

Letter from the Editor



G'day Pythonistas! Welcome to Issue Two of *The Python Papers*. It has been an exciting time and we are pleased to have reached this milestone.

The last few months have involved a lot of effort connecting with many groups within the Python community. I'd like to say a big hello to all the people who have provided their input in making this a reality: the *python-advocacy* list, *comp.lang.python*, the Python User Groups that responded to the call to participate and also many individuals.

The effort to support and assist in the growth of the Python community is an ongoing one. One way to help in this process would be to build a strong presence of Python developers in various online networks. One that springs to mind is LinkedIn¹, a job-related social networking site.

If we could encourage Python developers to start adding each-other to their LinkedIn network, then we should be able to create a well-connected developer network with business and industry contacts. This should benefit everyone -- both people looking for Python developers, and also people looking for work.

This effort has already begun online, with many from the *python-advocacy* list linking to each-other, and word is also leaking into the blogosphere².

The idea is that Python developers link to other people they know personally (including via online groups). Just a few such connections could put more Python developers within a few degrees of separation of a huge network of employers and social contacts.

The benefits of this are manifold: each individual is connected to more people who might be able to help them in future, both from the client and employer side; Python developers generally become a well-connected resource, making Python more visible to the community at large and potentially helping to drive its acceptance and adoption.

This is also the first issue where we have attempted to publish both a PDF and an HTML edition. The choice of format was clearly an issue for many people on both sides. Going forward, we will continue to use PDF as our primary 'authoritative' version for the purposes of page numbering and referencing, however the HTML editions will be made public in order to reach a wider audience.

Stop Press – Contribute and win!

We are also now able to announce that we have a free license to Wing IDE, a fantastic Python development environment created by Wingware³. In order to win a 3-OS license for this software, all you have to do is contribute an article⁴ to the next edition of The Python Papers. Keep your eyes out next edition to see if you are the lucky winner!

Introducing The Team

Tennessee Leeuwenburg – Editor-in-Chief

Tennessee Leeuwenburg is a software developer working at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology on automatic text generation of weather forecasts. Prior to this he spent time working on meteorological data transfer standards in the form of the OpenDAP database system.

1 <http://www.linkedin.com/>

2 <http://agiletesting.blogspot.com/2007/01/connecting-to-people-on-linkedin.html>

3 <http://wingide.com/>

4 Contributors must not be on the editorial board to be eligible

Maurice Ling – Associate Editor

Maurice Ling is a PhD candidate in the department of Zoology of the University of Melbourne working on text analysis of biological literature for the purpose of understanding hormone interactions in the mouse mammary cell.

Richard Jones – Associate Editor

Richard is [Common Ground's](http://commongroundgroup.com/)⁵ senior software developer with 10 years of broad experience working with multiple languages and tools in web-based management systems, data archive, meta-data systems, business systems, e-commerce and communications. He also runs the bi-annual [PyWeek Game Programming Challenge](http://www.pyweek.org/)⁶ and is involved with the organisation of the [Open Source Developer's Conference](http://osdc.com.au/)⁷ in Melbourne, Australia.

Stephanie Chong – Design Assistant

One of Stephanie's first comments regarding the The Python Papers was “how can we make it prettier?” We hired her on the spot.

Stephanie is currently studying Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne.

Contacting The Python Papers

The editors may be contacted via email at:

editor@pythonpapers.org

We are always looking for new writers for *The Python Papers*. If you would like to contribute an opinion piece, an article, participate in an interview or submit a paper for review and publication, please don't hesitate to contact us.

5 <http://commongroundgroup.com/>

6 <http://www.pyweek.org/>

7 <http://osdc.com.au/>