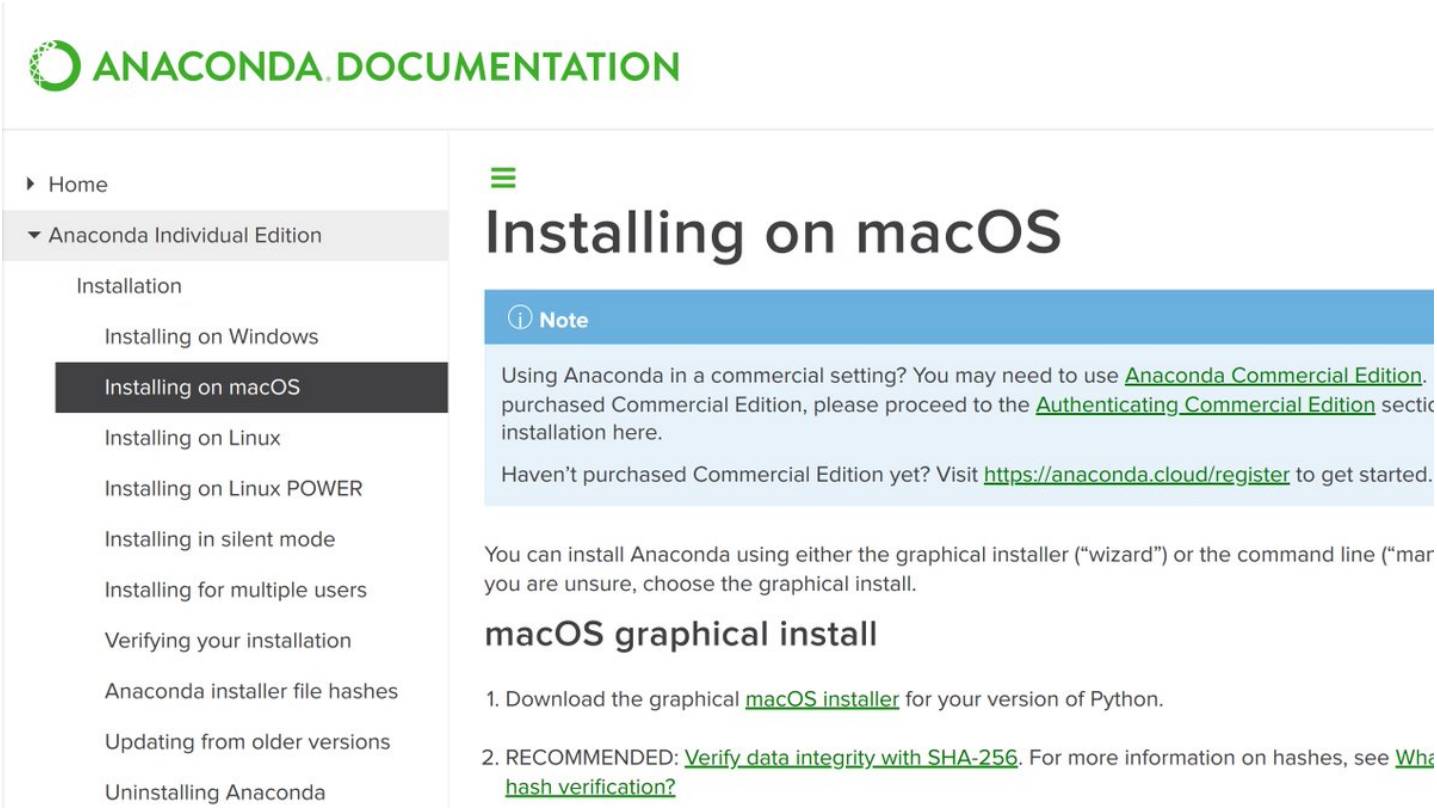

MacOS and Linux have Python pre-installed, for windows you'll have to install it yourself and it is really easy to mess up the install.

Here'a a guide with step by step instructions which will help you.
■bit.■ly/3rbDoyl

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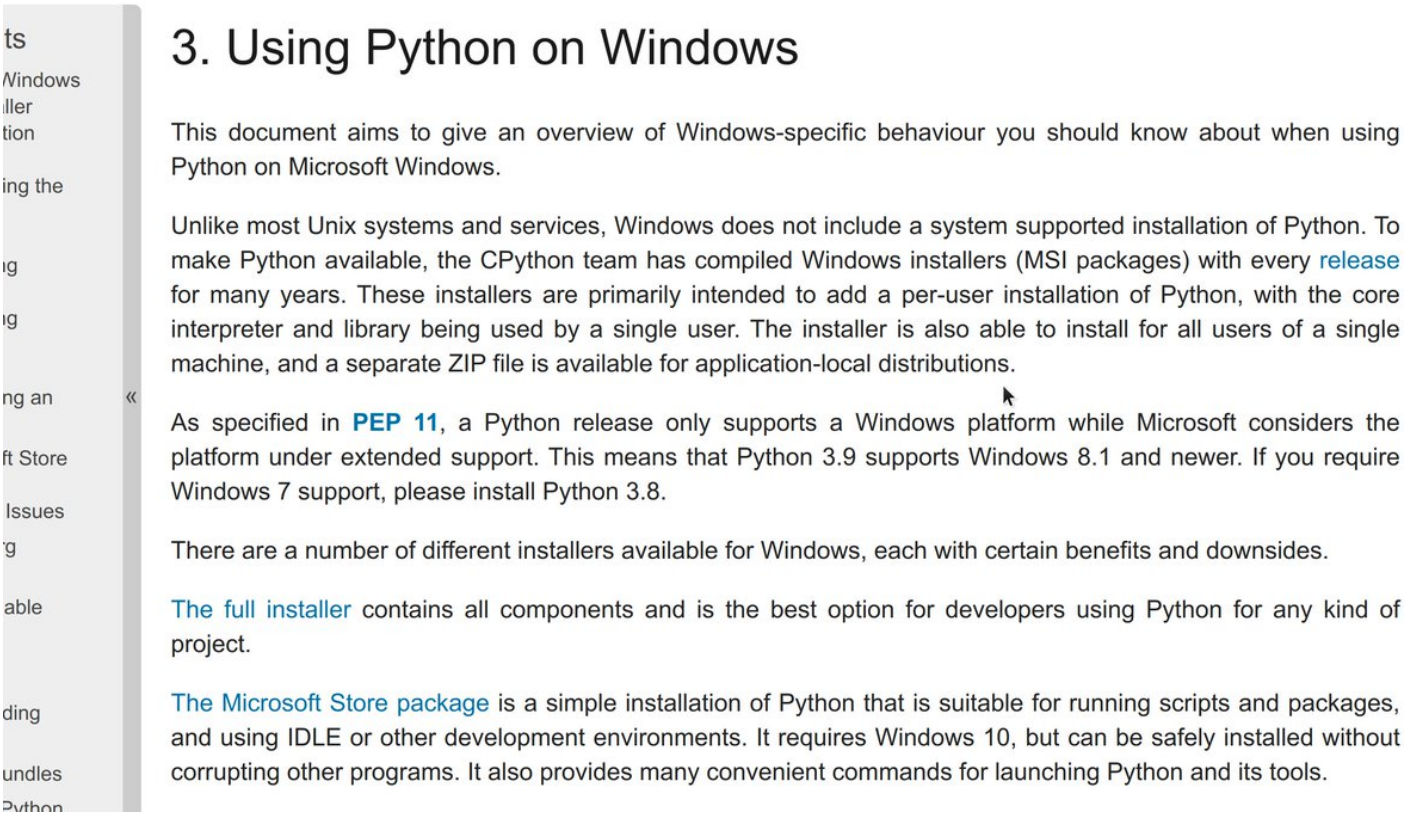

After you do all of that, you need a place to write your code which is called a "code editor".

Here are some popular ones

- VS code: Feature rich
- Sublime: Light and simple
- Jupyter: Useful for prototyping
- Pycharm: Full blown IDE i.■e has loads of features.

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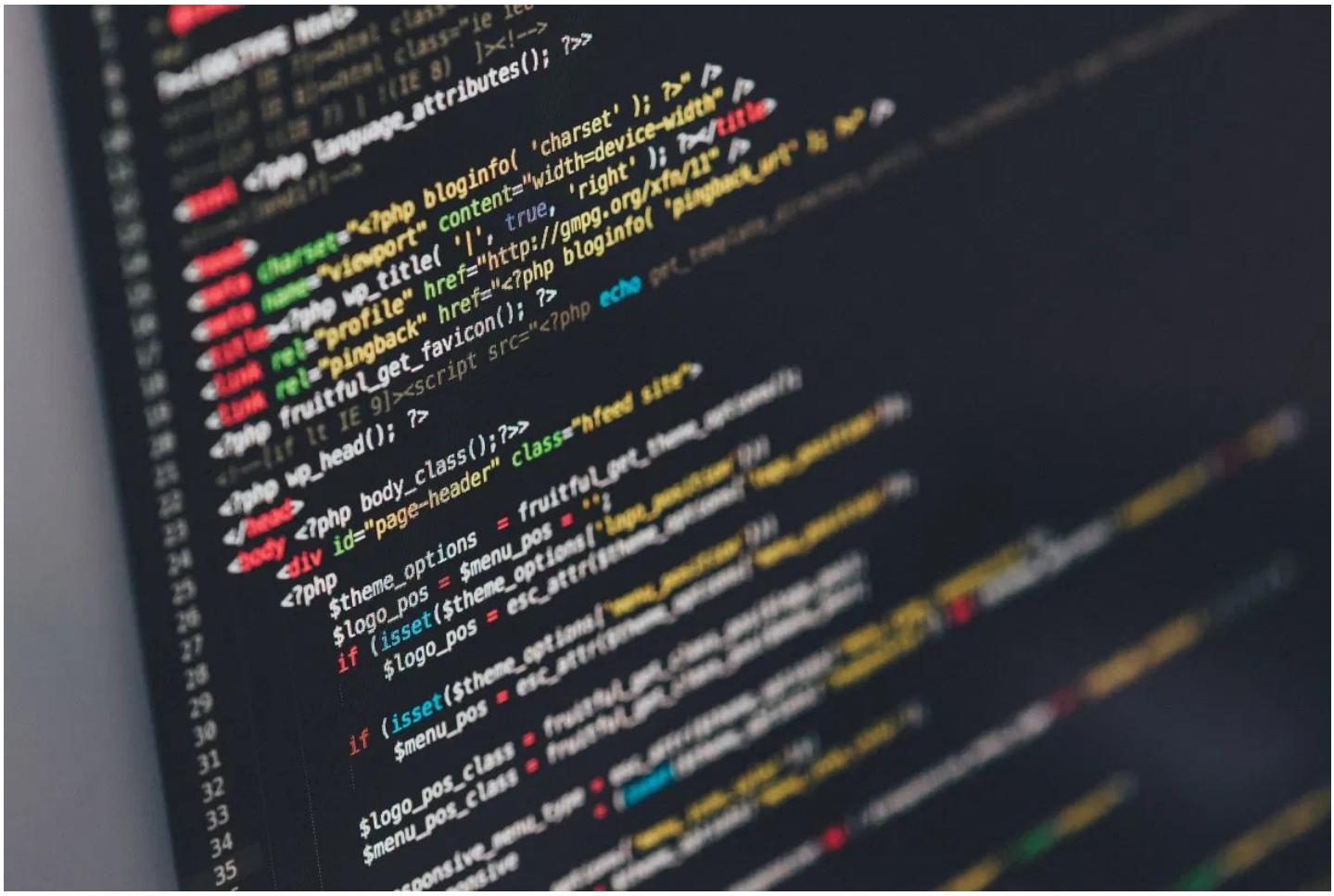

If all of that seems complicated to you, I suggest you use Google colab, Kagggle notebooks or repl.■it
These are online editors which have everything setup for you.

Not to mention colab and kaggle notebooks give you a free GPU for your machine learning workloads.

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Links for these editors

Collab : ■colab.■research.■google.■com
Kaggle Notebooks : ■kaggle.■com/notebooks/welcome
Repl : ■repl. it

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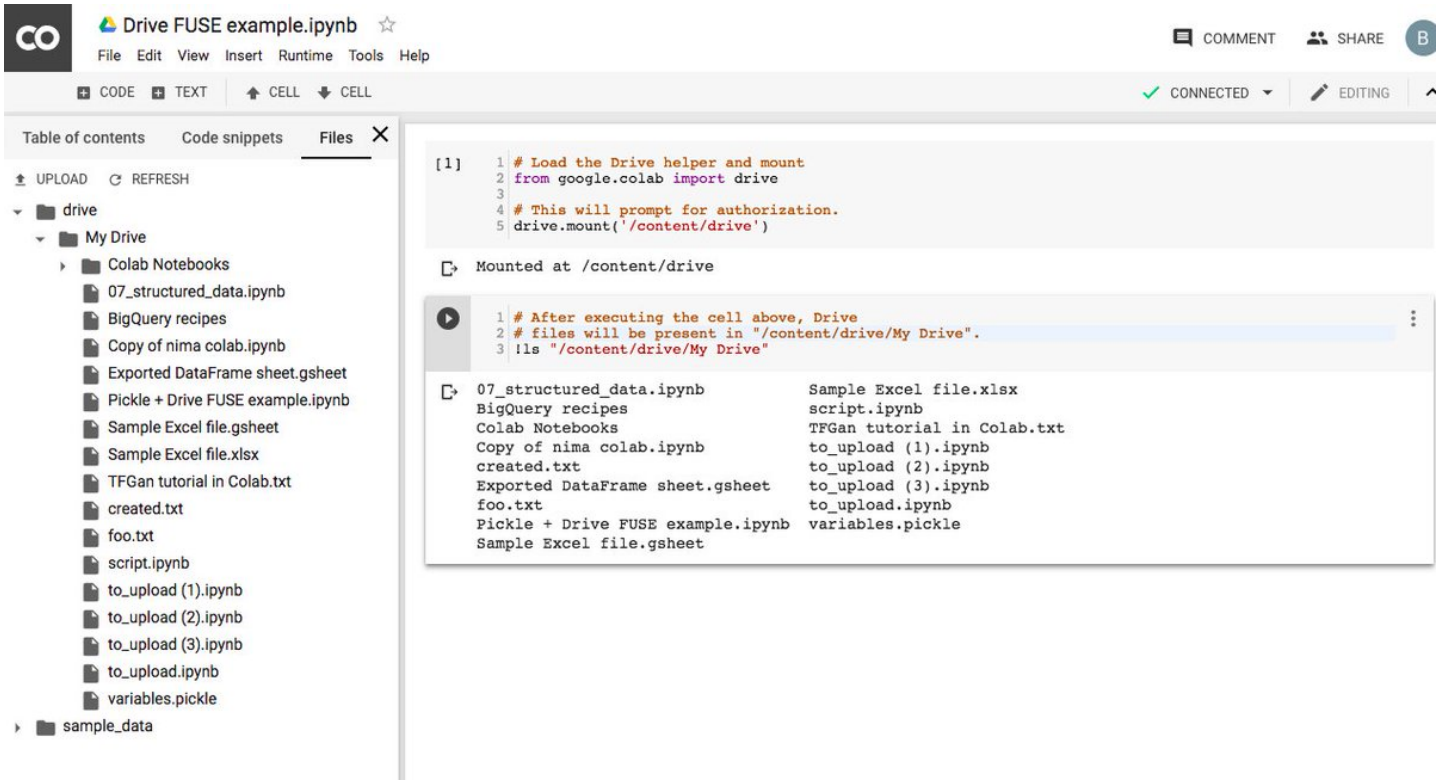

The Basic & Intermediate Python course on freecodecamp go over pretty much all Python concepts you need for machine learning which I have mentioned above.

Basics: ■youtube.■com/watch?v=rfscVS0vtbw
Intermediate: ■youtube.■com/watch?v=HGOBQPFzWKo

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Another thing which most beginners skip is knowing how to use the terminal properly and the know-how of navigating around folders.

Here's a brilliant website which gives you an overview of the windows command prompt, enough for you to get started.

■bit.■■ly/34tmnGd

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Windows Command Prompt in 15 Minutes

ı few Command Prompt commands that you will need to master to make it through COS 126. The following is a brief tutorial covering the most important

What is Command Prompt?

Prompt program allows you to work in an environment that looks more like a traditional operating system as opposed to the icon based Windows environm
l use your keyboard. You won't use your mouse at all. Command Prompt works at a lower level than Windows. This means that you will have more contro
sadvantage is that it is less user-friendly.

ıe command prompt in COS 126 to compile and execute your Java programs. Learning the Command Prompt also provides a gradual transition to Unix an
lent in science, engineering, and industry.

nand Prompt select *Start* -> *Run* and type `cmd` in the box.

Prompt shows up as a black terminal window. The *command prompt* should look something like:

ɔu type commands. The boldface type below (that follows the command prompt) is what you should type as you work through this tutorial. Windows does
ɔase. That means that command `cd` is the same as `CD`. It also means that, in Windows, file `HelloWorld.java` is the same as `helloworld.java`. This is NOT
ll be submitting your files. Be very careful!!!

Some Useful Commands

› compile a Java program, use the `javac` command. Your program should compile without any errors or warnings (or if there are warnings be absolutely su
flaw in your program).

```
>javac HelloWorld.java
```

The story is a bit different on Linux and Mac, their terminals are extremely powerful and packed to the brim with features, here's a tutorial which will help you get started with the basics ■

■■youtube.■com/watch?v=oxuRxtrO2Ag

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Keep in mind that you should learn how to use the linux terminal because at some point in your machine learning journey you will have to deal with linux.

It is not important to learn it at the start but I do recommend it.

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This tutorial will help you in knowing how to work with folders, this is important!

Windows: ■youtube.■com/watch?v=HDmwiJxzIrw
Mac: ■youtube.■com/watch?v=3TAEC-1YUZw
Linux: ■youtube.■com/watch?v=HbgzrKJvDRw

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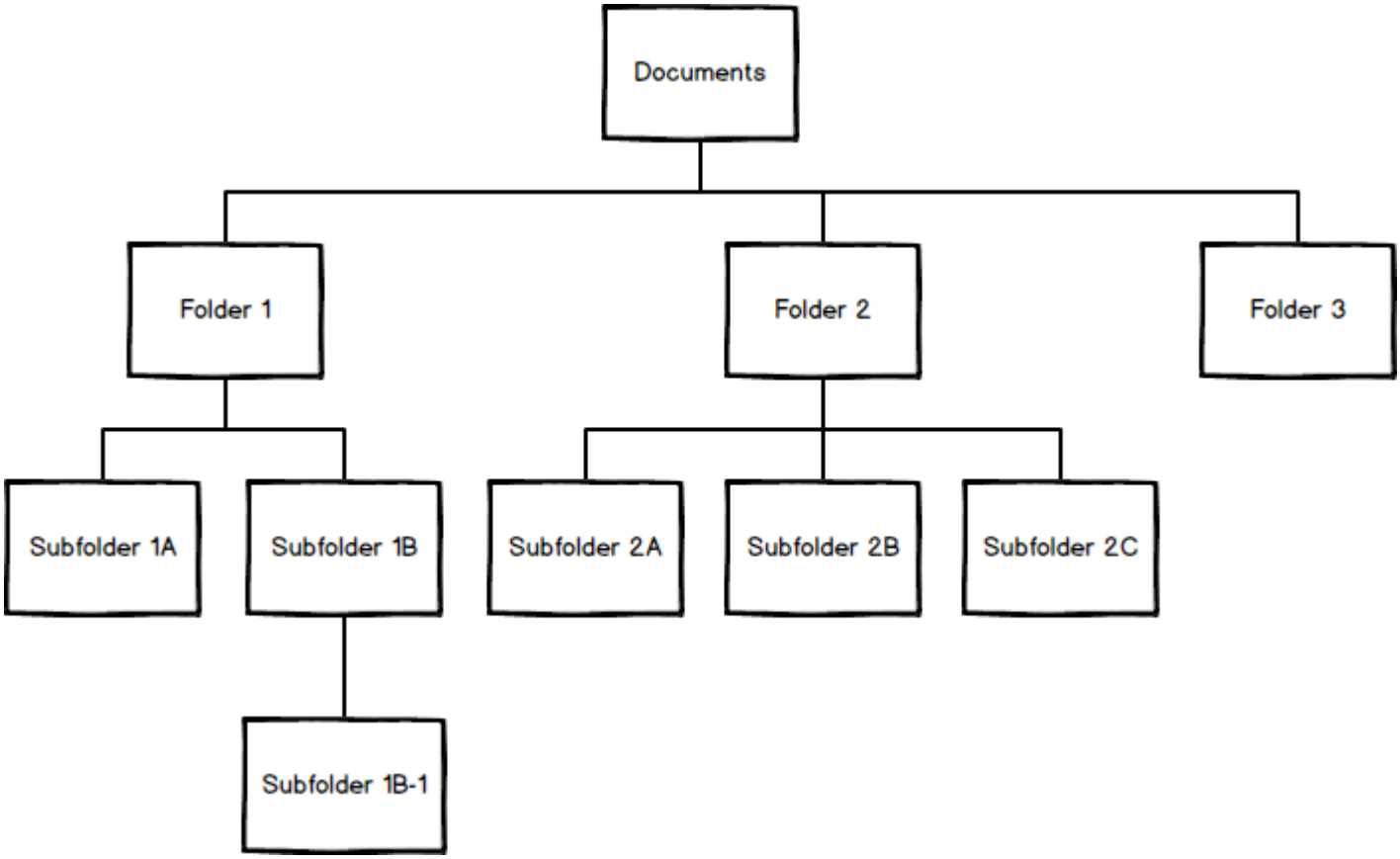
Documents
Folder 1
Folder 2
Folder 3
Subfolder 1A
Subfolder 1B
Subfolder 2A
Subfolder 2B
Subfolder 2C
Subfolder 1B-1