

Useful Python Libraries for Network Engineers

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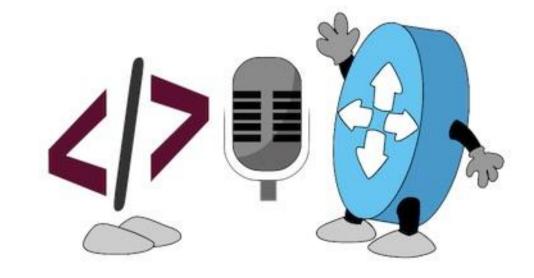
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Season 1, Talk 1

https://developer.cisco.com/netdevops/live

What are we going to talk about?

- Libraries to Work with Data
- API Libraries
- Configuration Management Tools and Libraries
- · Some Other Cool Python Stuff





Libraries to Work with Data

Manipulating Data of All Formats

- XML xmltodict
 - pip install xmltodict import xmltodict
- · JSON
 - import json
- · YAML PyYAML
 - pip install PyYAML import yaml

- · CSV
- · import csv
- · YANG pyang
 - import pyang



Treat XML like Python Dictionaries with xmltodict

- Easily work with XML data
- Convert from XML -> Dict* and back
 - xmltodict.parse(xml_data)
 - xmltodict.unparse(dict)
- Python includes a native <u>Markup</u> (html/xml) interfaces as well
 - More powerful, but also more complex

* Technically to an OrderedDict

```
# Import the xmltodict library
import <u>xmltodict</u>
# Open the sample xml file and read it into variable
with open ("xml example.xml") as f:
    xml example = f.read()
# Print the raw XML data
print(xml example)
# Parse the XML into a Python dictionary
xml dict = xmltodict.parse(xml example)
# Save the interface name into a variable using XML nodes as
int name = xml dict["interface"]["name"]
# Print the interface name
print(int name)
# Change the IP address of the interface
xml dict["interface"]["ipv4"]["address"]["ip"] = "192.168.0.2"
# Revert to the XML string version of the dictionary
print(xmltodict.unparse(xml dict))
```







To JSON and back again with json

- JSON and Python go together like peanut butter and jelly
 - json.loads(json data)
 - json.dumps(object)
- JSON Objects convert to Dictionaries
- JSON Arrays convert to Lists

```
# Import the jsontodict library
import json
# Open the sample json file and read it into variable
with open ("json example.json") as f:
    json example = f.read()
# Print the raw json data
print(json example)
# Parse the json into a Python dictionary
json dict = json.loads(json example)
# Save the interface name into a variable
int_name = json_dict["interface"]["name"]
# Print the interface name
print(int name)
# Change the IP address of the interface
json dict["interface"]["ipv4"]["address"][0]["ip"] = \
   "192.168.0.2"
# Revert to the json string version of the dictionary
print(json.dumps(json dict))
```



YAML? Yep, Python Can Do That Too!

- Easily convert a YAML file to a Python Object
 - yaml.load(yaml_data)
 - yaml.dump(object)
- YAML Objects become Dictionaries
- YAML Lists become Lists

```
# Import the yamltodict library
import yaml
# Open the sample yaml file and read it into variable
with open ("yaml example.yaml") as f:
    yaml example = f.read()
# Print the raw yaml data
print(yaml example)
# Parse the yaml into a Python dictionary
yaml dict = yaml.load(yaml example)
# Save the interface name into a variable
int name = yaml dict["interface"]["name"]
# Print the interface name
print(int name)
# Change the IP address of the interface
yaml dict["interface"]["ipv4"]["address"][0]["ip"] = \
   "192.168.0.2"
# Revert to the yaml string version of the dictionary
print(yaml.dump(yaml dict, default flow style=False))
```



Import Spreadsheets and Data with csv

- Treat CSV data as listscsv.reader(file_object)
- Efficiently processes large files without memory issues
- Options for header rows and different formats

```
# Import the csv library
import <u>csv</u>
# Open the sample csv file and print it to screen
with open ("csv example.csv") as f:
    print(f.read())
# Open the sample csv file, and create a csv.reader
object
with open ("csv example.csv") as f:
    csv python = csv.reader(f)
    # Loop over each row in csv and leverage the data
    # in code
    for row in csv python:
        print("{device} is in {location} " \
              "and has IP {ip}.".format(
                  device = row[0],
                  location = row[2],
                  ip = row[1]
```



YANG Data Modeling Language - IETF Standard

- Module that is a self-contained top-level hierarchy of nodes
- Uses containers to group related nodes
- Lists to identify nodes that are stored in sequence
- Each individual attribute of a node is represented by a leaf
- Every leaf must have an associated type

```
module ietf-interfaces {
  import ietf-yang-types {
    prefix yang;
  container interfaces {
    list interface {
      key "name";
      leaf name {
        type string;
      leaf enabled {
        type boolean;
        default "true";
```

Example edited for simplicity and brevity



Investigate YANG Models with pyang

- Working in native YANG can be challenging
- pyang is a Python library for validating and working with YANG files
- Excellent for network developers working with NETCONF/RESTCONF/gRPC
- Quickly understand the key operational view of a model

```
echo "Print the YANG module in a simple text tree"
pyang -f tree ietf-interfaces.yang
echo "Print only part of the tree"
pyang -f tree --tree-path=/interfaces/interface \
 ietf-interfaces.yang
echo "Print an example XML skeleton (NETCONF)"
pyang -f sample-xml-skeleton ietf-interfaces.yang
echo "Create an HTTP/JS view of the YANG Model"
pyang -f jstree -o ietf-interfaces.html \
 ietf-interfaces.yang
open ietf-interfaces.html
echo 'Control the "nested depth" in trees'
pyang -f tree --tree-depth=2 ietf-ip.yang
echo "Include deviation models in the processing"
pyang -f tree \
 --deviation-module=cisco-xe-ietf-ip-deviation.yang \
 ietf-ip.yang
```



API Libraries

Access Different APIs Easily

- REST APIs requests
 - pip install requests import requests
- NETCONF <u>ncclient</u>
 - pip install ncclient import ncclient

- Network CLI <u>netmiko</u>
 - pip install netmiko import netmiko
- · SNMP <u>PySNMP</u>
 - pip install pysnmp import pysnmp



Make HTTP Calls with Ease using "requests"

- Full HTTP Client
- Simplifies authentication, headers, and response tracking
- Great for REST API calls, or any HTTP request
- Network uses include RESTCONF, native REST APIs, JSON-RPC





Requests is an elegant and simple HTTP library for Python, built for human beings.

Sponsored by Linode and other wonderful organizations.



Requests Stickers!

Stay Informed

Receive updates on new

Requests: HTTP for Humans

Release v2.19.1. (Installation)









Requests is the only Non-GMO HTTP library for Python, safe for human consumption.

Note:

The use of **Python 3** is *highly* preferred over Python 2. Consider upgrading your applications and infrastructure if you find yourself still using Python 2 in production today. If you are using Python 3, congratulations — you are indeed a person of excellent taste. -Kenneth Reitz

Behold, the power of Requests:

```
>>> r = requests.get('https://api.github.com/user', auth=('user', 'pass'))
>>> r.status_code
>>> r.headers['content-type']
'application/json; charset=utf8'
>>> r.encoding
'utf-8'
>>> r.text
u'{"type":"User"...'
{u'private_gists': 419, u'total_private_repos': 77, ...}
```

See similar code, sans Requests.

Requests allows you to send organic, grass-fed HTTP/1.1 requests, without the need for manual labor. There's no need to manually add query strings to your URLs, or to form-encode your POST data. Keep-alive and HTTP connection pooling are 100% automatic, thanks to urllib3.



Example: Retrieving Configuration Details with RESTCONF

RESTCONF: Basic Request for Device Data 1/2

```
# Import libraries
import requests, urllib3
import sys
# Add parent directory to path to allow importing common vars
sys.path.append("..") # noqa
from <u>device info</u> import ios xel as device # noga
# Disable Self-Signed Cert warning for demo
urllib3.disable warnings(urllib3.exceptions.InsecureRequestWarning)
# Setup base variable for request
restconf headers = { "Accept": "application/yang-data+json" }
restconf base = "https://{ip}:{port}/restconf/data"
interface url = restconf base + "/ietf-interfaces:interfaces/interface={int name}"
```

Code edited for display on slide

RESTCONF: Basic Request for Device Data 2/2

```
# Create URL and send RESTCONF request to core1 for GigE2 Config
url = interface url.format(ip = device["address"], port = device["restconf port"],
                           int name = "GigabitEthernet2"
r = requests.qet(url,
        headers = restconf headers,
        auth=(device["username"], device["password"]),
        verify=False)
# Print returned data
print(r.text)
# Process JSON data into Python Dictionary and use
interface = r.json()["ietf-interfaces:interface"]
print("The interface {name} has ip address {ip}/{mask}".format(
      name = interface["name"],
      ip = interface["ietf-ip:ipv4"]["address"][0]["ip"],
      mask = interface["ietf-ip:ipv4"]["address"][0]["netmask"],
```

Example: Updating Configuration with RESTCONF

RESTCONF: Creating a New Loopback 1/2

```
# Setup base variable for request
restconf headers["Content-Type"] = "application/yang-data+json"
# New Loopback Details
loopback = {"name": "Loopback101",
            "description": "Demo interface by RESTCONF",
            "ip": "192.168.101.1",
            "netmask": "255.255.255.0"}
# Setup data body to create new loopback interface
data = {
    "ietf-interfaces:interface": {
        "name": loopback["name"],
        "description": loopback["description"],
        "type": "iana-if-type:softwareLoopback",
        "enabled": True,
        "ietf-ip:ipv4": {
            "address": [
                {"ip": loopback["ip"],
                 "netmask": loopback["netmask"]}
```

Only showing significant code changes

device_apis/rest/restconf_example2.py

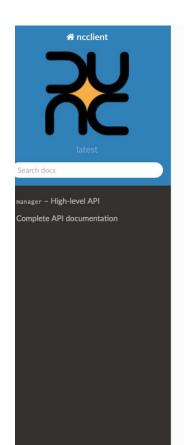


RESTCONF: Creating a New Loopback 2/2

```
# Create URL and send RESTCONF request to core1 for GigE2 Config
url = interface url.format(ip = core1 ip, int name = loopback["name"])
r = requests.put(url,
        headers = restconf headers,
        auth=(username, password),
        json = data,
        verify=False)
# Print returned data
print("Request Status Code: {}".format(r.status_code))
```

Easily Interface with NETCONF and ncclient

- Full NETCONF Manager (ie client) implementation in Python
 - See later presentation on NETCONF details
- Handles all details including authentication, RPC, and operations
- Deals in raw XML



Docs » Welcome

C Edit on GitHub

Welcome

ncclient is a Python library for NETCONF clients. It aims to offer an intuitive API that sensibly maps the XML-encoded nature of NETCONF to Python constructs and idioms, and make writing network-management scripts easier. Other key features are:

- Supports all operations and capabilities defined in RFC 4741.
- Request pipelining.
- · Asynchronous RPC requests.
- Keeping XML out of the way unless really needed.
- Extensible. New transport mappings and capabilities/operations can be easily added.

The best way to introduce is through a simple code example:

```
from ncclient import manager

# use unencrypted keys from ssh-agent or ~/.ssh keys, and rely on known_hosts
with manager.connect_ssh("host", username="user") as m:
    assert(":url" in m.server_capabilities)
    with m.locked("running"):
        m.copy_config(source="running", target="file:///new_checkpoint.conf")
        m.copy_config(source="file:///old_checkpoint.conf", target="running")
```

As of version 0.4 there has been an integration of Juniper's and Cisco's forks. Thus, lots of new concepts have been introduced that ease management of Juniper and Cisco devices respectively. The biggest change is the introduction of device handlers in connection params. For example to invoke Juniper's functions and params one has to re-write the above with device_params= {'name':'junos'}:



Example: Retrieving Configuration Details with NETCONF

NETCONF: Basic Request for Device Data 1/2

```
# Import libraries
from <u>ncclient</u> import manager
import xmltodict
# Create filter template for an interface
interface filter = """
<filter>
  <interfaces xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-interfaces">
    <interface>
      <name>{int name}</name>
    </interface>
  </interfaces>
</filter>
** ** **
```

Code edited for display on slide

NETCONF: Basic Request for Device Data 2/2

```
# Open NETCONF connection to device
with manager.connect(host=core1 ip, username=username, password=password,
                    hostkey verify=False) as m:
    # Create desired NETCONF filter and <get-config>
   filter = interface filter.format(int name = "GigabitEthernet2")
   r = m.get config("running", filter)
    # Process the XML data into Python Dictionary and use
   interface = xmltodict.parse(r.xml)
   interface = interface["rpc-reply"]["data"]["interfaces"]["interface"]
   print("The interface {name} has ip address {ip}/{mask}".format(
            name = interface["name"]["#text"],
            ip = interface["ipv4"]["address"]["ip"],
            mask = interface["ipv4"]["address"]["netmask"],
```

Code edited for display on slide

_device_apis/netconf/netconf_example1.py



Example: Updating Configuration with NETCONF

NETCONF: Creating a New Loopback 1/2

```
# Create config template for an interface
config data = """<config>
 <interfaces xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-interfaces">
     <interface>
       <name>{int name}</name>
        <description>{description}</description>
        <type xmlns:ianaift="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:iana-if-type">
          ianaift:softwareLoopback
        </type>
        <enabled>true</enabled>
        <ipv4 xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:yang:ietf-ip">
          <address>
            <ip>{qi}</ip>
            <netmask>{netmask}</netmask>
          </address>
        </ipv4>
     </interface>
 </interfaces>
</confiq>
77 77 77
```

Only showing significant code changes

DEVNET developer.cisco.com

device_apis/netconf/netconf_example2.py

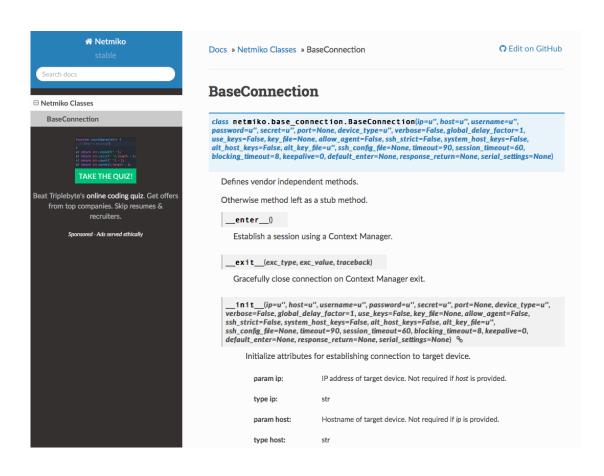
NETCONF: Creating a New Loopback 2/2

```
# New Loopback Details
loopback = {"int name": "Loopback102",
            "description": "Demo interface by NETCONF",
            "ip": "192.168.102.1",
            "netmask": "255.255.255.0"}
# Open NETCONF connection to device
with manager.connect(host=core1 ip,
                    username=username,
                    password=password,
                    hostkey verify=False) as m:
    # Create desired NETCONF config payload and <edit-config>
   config = config data.format(**loopback)
    r = m.edit config(target = "running", config = config)
    # Print OK status
   print("NETCONF RPC OK: {}".format(r.ok))
```

Only showing significant code changes

For When CLI is the Only Option - netmiko

- If no other API is available...
- Builds on paramiko library for SSH connectivity
- Support for a range of vendors network devices and operating systems
- Send and receive clear text
 - Post processing of data will be key





Example: Retrieving Configuration Details with CLI

CLI: Basic Request for Device Data 1/3

```
# Import libraries
from <u>netmiko</u> import ConnectHandler
import <u>re</u>
import sys
# Add parent directory to path to allow importing common vars
sys.path.append("..") # noga
from device info import ios_xe1 as device # noqa
# Set device type for netmiko
device["device type"] = "cisco_ios"
# Create a CLI command template
show interface config temp = "show running-config interface {}"
```

Code edited for display on slide

CLI: Basic Request for Device Data 2/3

```
# Open CLI connection to device
with ConnectHandler(ip = device["address"],
                    port = device["ssh port"],
                    username = device["username"],
                    password = device["password"],
                    device type = device["device type"]) as ch:
    # Create desired CLT command and send to device
   command = show interface config temp.format("GigabitEthernet2")
    interface = ch.send command(command)
    # Print the raw command output to the screen
   print(interface)
```

Code edited for display on slide

CLI: Basic Request for Device Data 3/3

Code edited for display on slide

Example: Updating Configuration with CLI

CLI: Creating a New Loopback

```
# New Loopback Details
loopback = {"int name": "Loopback103",
            "description": "Demo interface by CLI and netmiko",
            "ip": "192.168.103.1",
            "netmask": "255.255.255.0"}
# Create a CLI configuration
interface config = [
   "interface {}".format(loopback["int name"]),
   "description {}".format(loopback["description"]),
   "ip address {} ".format(loopback["ip"], loopback["netmask"]),
    "no shut"]
# Open CLI connection to device
with ConnectHandler(ip=core1["ip"],
                    username=username,
                    password=password,
                    device type=core1["device type"]) as ch:
    # Send configuration to device
   output = ch.send config set(interface config)
```

Only showing significant code changes

device_apis/cli/netmiko_example2.py



SNMP, a classic network interface with PySNMP

- Support for both GET and TRAP communications
- Can be a bit complex to write and leverage
 - Examples are available
- Data returned in custom objects



Brewing free software for the greater good





Navigation

Quick start

Documentation Library reference

Example scripts

Download PySNMP

License

SNMP library for Python

PySNMP is a cross-platform, pure-Python SNMP engine implementation. It features fully-functional SNMP engine capable to act in Agent/Manager/Proxy roles, talking SNMP v1/v2c/v3 protocol versions over IPv4/IPv6 and other network transports.

Despite its name, SNMP is not really a simple protocol. For instance its third version introduces complex and open-ended security framework, multilingual capabilities, remote configuration and other features. PvSNMP implementation closely follows intricate system details and features bringing most possible power and flexibility to its users.

Current PySNMP stable version is 4.4. It runs with Python 2.4 through 3.7 and is recommended for new applications as well as for migration from older, now obsolete, PyS-NMP releases. All site documentation and examples are written for the 4.4 and later versions in mind. Older materials are still available under the obsolete section.

Besides the libraries, a set of pure-Python command-line tools are shipped along with the system. Those tools mimic the interface and behaviour of popular Net-SNMP snmpget/snmpset/snmpwalk utilities. They may be useful in a cross-platform situations as well as a testing and prototyping instrument for pysnmp users.

PySNMP software is free and open-source. Source code is hosted in a Github repo. The library is being distributed under 2-clause BSD-style license.

PySNMP library development has been initially sponsored by a PSF grant.



Example: Making an SNMP Query

SNMP: Basic SNMP Query

```
# Setup SNMP connection and query a MIB
literator = getCmd(SnmpEngine(),
                  CommunityData(ro community),
                  UdpTransportTarget((device["address"], device["snmp port"])),
                  ContextData(),
                  ObjectType (ObjectIdentity ('SNMPv2-MIB', 'sysDescr', 0)))
# Process the query
errorIndication, errorStatus, errorIndex, varBinds = next(iterator)
# Check for errors, and if OK, print returned result
if errorIndication: # SNMP engine errors
   print(errorIndication)
else:
    if errorStatus: # SNMP agent errors
        print('%s at %s' % (errorStatus.prettyPrint(),
                            varBinds[int(errorIndex)-1] if errorIndex else '?'))
    else:
        for varBind in varBinds: # SNMP response contents
            print(' = '.join([x.prettyPrint() for x in varBind]))
```

Code edited for display on slide

device_apis/snmp/pysnmp_example1.py



Configuration Management Tools and Libraries

Open Source Python projects for full network config management

Designed for Network Automation

NAPALM

 Library providing a standard set of functions for working with different network OS's

• Nornir

 New automation framework focused on being Python native.
 Can leverage other tools like NAPALM.

Designed for Server Automation

Ansible

 Declarative, agent-less automation framework for managing configuration. Robust support for network platforms

Salt

 Configuration management and remote code execution engine. Network automation options in development.



NAPALM – Mature Python Library for Multi-Vendor Interactions

- Robust configuration management options
 - Replace, Merge, Compare, Commit, Discard, Rollback
- Builds on available backend libraries and interfaces (CLI, NX-API, NETCONF, etc)
- Can be used and integrated into other tools (ie Ansible, Nornir)



NAPALM

NAPALM (Network Automation and Programmability Abstraction Layer with Multivendor support) is a Python library that implements a set of functions to interact with different router vendor devices using a unified API.



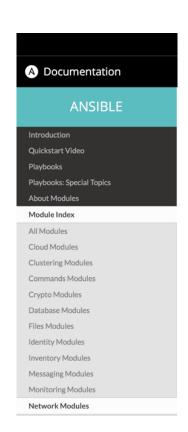
-	EOS	Junos	IOS-XR	NX-OS	NX-OS SSH	IOS
Driver Name	eos	junos	iosxr	nxos	nxos_ssh	ios
Structured data	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Minimum version	4.15.0F	12.1	5.1.0	6.1 [1]		12.4(20)T
Backend library	pyeapi	junos-eznc	pylOSXR	pynxos	netmiko	netmiko
Caveats	EOS			NXOS	NXOS	IOS





Ansible – Leading DevOps Tool for Network Configuration Management

- Agentless no edge software installation needed
- Support for both old and new platforms and interfaces (ie CLI & NETCONF)
- Robust and growing library of network modules



Ios

- ios_banner Manage multiline banners on Cisco IOS devices
- ios_command Run commands on remote devices running Cisco IOS
- · ios_config Manage Cisco IOS configuration sections
- ios_facts Collect facts from remote devices running Cisco IOS
- · ios_system Manage the system attributes on Cisco IOS devices
- ios template (D) Manage Cisco IOS device configurations over SSH
- ios_vrf Manage the collection of VRF definitions on Cisco IOS devices

Iosxr

- iosxr_command Run commands on remote devices running Cisco IOS XR
- iosxr_config Manage Cisco IOS XR configuration sections
- · iosxr_facts Collect facts from remote devices running IOS XR
- · iosxr_system Manage the system attributes on Cisco IOS XR devices
- . iosxr_template (D) Manage Cisco IOS XR device configurations over SSH

Nxos

- nxos_aaa_server Manages AAA server global configuration.
- nxos_aaa_server_host Manages AAA server host-specific configuration.
- nxos_acl Manages access list entries for ACLs.
- nxos_acl_interface Manages applying ACLs to interfaces.
- nxos bgp Manages BGP configuration.
- nxos bgp af Manages BGP Address-family configuration.
- nxos_bgp_neighbor Manages BGP neighbors configurations.
- nxos_bgp_neighbor_af Manages BGP address-family's neighbors configuration.
- nxos command Run arbitrary command on Cisco NXOS devices

Screenshot edited to include IOS, IOS-XR and NX-OS Content



Some Other Cool Python Stuff

virlutils - It's like "vagrant up" but for the Network!

- Open Source command line utility for managing simulations with Cisco VIRL/CML
- Designed for NetDevOps workflows
 - Development environments
 - Test networks within CICD pipelines

virlutils

build passing coverage 89% pypi package 0.8.2

A collection of utilities for interacting with Cisco VIRL

virl up

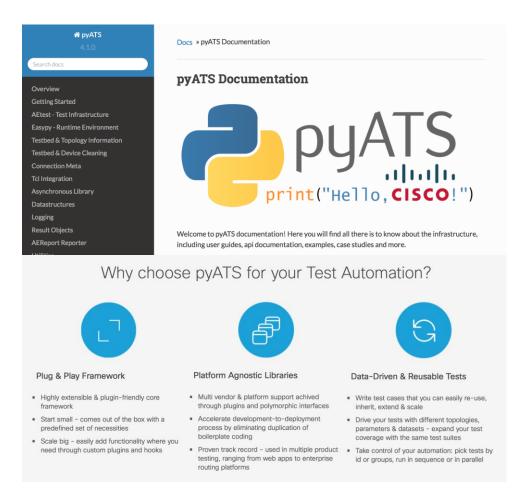
virl is a devops style cli which supports the most common VIRL operations. Adding new ones is easy...

```
Usage: virl [OPTIONS] COMMAND [ARGS]...
Options:
  --help Show this message and exit.
Commands:
            console for node
  console
            stop a virl simulation
            generate inv file for various tools
            Retrieves log information for the provided...
  ls
            lists running simulations in the current...
  nodes
            get nodes for sim_name
            pull topology.virl from repo
            save simulation to local virl file
            lists running simulations in the current...
  search
  ssh
            ssh to a node
  start
            start a node
  stop
            stop a node
           telnet to a node
  telnet
            start a virl simulation
```



pyATS - Profile and Test Your Network Before, During, and After Changes

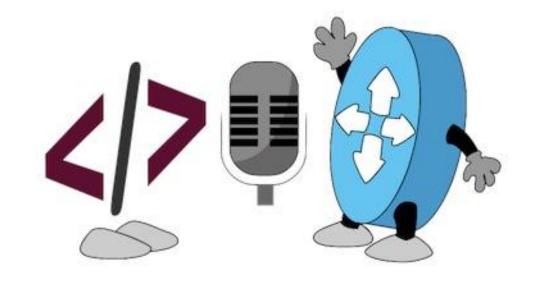
- No longer is "ping" the best network test tool available
- PyATS is built to work like software test suites, and uses common frameworks (ie robot)
- Profile the network to get a baseline for interfaces, routing protocols, and platform details – verify at anytime.



Summing up

What did we talk about?

- Libraries to Work with Data
 - · xmltodict, json, PyYAML, csv, pyang
- API Libraries
 - requests, ncclient, netmiko, pysnmp
- Configuration Management
 - · NAPALM, Ansible, Salt, Nornir
- Some Other Cool Python Stuff
 - virlutils, pyATS





Webinar Resource List

- Docs and Links
 - https://developer.cisco.com/python
- Learning Labs
 - Laptop Setup http://cs.co/lab-dev-setup
 - Coding Fundamentals http://cs.co/lab-coding-fundamentals
 - Model Driven Programmability http://cs.co/lab-mdp
- DevNet Sandboxes
 - IOS Always On http://cs.co/sbx-iosxe
 - NX-OS Always On http://cs.co/sbx-nxos
- Code Samples
 - http://cs.co/code-python-networking



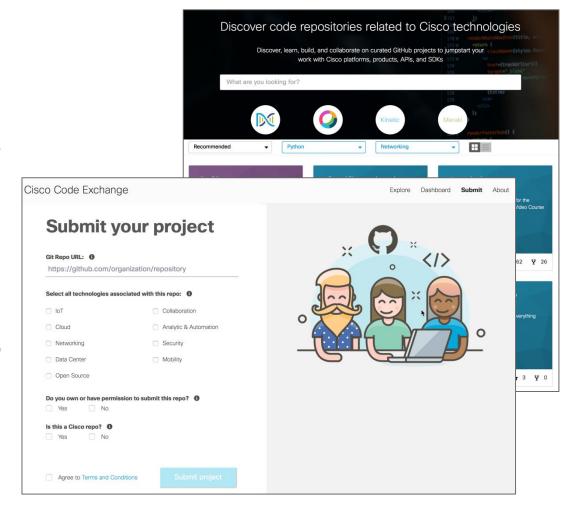


NetDevOps Live! Code Exchange Challenge

developer.cisco.com/codeexchange

Use one or more of the libraries discussed to write a Python script to automate one common networking task.

Example: Compile the MAC and ARP tables from all devices on the network.





Looking for more about NetDevOps?

- NetDevOps on DevNet developer.cisco.com/netdevops
- NetDevOps Live!
 <u>developer.cisco.com/netdevops/live</u>
- NetDevOps Blogs blogs.cisco.com/tag/netdevops
- Network Programmability Basics Video Course developer.cisco.com/video/net-prog-basics/





Got more questions? Stay in touch!

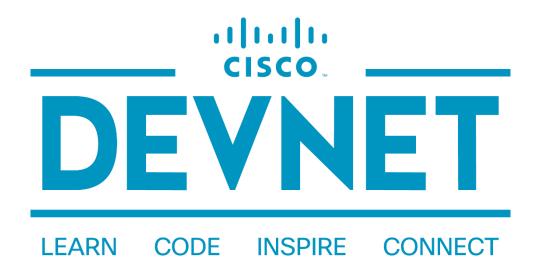


Hank Preston









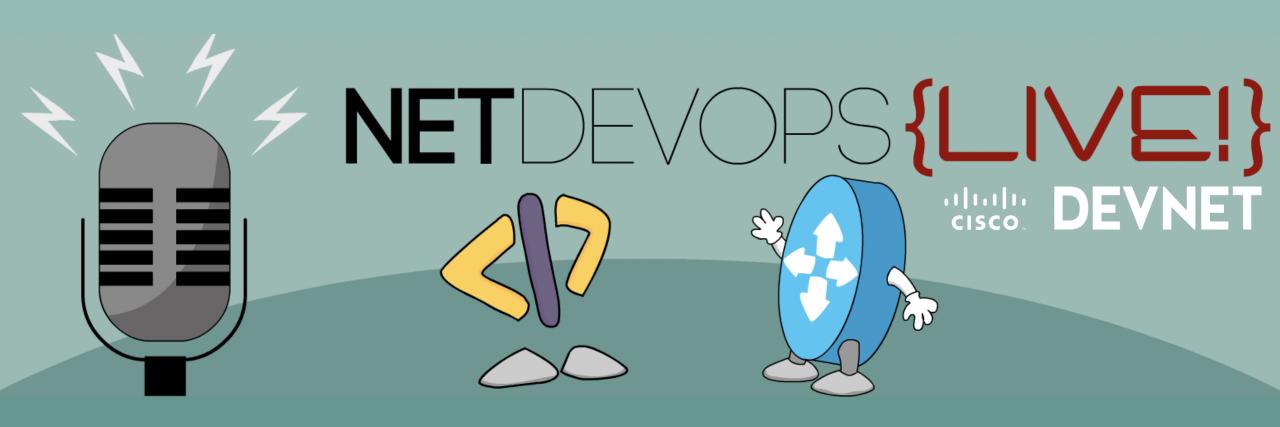
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