



Dynamic Tools for Dynamic Languages

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July 29, 2010

Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary
United States Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549-3628

Via Electronic Mail

Katherine Hsu, Esq.
Senior Special Counsel in the Office of Rulemaking
Division of Corporation Finance
United States Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549-3628

Re: Release No. 33-9117; (the "Release")

Dear Ms. Murphy and Ms. Hsu:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on and respond to questions posed in the Release.

I am writing to comment on aspects of Release No. 33-9117 regarding the use of the Python scripting language, XML data files and the waterfall computer program in the offering disclosure, and reporting for asset-backed securities ("ABS").

ActiveState Software Inc. ("ActiveState" and or "Company") is the leading distributor of dynamic language solutions of which Python is one of our core language distribution offerings. We offer enterprise-grade, quality-assured Python distributions for Windows, Linux, Mac, AIX, Solaris and HP-UX. Our products and services for dynamic scripting languages are used by over 2 million developers and 97% of the Fortune 1000, to build and run applications from mission-critical to open source projects.

We are firmly rooted and committed to the open source dynamic language communities as supporters, contributors, and commercial backers for enterprise use . Our technical leaders are active contributors to the core Perl, Python, and Tcl language distributions. With their expertise, they also provide technical support and best practices advice to our enterprise customers.

Open Government Data needs Open Tools

ActiveState strongly supports the proposal to require financial companies to describe contractual waterfall provisions with Python code. The logic embedded in them needs to be easily interpreted, validated and made interpretable by all parties in this complex supply chain. Today, most investors rely on proprietary systems to analyze investments. By moving to an existing open source language (e.g. Python) will ensure that there is equal access to tools that enable the re-use of financial information currently hidden in the complex legalese in Filings & Prospectuses for all supply chain participants. Tool Vendors need proven, reliable open source technologies on which to build their solutions. The choice of Python and XML will expedite delivery of consumption tools to market, ensure consistency in interpretation of the data, encourage and support data-driven innovation.

Why Python?

Python is an expressive, easy to learn language and known for its readability. Python is already in widespread use within the financial modeling communities and is a natural choice for codifying the complex waterfall logic found in the ABS prospectuses. There are numerous useful Python numerical libraries, XML parsing libraries, interfaces to other languages such as R, bindings to third-party statistical analysis library and mathematical plotting packages on which the tools to consume Python waterfall computer models can be built.

We also support the SEC's other proposal that all the detailed asset level data be provided in XML format. We suggest that this XML format should remain unencumbered by complex schemas for easy extraction by the waterfall computer program so as not to require the use of proprietary parsers and allow for a completely open source ecosystem.

Need for Guidance

That said, as with other technologies adopted by the SEC, there would have to be a body of best practices and conformance standards. The logical patterns used in a waterfall computer program can be expressed in many different ways. There are many repeatable patterns used in describing portions of waterfall logic that would greatly benefit from consistent implementation and standardization. In addition, suggestion of a particular version of Python (CPython) to be used would facilitate accessibility and sharing of best practices. For example, today, there are 3 active versions of Python in use (2.6, 2.7, & 3.1) and we think that SEC should choose one version as the standard. We applaud and support the choice of open source technologies in this proposal as sign of the SEC's responsible publishing of open government data. Building on existing open source technology will greatly enhance the speed at which developers and vendors can bring supporting tools and infrastructure to market to support this supply chain.

Open source technologies facilitate collaboration and remove barriers to adoption, increase efficiency and enhanced public services, enable re-use of information within the public sector and stimulate innovation and economic growth

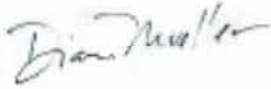
Requiring Python, an existing well-established open source scripting language rather than re-inventing a new technology or creating a new standard for which there are now existing open tools or APIs to work

with, will go a long way to ensuring that both filers and vendors will have open and equal access to the tools for creating, publishing and consuming the waterfall computer programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these new rules. Please contact us (778.786.1100 or dianem@activestate.com) if you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in greater detail.

Sincerely,

ACTIVESTATE SOFTWARE INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Mueller".

Diane Mueller
Director, Enterprise Product Management