Python API

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About the Python API

Python is an easy to learn, powerful programming language. It has efficient high-level data structures and a simple but effective approach to object-oriented programming. Python's elegant syntax and dynamic typing, together with its interpreted nature, make it an ideal language for scripting and rapid application development in many areas on most platforms.

The Python interpreter and the extensive standard library are freely available in source or binary form for all major platforms from the Python website:

http://www.python.org/

The same site also contains distributions of and pointers to many free third-party Python modules, programs and tools, and additional documentation.

The switches support Python v2.7.5 in both interactive and non-interactive (script) modes and is available in the Guest Shell.

The Python scripting capability gives programmatic access to the device's command-line interface (CLI) to perform various tasks and PowerOn Auto Provisioning (POAP) or Embedded Event Manager (EEM) actions. Python can also be accessed from the Bash shell.

The Python interpreter is available in the Cisco NX-OS software.

Using Python

This section describes how to write and execute Python scripts.

Cisco Python Package

Cisco NX-OS provides a Cisco Python package that enables access to many core network-device modules, such as interfaces, VLANs, VRFs, ACLs, and routes. You can display the details of the Cisco Python package by entering the **help()** command. To obtain additional information about the classes and methods in a module,

you can run the help command for a specific module. For example, **help**(*cisco.interface*) displays the properties of the cisco.interface module.

The following is an example of how to display information about the Cisco Python package:

```
>>> import cisco
>>> help(cisco)
Help on package cisco:

NAME
    cisco

FILE
    /isan/python/scripts/cisco/__init__.py

PACKAGE CONTENTS
    acl
    bgp
    cisco_secret
    cisco_socket
    feature
    interface
    key
    line_parser
    md5sum
    nxcli
    ospf
    routemap
    routes
    section_parser
    ssh
    system
    tacacs
    vrf

CLASSES
     __builtin__.object
        cisco.cisco_secret.CiscoSecret
        cisco.interface.Interface
        cisco.key.Key
```

The following is an example of how to display information about the Cisco Python Package for Python 3:

```
switch# python3
Python 3.7.3 (default, Nov 20 2019, 14:38:01)
[GCC 5.2.0] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import cisco
>>> help(cisco)
Help on package cisco:

NAME
cisco

PACKAGE CONTENTS
acl
bgp
buffer_depth_monitor
check_port_discards
cisco_secret
feature
historys
interface
ipaddress
```

```
key
line_parser
mac_address_table
md5sum
nxcli
nxos_cli
ospf
routemap
routes
section_parser
ssh
system
tacacs
transfer
vlan
vrf

CLASSES
builtins.dict(builtins.object)
cisco.history.History
builtins.object
cisco.cisco_secret.CiscoSecret
cisco.interface.Interface
cisco.key.Key
```

Using the CLI Command APIs

The Python programming language uses three APIs that can execute CLI commands. The APIs are available from the Python CLI module.

These APIs are listed in the following table. You must enable the APIs with the **from cli import *** command. The arguments for these APIs are strings of CLI commands. To execute a CLI command through the Python interpreter, you enter the CLI command as an argument string of one of the following APIs:

Table 1: CLI Command APIs

API	Description
cli() Example: `string = cli ("cli-command")`	Returns the raw output of CLI commands, including control or special characters. **Note** The interactive Python interpreter prints control or special characters 'escaped'. A carriage return is printed as '\n' and gives results that can be difficult to read. The **clip()** API gives results that are more readable.
clid() Example: `json_string = clid ("cli-command")`	Returns JSON output for **cli-command**, if XML support exists for the command, otherwise an exception is thrown. **Note** This API can be useful when searching the output of show commands.

API	Description

clip()
Example:
`clip ("cli-command")`
	Prints the output of the CLI command directly to stdout and returns nothing to Python.
	Note
	`clip ("cli-command")`
	is equivalent to
	`r=cli("cli-command")`
	`print r`

When two or more commands are run individually, the state is not persistent from one command to subsequent commands.

In the following example, the second command fails because the state from the first command does not persist for the second command:

```
>>> cli("conf t")
>>> cli("interface eth4/1")
```

When two or more commands are run together, the state is persistent from one command to subsequent commands.

In the following example, the second command is successful because the state persists for the second and third commands:

```
>>> cli("conf t ; interface eth4/1 ; shut")
```

Note Commands are separated with *" ; "* as shown in the example. The semicolon (;) must be surrounded with single blank characters.

Invoking the Python Interpreter from the CLI

The following example shows how to invoke Python 2 from the CLI:

Note The Python interpreter is designated with the ">>>" or "…" prompt.

Important Python 2.7 is End of Support, Future NX-OS software deprecates Python 2.7 support. We recommend for new scripts to use **python3**' instead. Type **python3** to use the new shell.

```
switch# python
switch# python

Warning: Python 2.7 is End of Support, and future NXOS software will deprecate
python 2.7 support. It is recommended for new scripts to use 'python3' instead.
Type "python3" to use the new shell.

Python 2.7.11 (default, Jun  4 2020, 09:48:24)
```

```
[GCC 4.6.3] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
>>> from cli import *
>>> import json
>>> cli('configure terminal ; interface loopback 1 ; no shut')
''
>>> intflist=json.loads(clid('show interface brief'))
>>> i=0
>>> while i < len(intflist['TABLE_interface']['ROW_interface']):
...     intf=intflist['TABLE_interface']['ROW_interface'][i]
...     i=i+1
...     if intf['state'] == 'up':
...         print intf['interface']
...
mgmt0
loopback1
>>>
```

The following example shows how to invoke Python 3 from the CLI:

```
switch# python3
Python 3.7.3 (default, Nov 20 2019, 14:38:01)
[GCC 5.2.0] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>
>>> from cli import *
>>> import json
>>> cli('configure terminal ; interface loopback 1 ; no shut')
''
>>> intflist=json.loads(clid('show interface brief'))
>>> i=0
>>> while i < len(intflist['TABLE_interface']['ROW_interface']):
...     intf=intflist['TABLE_interface']['ROW_interface'][i]
...     i=i+1
...     if intf['state'] == 'up':
...         print(intf['interface'])
...
mgmt0
loopback1
>>>
```

Display Formats

The following examples show various display formats using the Python APIs:

Example 1:

```
>>> from cli import *
>>> cli("conf ; interface loopback 1")
''
>>> clip('where detail')
  mode:
  username:            admin
  vdc:                 switch
  routing-context vrf: default
```

Example 2:

```
>>> from cli import *
>>> cli("conf ; interface loopback 1")
```

```
''
>>> cli('where detail')
'  mode:                \n  username:           admin\n  vdc:
 switch\n  routing-context vrf: default\n'
>>>
```

Example 3:

```
>>> r = cli('where detail')
>>> print(r)
mode:
username: admin
vdc: switch
routing-context vrf: default

>>>
```

Example 4:

```
>>> from cli import *
>>> import json
>>> out=json.loads(clid('show version'))
>>> for k in out.keys():
... print("%30s - %s" % (k,out[k]))
...
header_str - Cisco Nexus Operating System (NX-OS) Software
TAC support: http://www.cisco.com/tac
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Certain components of this software are licensed under
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GNU General Public License (GPL) version 3.0 or the GNU
Lesser General Public License (LGPL) Version 2.1 or
Lesser General Public License (LGPL) Version 2.0.
A copy of each such license is available at
http://www.opensource.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.php and
http://opensource.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.html and
http://www.opensource.org/licenses/lgpl-2.1.php and
http://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/library.txt.
bios_ver_str - 07.67
kickstart_ver_str - 9.3(5) [build 9.3(4)IIL9(0.879)]
nxos_ver_str - 9.3(5) [build 9.3(4)IIL9(0.879)]
bios_cmpl_time - 01/29/2020
kick_file_name - bootflash:///nxos.9.3.4.IIL9.0.879.bin
nxos_file_name - bootflash:///nxos.9.3.4.IIL9.0.879.bin
kick_cmpl_time - 5/10/2020 21:00:00
nxos_cmpl_time - 5/10/2020 21:00:00
kick_tmstmp - 05/12/2020 07:08:44
nxos_tmstmp - 05/12/2020 07:08:44
chassis_id - Nexus9000 93180YC-EX chassis
cpu_name - Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU @ 1.80GHz
memory - 24632252
mem_type - kB
proc_board_id - FDO22280FFK
host_name - switch
bootflash_size - 53298520
kern_uptm_days - 0
kern_uptm_hrs - 0
```

```
kern_uptm_mins - 19
kern_uptm_secs - 34
rr_usecs - 641967
rr_ctime - Tue May 12 09:52:28 2020
rr_reason - Reset Requested by CLI command reload
rr_sys_ver - 9.4(1)
rr_service - None
plugins - Core Plugin, Ethernet Plugin
manufacturer - Cisco Systems, Inc.
>>>
```

Non-Interactive Python

A Python script can run in non-interactive mode by providing the Python script name as an argument to the Python CLI command. Python scripts must be placed under the bootflash or volatile scheme. A maximum of 32 command-line arguments for the Python script are allowed with the Python CLI command.

Cisco NX-OS also supports the source CLI command for running Python scripts. The `bootflash:scripts` directory is the default script directory for the source CLI command.

This example shows the script first and then executing it. Saving is like bringing any file to the bootflash.

```
switch# show file bootflash:scripts/deltaCounters.py
#!/isan/bin/python3
from cli import *
import sys, time
ifName = sys.argv[1]
delay = float(sys.argv[2])
count = int(sys.argv[3])
cmd = 'show interface ' + ifName + ' counters'
out = json.loads(clid(cmd))
rxuc = int(out['TABLE_rx_counters']['ROW_rx_counters'][0]['eth_inucast'])
rxmc = int(out['TABLE_rx_counters']['ROW_rx_counters'][1]['eth_inmcast'])
rxbc = int(out['TABLE_rx_counters']['ROW_rx_counters'][1]['eth_inbcast'])
txuc = int(out['TABLE_tx_counters']['ROW_tx_counters'][0]['eth_outucast'])
txmc = int(out['TABLE_tx_counters']['ROW_tx_counters'][1]['eth_outmcast'])
txbc = int(out['TABLE_tx_counters']['ROW_tx_counters'][1]['eth_outbcast'])
print ('row rx_ucast rx_mcast rx_bcast tx_ucast tx_mcast tx_bcast')
print ('===============================================================')
print (' %8d %8d %8d %8d %8d %8d' % (rxuc, rxmc, rxbc, txuc, txmc, txbc))
print ('===============================================================')
i = 0
while (i < count):
    time.sleep(delay)
    out = json.loads(clid(cmd))
    rxucNew = int(out['TABLE_rx_counters']['ROW_rx_counters'][0]['eth_inucast'])
    rxmcNew = int(out['TABLE_rx_counters']['ROW_rx_counters'][1]['eth_inmcast'])
    rxbcNew = int(out['TABLE_rx_counters']['ROW_rx_counters'][1]['eth_inbcast'])
    txucNew = int(out['TABLE_tx_counters']['ROW_tx_counters'][0]['eth_outucast'])
    txmcNew = int(out['TABLE_tx_counters']['ROW_tx_counters'][1]['eth_outmcast'])
    txbcNew = int(out['TABLE_tx_counters']['ROW_tx_counters'][1]['eth_outbcast'])
    i += 1
    print ('%-3d %8d %8d %8d %8d %8d %8d' % (i, rxucNew - rxuc, rxmcNew - rxmc, rxbcNew -
rxbc, txucNew - txuc, txmcNew - txmc, txbcNew - txbc))
```

```
switch# python bootflash:scripts/deltaCounters.py mgmt0 1 5
row rx_ucast rx_mcast rx_bcast tx_ucast tx_mcast tx_bcast
===============================================================
      291     8233     1767      185       57        2
===============================================================
1          1        4        1        1        0        0
2          2        5        1        2        0        0
```

```
3          3        9        1        3        0        0
4          4       12        1        4        0        0
5          5       17        1        5        0        0
switch#
```

The following example shows how a source command specifies command-line arguments. In the example, *policy-map* is an argument to the `cgrep python` script. The example also shows that a source command can follow the pipe operator ("|").

```
switch# show running-config | source sys/cgrep policy-map

policy-map type network-qos nw-pfc
policy-map type network-qos no-drop-2
policy-map type network-qos wred-policy
policy-map type network-qos pause-policy
policy-map type qos foo
policy-map type qos classify
policy-map type qos cos-based
policy-map type qos no-drop-2
policy-map type qos pfc-tor-port
```

Running Scripts with Embedded Event Manager

On Cisco Nexus 3600 platform switches, Embedded Event Manager (EEM) policies support Python scripts.

The following example shows how to run a Python script as an EEM action:

- An EEM applet can include a Python script with an action command.

```
switch# show running-config eem

!Command: show running-config eem
!Running configuration last done at: Thu Jun 25 15:29:38 2020
!Time: Thu Jun 25 15:33:19 2020

version 9.3(5) Bios:version 07.67
event manager applet a1
  event cli match "show clock"
  action 1 cli python bootflash:pydate.py


switch# show file logflash:vdc_1/event_archive_1 | last 33

eem_event_time:06/25/2020,15:34:24 event_type:cli event_id:24 slot:active(1) vdc
:1 severity:minor applets:a1
eem_param_info:command = "exshow clock"
Starting with policy a1
stty: standard input: Inappropriate ioctl for device
Executing the following commands succeeded:
          python bootflash:pydate.py
Completed executing policy a1
Event Id:24 event type:10241 handling completed
```

- You can search for the action that is triggered by the event in the log file by running the **show file** *logflash*:*event_archive_1* command.

```
switch# show file logflash:event_archive_1 | last 33

eem_event_time:05/01/2011,19:40:28 event_type:cli event_id:8 slot:active(1)
```

```
vdc:1 severity:minor applets:a1
eem_param_info:command = "exshow clock"
Starting with policy a1
Python

2011-05-01 19:40:28.644891
Executing the following commands succeeded:
          python bootflash:pydate.py

PC_VSH_CMD_TLV(7679) with q
```

Python Integration with Cisco NX-OS Network Interfaces

On Cisco Nexus switches, Python is integrated with the underlying Cisco NX-OS network interfaces. You can switch from one virtual routing context to another by setting up a context through the cisco.vrf.set_global_vrf() API.

The following example shows how to retrieve an HTML document over the management interface of a device. You can also establish a connection to an external entity over the in-band interface by switching to a desired virtual routing context.

```
switch# python

Warning: Python 2.7 is End of Support, and future NXOS software will deprecate
python 2.7 support. It is recommended for new scripts to use 'python3' instead.
Type "python3" to use the new shell.

Python 2.7.11 (default, Jun  4 2020, 09:48:24)
[GCC 4.6.3] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import urllib2
>>> from cisco.vrf import *
>>> set_global_vrf('management')
>>> page=urllib2.urlopen('http://172.23.40.211:8000/welcome.html')
>>> print page.read()
Hello Cisco Nexus 3600
>>>
>>> import cisco
>>> help(cisco.vrf.set_global_vrf)
Help on function set global vrf in module cisco.vrf:
set global vrf(vrf)
Sets the global vrf. Any new sockets that are created (using socket.socket)
will automatically get set to this vrf (including sockets used by other
python libraries).
Arguments:
vrf: VRF name (string) or the VRF ID (int).
Returns: Nothing
>>>
```

Cisco NX-OS Security with Python

Cisco NX-OS resources are protected by the Cisco NX-OS Sandbox layer of software and by the CLI role-based access control (RBAC).

All users who are associated with a Cisco NX-OS network-admin or dev-ops role are privileged users. Users who are granted access to Python with a custom role are regarded as nonprivileged users. Nonprivileged users have limited access to Cisco NX-OS resources, such as the file system, guest shell, and Bash commands. Privileged users have greater access to all the resources of Cisco NX-OS.

Examples of Security and User Authority

The following example shows how a privileged user runs commands:

```
switch# python
Python 2.7.5 (default, Oct  8 2013, 23:59:43)
[GCC 4.6.3] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import os
>>> os.system('whoami')
admin
0
>>> f=open('/tmp/test','w')
>>> f.write('hello from python')
>>> f.close()
>>> r=open('/tmp/test','r')
>>> print r.read()
hello from python
>>> r.close()
```

The following example shows a non-privileged user being denied access:

```
switch# python
Python 2.7.5 (default, Oct  8 2013, 23:59:43)
[GCC 4.6.3] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import os
>>> os.system('whoami')
system(whoami): rejected!
-1
>>> f=open('/tmp/test','r')
Permission denied. Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
IOError: [Errno 13] Permission denied: '/tmp/test'
>>>
```

RBAC controls CLI access based on the login user privileges. A login user's identity is given to Python that is invoked from the CLI shell or from Bash. Python passes the login user's identity to any subprocess that is invoked from Python.

The following is an example for a privileged user:

```
>>> from cli import *
>>> cli('show clock')
'11:28:53.845 AM UTC Sun May 08 2011\n'
>>> cli('configure terminal ; vrf context myvrf')
''
>>> clip('show running-config l3vm')

!Command: show running-config l3vm
!Time: Sun May  8 11:29:40 2011

version 6.1(2)I2(1)

interface Ethernet1/48
  vrf member blue

interface mgmt0
  vrf member management
vrf context blue
vrf context management
vrf context myvrf
```

The following is an example for a non-privileged user:

```
>>> from cli import *
>>> cli('show clock')
'11:18:47.482 AM UTC Sun May 08 2011\n'
>>> cli('configure terminal ; vrf context myvrf2')
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
  File "/isan/python/scripts/cli.py", line 20, in cli
    raise cmd_exec_error(msg)
errors.cmd_exec_error: '% Permission denied for the role\n\nCmd exec error.\n'
```

The following example shows an RBAC configuration:

```
switch# show user-account
user:admin
        this user account has no expiry date
        roles:network-admin
user:pyuser
        this user account has no expiry date
        roles:network-operator python-role
switch# show role name python-role
```

Example of Running Script with Scheduler

The following example shows a Python script that is running the script with the scheduler feature:

```
#!/bin/env python
from cli import *
from nxos import *
import os

switchname = cli("show switchname")
try:
    user = os.environ['USER']
except:
    user = "No user"
    pass

msg = user + " ran " + __file__ + " on : " + switchname
print msg
py_syslog(1, msg)
# Save this script in bootflash:///scripts
```

```
switch# conf t
Enter configuration commands, one per line.  End with CNTL/Z.
switch(config)# feature scheduler
switch(config)# scheduler job name testplan
switch(config-job)# python bootflash:///scripts/testplan.py
switch(config-job)# exit
switch(config)# scheduler schedule name testplan
switch(config-schedule)# job name testplan
switch(config-schedule)# time start now repeat 0:0:4
Schedule starts from Mon Mar 14 16:40:03 2011
switch(config-schedule)# end
switch# term mon
2011 Mar 14 16:38:03 switch %VSHD-5-VSHD_SYSLOG_CONFIG_I: Configured from vty by admin on
10.19.68.246@pts/2
switch# show scheduler schedule
Schedule Name       : testplan
------------------------------
User Name           : admin
```

```
Schedule Type       : Run every 0 Days 0 Hrs 4 Mins
Start Time          : Mon Mar 14 16:40:03 2011
Last Execution Time : Yet to be executed
----------------------------------------------
     Job Name            Last Execution Status
----------------------------------------------
    testplan                              -NA-
==============================================================================
switch#
switch# 2011 Mar 14 16:40:04 switch  %USER-1-SYSTEM_MSG: No user ran
/bootflash/scripts/testplan.py on : switch   - nxpython
2011 Mar 14 16:44:04 switch last message repeated 1 time
switch#
```