

# Processing WSDL in Python

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## Table of Contents

If you're viewing this document online, you can click any of the topics below to link directly to that section.

<a href="#">1. Introduction</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">2. Getting started</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">3. Reading and examining descriptions</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">4. Generating and modifying WSDL</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">5. Notes from implementation</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">6. Web services easy as py</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">7. resources</a>	<a href="#">11</a>

## Section 1. Introduction

### Tutorial purpose

Web Services Description Language (WSDL), originally developed by IBM, Microsoft, and others, is an XML format for technical description of Web services. In this tutorial, Mike Olson and Uche Ogbuji introduce WSDL4Py, an open-source Python library for WSDL 1.1 hosted by IBM developerWork's open-source zone. Usage of the library is explained, as well as discussion of its development.

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### About the authors

Mike Olson and Uche Ogbuji are co-founders of and principal consultants at Fourthought Inc. where they develop the open-source tools 4Suite and 4Suite Server, and provide commercial consulting, training and 4Suite customization for clients working with XML and Web services. They reside in Boulder, Colorado.

## Section 2. Getting started

### Setting up WSDL4Py

The prerequisites for using the WSDL4Py library and the examples in this tutorial are as follows:

- \* A working knowledge of the Python programming language, and WSDL.
- \* Python: version 2.0 or more recent is highly recommended, but 1.5.2 will work as well.
- \* 4Suite: version 0.11 or more recent.

The software should work under UNIX and Windows. Unfortunately, Macintosh users must wait for someone to port the XPath library of 4Suite to that platform, or wait for 4Suite-0.11.1 that will have a pure Python XPath parser

Installation is quite simple. Download and unpack the archive, then run the command `python setup.py install`, which will copy the library to the appropriate location in your PYTHONPATH. To test the installation, run the following command:

```
$ python -c "import wsdl1lib"
```

If you see no error messages, you're ready to go.

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