

Part of the Teledyne Imaging Group

Introduction to Automating LightField 6 with PythonTM



4411-0163 Issue 3 March 18, 2019

Revision History

Issue	Date	List of Changes
Issue 3	March 18, 2019	Issue 3 of this document incorporates the following changes: • Added new sample application: — Section 5.2.14, synchronous_acquisition.py, on page 23. • Rebranded as Teledyne Princeton Instruments.
Issue 2	January 2, 2018	Issue 2 of this document incorporates the following changes: • Updated the copyright date.
Issue 1	November 27, 2017	This is the initial release of this document.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to Automation

LightField 6 is able to interface with several third-party applications in order to automate the configuration and performance of experiments within LightField.

Automation is the ability to use a programming environment (e.g., Python $^{\mathsf{TM}}$,) to control LightField externally to perform tasks such as:

- Modifying experiment configuration parameters such as:
 - Exposure Time;
 - Frames to Save:
- · Connecting/disconnecting hardware;
- Displaying live data as it is being acquired;
- Importing previously acquired data that have been saved.

Automation differs from a standard LightField Add-in in that LightField is actually being controlled by an external program as opposed to running what is, effectively, a LightField subroutine.

This document provides an introduction to developing automation routines using Python[™] programming environment.



NOTE:

This document is not intended to be a tutorial about using PythonTM. It is written with the assumption that the reader possesses a basic knowledge of the PythonTM programming language.

This document provides information necessary to automate LightField 6 with Python TM , including:

- Installing all required software;
- Configuring LightField 6 for automation by Python[™];
- How to build an automation application;
- · Experiment settings;
- Sample Python[™] automation applications.

1.1 Prerequisites

In order to automate LightField 6 using Python[™], the following requirements must be satisfied:

• LightField 6 must be installed on the host computer, including the **Add-Ins and Automation SDK** option.



NOTE:

For complete information, refer to the installation instructions included with LightField 6.

• 64-bit compatible Python[™] version 3.6.3 (or later) must be installed on the host computer.

The most recent **64-bit** version of Python[™] is available for download from the following website:

https://www.python.org/downloads/windows/



NOTE: -

If PythonTM is not already installed, refer to Section A.1, Install PythonTM, on page 25 for complete information.

• **64-bit compatible Python for .Net** version 3.6.0 (or later), must be installed on the host computer.

Python for .Net is required to integrate Python[™] applications with .NET 4.0+ Common Language Runtime (CLR) on Windows. This is required to run sample automation scripts created by Teledyne Princeton Instruments. Additional information about Python for .Net is available here:

https://pythonnet.github.io/



NOTE:

If **Python for .Net** is not already installed on the host computer, refer to Section A.2, Install Python for .Net, on page 28 for complete information.

Chapter 2: Prepare LightField

This chapter describes the steps necessary to prepare LightField for automation using $Python^{TM}$.

2.1 Verify SDK Installation

Before developing any automation routines, verify the **Add-Ins and Automation SDK** has been included as part of the LightField installation.

When the SDK has been included, LightField places a shortcut on the host computer desktop. This shortcut points to a directory in which information required by the automation application developer is stored. This information includes:



- LightField Add-ins and Automation Programming Manual.pdf;
 Provides detailed programming information about the API and .NET function required to develop an automation application.
- Experiment XML Specification.pdf;
 This is the specification that defines how a LightField experiment file is structured.
- SPE 3.0 File Format Specification.pdf;
 This is the specification that defines how LightField saves acquired data.
 In order to access data after it has been saved, how it is stored/save must first be understood which is detailed in this document.
- LightField Experiment Settings.chm.
 This Windows Help File provides information about all settings used when interacting with LightField. The information included in this help file is required when developing automation applications.

If the shortcut is not located on the host computer's desktop, it is a good indication that the SDK has not been included in the current LightField installation. Perform the following procedure to modify the LightField installation on the host computer:

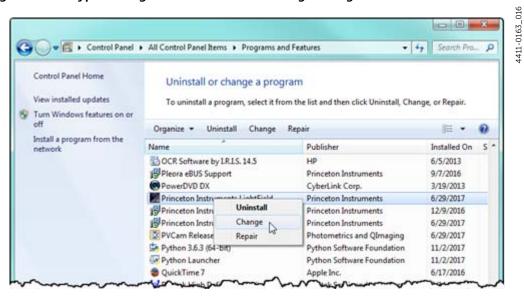
1. Open the Windows Control Panel and select Programs and Features. See Figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1: Typical Control Panel Window



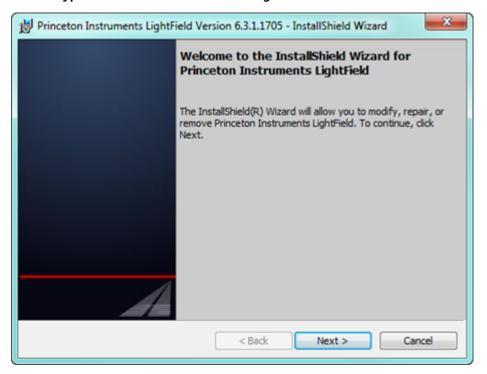
2. From the list of installed programs, scroll to locate **Princeton Instruments LightField**, right-click on it, and select **Change** from the pull-down menu. See Figure 2-2.

Figure 2-2: Typical Programs and Features Dialog: Change



 The InstallShield Wizard will launch. Follow on-screen prompts to modify the LightField Installation to include LightField Add-in and Automation SDK. See Figure 2-3.

Figure 2-3: Typical InstallShield Wizard Dialog



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2.2 Create Default Experiment

It is recommended that a baseline, default LightField experiment be created and saved prior to beginning any automation application development. Doing so will reduce the number of preliminary and initial configuration steps required by the automation application.

Perform the following procedure to create a default experiment that will serve as the basic experiment for automation routines:

- 1. Launch LightField.
- 2. Once LightField has finished initializing, verify that all devices are properly installed and have been placed on the Device Grid within the Experiment Workspace.
- **3.** Configure a baseline set of experiment parameters. These should be appropriate for the specific experiment and application for which an automation application is to be developed.
- **4.** Once the baseline configuration is set, save the experiment with a descriptive name that will be easily recognizable for future use. The name of this file will be required as an input when developing the PythonTM automation application.

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Chapter 3: Build a Simple Automation Application

Once a preliminary LightField project template has been created and saved as described in Chapter 2, Prepare LightField, on page 7, development of an automation application can begin.



NOTE:

This document is not intended to be a tutorial about using or programming in PythonTM. It is written with the assumption that the reader possesses a basic knowledge of the PythonTM programming language.

3.1 Development Tools

The recommended way to build Python[™] applications is using the Python[™] Integrated Development and Learning Environment (IDLE). IDLE provides two primary window types/functions:

- Editor;
 - The Editor provides the workspace in which application coding is performed.
- Shell

The Shell window is used to execute Python^{TM} applications.



NOTE:

For proper application execution, LightField must be running and a supported device must be connected to the Host Computer.

Key features of IDLE include:

- Supports having multiple Editor windows open simultaneously;
- Depressing the F5 key from within the Editor window will launch and run the current code/sample.

Complete information about IDLE is available at the following website:

https://docs.python.org/2/library/idle.html

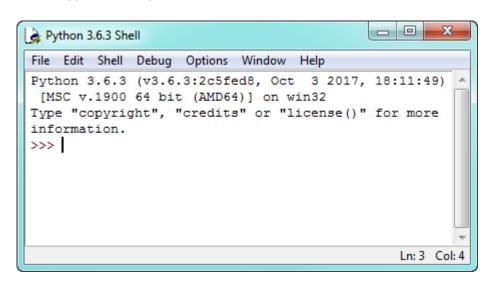
4411-0163_001

3.2 Sample Application Development

Perform the following procedure to develop a simple automation application that will:

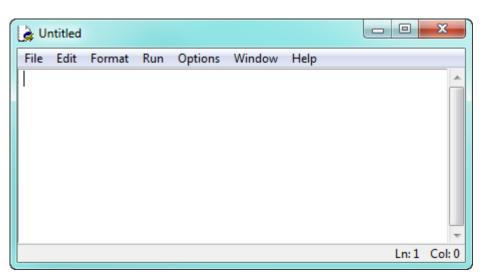
- Launch LightField;
- Modify the experiment exposure time;
- Acquire an image;
- Close LightField.
- **1.** From the host computer's desktop, launch IDLE. A new Python[™] Shell Window is opened. See Figure 3-1.

Figure 3-1: Typical New Python[™] Shell Window



From the menu bar, select File ➤ New File, or type
 Python[™] Editor window is opened. See Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2: Typical New Python[™] Editor Window



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3. Within the **Editor** window, add the required **Imports** and **DLL References**. See Figure 3-3.

Figure 3-3: Typical Python[™] Code Snippet: Required Imports

```
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                                                                - 0
                                                                         23
a "Untitled"
File Edit Format Run Options Window Help
# Import the .NET class library
import clr
# Import python sys module
import sys
# Import os module
import os
# Import System.IO for saving and opening files
from System. IO import *
# Import C compatible List and String
from System import String
from System.Collections.Generic import List
# Add needed dll references
sys.path.append(os.environ['LIGHTFIELD ROOT'])
sys.path.append(os.environ['LIGHTFIELD_ROOT']+"\\AddInViews")
clr.AddReference('PrincetonInstruments.LightFieldViewV5')
clr.AddReference('PrincetonInstruments.LightField.AutomationV5')
clr.AddReference('PrincetonInstruments.LightFieldAddInSupportServices')
# PI imports
import PrincetonInstruments.LightField.AddIns as AddIns
from PrincetonInstruments.LightField.Automation import Automation
from PrincetonInstruments.LightField.AddIns import CameraSettings
from PrincetonInstruments.LightField.AddIns import DeviceType
                                                                  Ln: 28 Col: 61
```

4. Next, add the following code to verify a camera setting, such as Analog Gain:

```
def set_value(setting, value):
# Check for existence before setting
# gain, adc rate, or adc quality
if experiment.Exists(setting):
    experiment.SetValue(setting, value)
```

If the specified camera setting does not exist, the <code>experiment.SetValue</code> function will not be executed.

5. Next, add the following code to locate a connected device:

```
def device_found():
    # Find connected device
    for device in experiment.ExperimentDevices:
        if (device.Type == DeviceType.Camera):
            return True

# If connected device is not a camera inform the user
print("Camera not found. Please add a camera and try again.")
return False
```

6. Add the following code to create an instance of LightField that loads with no experiment:

```
# Create the LightField Application (true for visible)
# The 2nd parameter forces LF to load with no experiment
auto = Automation(True, List[String]())
```

7. Next, add the following code to get an experiment object:

```
# Get experiment object
experiment = auto.LightFieldApplication.Experiment
```

8. Finally, add the following code to set the exposure time and acquire an image:

```
if (device_found() ==True):
    #Set exposure time
    set_value(CameraSettings.ShutterTimingExposureTime, 20.0)

# Acquire image
    experiment.Acquire()
```

Chapter 4: Using LightField Experiment Settings Help File

Information required to modify LightField settings using Python $^{\text{TM}}$ code is in the **LightField Experiment Settings.chm** help file found in the **Add-in and Automation SDK** folder.

The help file includes the following Classes available for configuration updates via $Pvthon^{TM}$:

- CameraSettings
- ExperimentSettings
- SpectrometerSettings

This chapter describes how to identify this information when creating a Python $^{\text{TM}}$ automation application.

4.1 Identify Device Parameters and Valid Enumeration Values

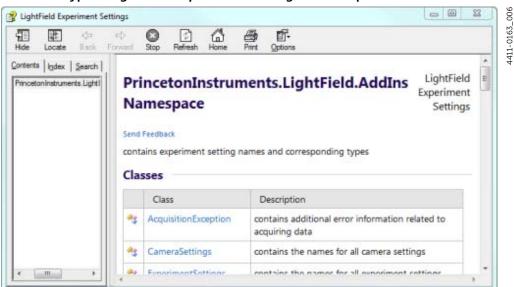
Perform the following procedure to identify required parameters and associated valid enumeration values required in order to develop Python $^{\text{TM}}$ automation applications.



In this example, the parameter **Analog to Digital Conversion Quality** will be spotlighted.

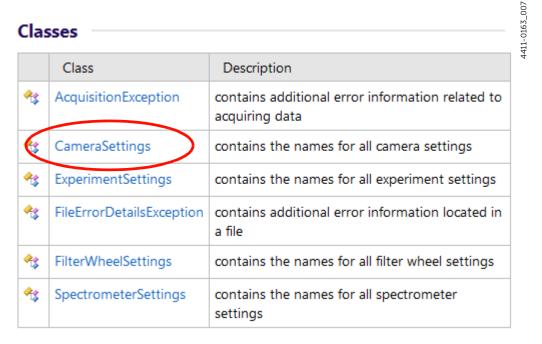
- 1. Open the Add-in and Automation SDK folder using the shortcut on the host computer's desktop.
- 2. Locate the file named **LightField Experiment Settings.chm** and double-click on it to open the Help file. See Figure 4-1.

Figure 4-1: Typical LightField Experiment Settings.chm Help File



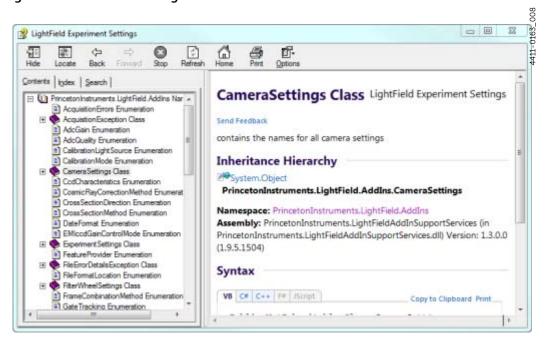
3. The ADC Quality setting is a Camera setting. Within the Classes table, click on CameraSettings. See Figure 4-2.

Figure 4-2: Typical Classes Table



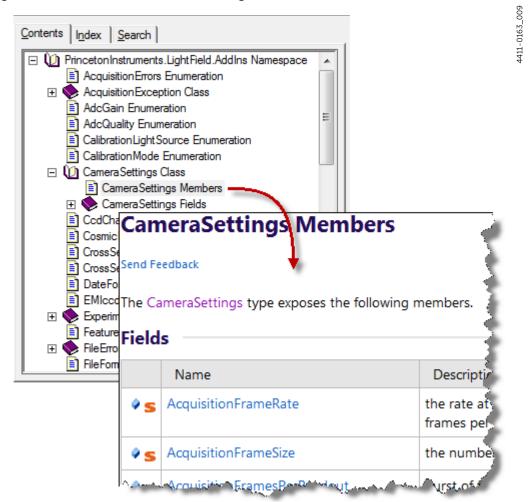
Information about the CameraSettings class is displayed in the Help window primary frame, and the Contents tab expands. See Figure 4-3.

Figure 4-3: CameraSettings Class Information



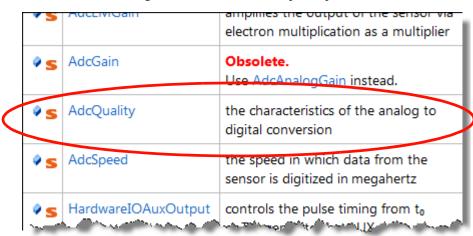
4. Within the Contents tab, expand the CameraSettings Class book and click on the CameraSettings Members entry to view the members within the primary help panel. Figure 4-4 illustrates a partial view of the CameraSettings Members table.

Figure 4-4: Partial View: CameraSettings Members Table



5. Scroll the CameraSettings Members table until AdcQuality is visible. See Figure 4-5.

Figure 4-5: CameraSettings Members: AdcQuality Entry

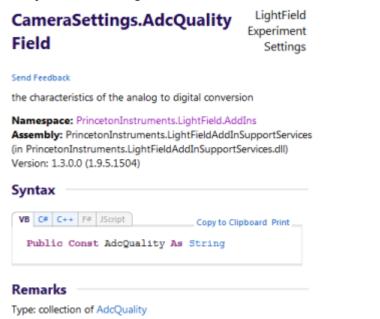


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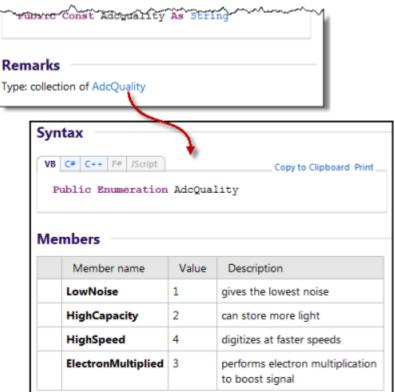
6. Click on AdcQuality to view information about this camera setting in the primary help panel. See Figure 4-6.

Figure 4-6: AdcQuality Camera Setting Information



7. Within the **Remarks** section, click on the AdcQuality link to view the set of valid Enumeration values/members. See Figure 4-7.

Figure 4-7: AdcQuality Camera Setting Information



All information required to modify AdcQuality using Python[™] is now known.

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Chapter 5: Sample Applications

Teledyne Princeton Instruments includes a library of sample Python^{TM} applications. This chapter provides information about each of these sample applications.

Refer to Table 5-1 for a list of pre-written applications that are available and where additional information can be found.

Table 5-1: Sample Teledyne Princeton Instruments Python[™] Applications

File/Application Name	For Complete Information, refer to
acquisition_filename.py	Section 5.2.1, acquisition_filename.py, on page 20
add_remove-device.py	Section 5.2.2, add_remove-device.py, on page 21
emccd.py	Section 5.2.3, emccd.py, on page 21
event_handling.py	Section 5.2.4, event_handling.py, on page 21
exposure_acquire.py	Section 5.2.5, exposure_acquire.py, on page 21
multiple_lightfields.py	Section 5.2.6, multiple_lightfields.py, on page 21
multiple_roi.py	Section 5.2.7, multiple_roi.py, on page 22
repetitive_gating.py	Section 5.2.8, repetitive_gating.py, on page 22
saving_loading_experiments.py	Section 5.2.9, saving_loading_experiments.py, on page 22
sequential_gating.py	Section 5.2.10, sequential_gating.py, on page 22
settings.py	Section 5.2.11, settings.py, on page 23
spe_file_access.py	Section 5.2.12, spe_file_access.py, on page 23
spectrometer.py	Section 5.2.13, spectrometer.py, on page 23
synchronous_acquisition.py	Section 5.2.14, synchronous_acquisition.py, on page 23
temperature.py	Section 5.2.15, temperature.py, on page 24

5.1 Common Program Elements

This section provides information about program elements that are required by all Python $^{\text{TM}}$ applications designed to automate LightField:

Refer to the following sections for complete information:

- Section 5.1.1, Required DLLs, on page 20;
- Section 5.1.2, Required Imports, on page 20.

5.1.1 Required DLLs

The set of required DLLs is declared in the following block of code near the beginning of each Python[™] file:

5.1.2 Required Imports

The following required elements are imported by all Python^{TM} applications:

- Addins;
- Automation.

The set of required imports is declared near the beginning of each PythonTM file in a block of code resembling the following:

```
# PI imports
from PrincetonInstruments.LightField.Automation import Automation
from PrincetonInstruments.LightField.AddIns import [Name_of_import]

[additional_import_statements]
```

where [Name of import] can be a/an:

- class;
- enumeration;
- variable;
- etc.

Application-specific import requirements are provided in the following section.

5.2 Application-Specific Information

This section provides information specific to each sample application supplied by Teledyne Princeton Instruments.

5.2.1 acquisition_filename.py

Description

When called, acquisition_filename.py saves an acquired image in the default LightField directory.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by acquisition filename.py:

- ExperimentSettings
- DeviceType

5.2.2 add remove-device.py

Description

When called, add_remove-device.py instructs LightField to add the first available device. Once the current device is no longer required, LightField then removes it.

Required Imports

There are no additional imports required by add remove-device.py.

5.2.3 emccd.py

Description

When called, emccd.py configures **EM ADC Quality** and the first **ADC Rate** available. It also sets the **EM Gain** to 10, and acquires an image.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by emccd.py:

- CameraSettings
- AdcQuality
- DeviceType

5.2.4 event handling.py

Description

When called, event handling.py informs the user when LightField is ready to run.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by event handling.py:

• DeviceType

5.2.5 exposure acquire.py

Description

When called, exposure acquire.py configures LightField and acquires an exposure.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by exposure acquire.py:

- CameraSettings
- DeviceType

5.2.6 multiple lightfields.py

Description

When called, multiple_lightfields.py enables the acquisition of image data from two discreet instances of LightField.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by multiple lightfields.py:

- IDevice
- DeviceType
- ExperimentSettings

5.2.7 multiple roi.py

Description

When called, multiple_roi.py defines two regions of interest within LightField. The dimensions of each ROI are printed. These ROIs are then used to acquire an image.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by multiple roi.py:

- RegionOfInterest
- DeviceType

5.2.8 repetitive gating.py

Description

When called, repetitive_gating.py:

- Sets and gets a value for on-chip accumulations;
- · Configures Repetitive Gate Pulse Width and Delay;
- Acquires an image.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by repetitive gating.py:

- CameraSettings
- GatingMode
- Pulse
- DeviceType

5.2.9 saving loading experiments.py

Description

When called, saving_loading_experiments.py saves an experiment and prints saved experiments.

Required Class Imports

There are no additional imports are required by saving loading experiments.py.

5.2.10 sequential gating.py

Description

When called, sequential gating.py:

- Sets and gets a value for on-chip accumulations;
- Configures starting and ending sequential pulse width and delay;
- Configures the number of frames;
- Acquires an image.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by sequential gating.py:

- CameraSettings
- ExperimentSettings
- GatingMode
- Pulse
- DeviceType

5.2.11 settings.py

Description

When called, settings.py displays a device's capabilities.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by settings.py:

- CameraSettings
- DeviceType

5.2.12 spe file access.py

Description

When called, spe file access.py:

- Acquires an image;
- Opens the corresponding *.spe file;
- Returns the image dimensions, in pixels (e.g., 1024 x 1024);
- Reports the intensity of the first 10 pixels.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by spe file access.py:

- ExperimentSettings
- DeviceType

5.2.13 spectrometer.py

Description

When called, spectrometer.py configures an attached spectrometer device.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by spectrometer.py:

- SpectrometerSettings
- DeviceType

5.2.14 synchronous acquisition.py

Description

When called, synchronous acquisition.py:

- Synchronously Acquires 3 images using LightField's Capture function;
- Processes data using the Numpy extension module.

Perform the following procedure to install Numpy:

- 1. Open a Command Prompt.
- 2. Change the working directory to be the Python[™] directory.

For example:

cd C:\Users\[user_name]AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36

3. Enter the following command:

```
python -m pip install numpy [enter]
```

4. Wait for Successfully Installed to be displayed.

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by synchronous acquisition.py:

- Numpy;
- ExperimentSettings;
- DeviceType.

NOTES:

If Numpy is not installed, open the sample code, locate the following lines, and comment them out:

```
# numpy import
import numpy as np
```

```
def print_statistics(image_data, image_frame):
    # Create a new 1-dimensional array from an iterable object of
        type float.

# Image data can be returned as uint[], ushort[], float[]

# Use float for best results with/without background subtraction
        array = np.fromiter(image_data, float)

# Calculated mean
        print("\nMean: %s" % str(round(np.mean(array))))

# Calculated median
    print("\nMedian: %s" % str(round(np.median(array))))

# Calculated max
    print("\nMax Value: %s" % str(round(np.max(array))))

# Calculated min
    print("\nMin Value: %s" % str(np.min(array)))
```

```
print_statitstics(image_data, image_frame)
```

5.2.15 temperature.py

Description

When called, temperature.py:

- Changes the temperature set point to −10 °C;
- · Reports the current temperature;
- Reports the current status (i.e., locked/unlocked.)

Required Imports

The following additional imports are required by temperature.py:

- CameraSettings
- SensorTemperatureStatus
- DeviceType

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Appendix A: Install Python[™]

This appendix provides the information necessary to install PythonTM and Python.Net on a host computer in order to automate LightField 6.

A.1 Install Python[™]

Perform the following procedure to install Python[™] on the host computer:

1. Download the most recent 64-bit version of Python[™] from here:

https://www.python.org/downloads/windows/



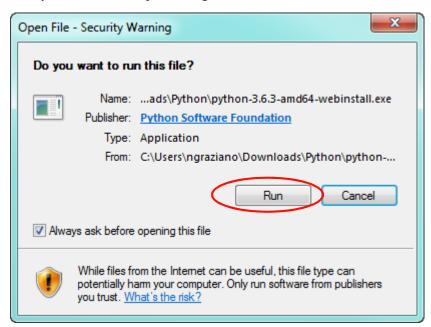
As of the date of this document, the most recent 64-bit version is PythonTM 3.6.3.

Figure A-1: List of Available Python[™] Versions



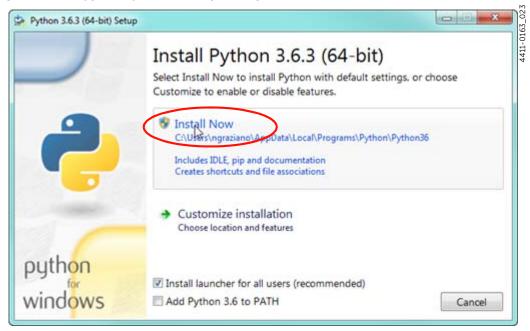
2. When the Security Warning dialog is displayed, click Run. See Figure A-2.

Figure A-2: Open File - Security Warning



3. When prompted, click Install Now. See Figure A-3.

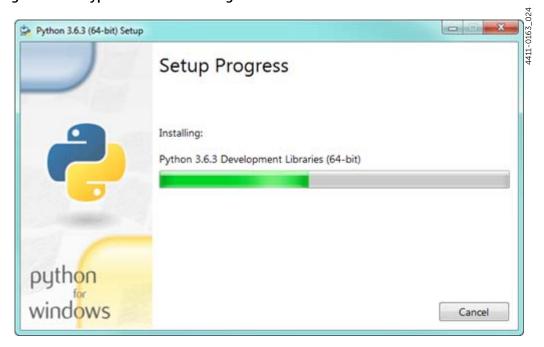
Figure A-3: Typical Python[™] Setup Dialog



4. The installation will begin, and the progress is indicated with a standard Windows progress bar. See Figure A-4.

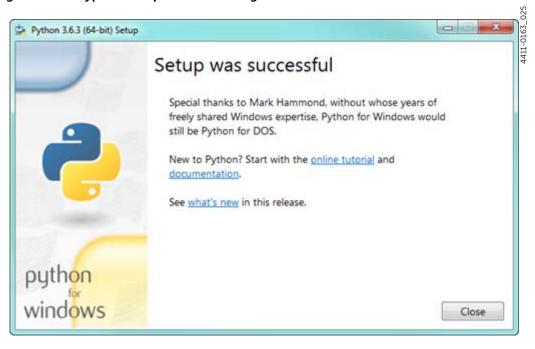
4411-0163_021

Figure A-4: Typical Installation Progress Bar



5. When installation is complete, click Close. See Figure A-5.

Figure A-5: Typical Setup Success Dialog



A.2 Install Python for .Net

Perform the following procedure to install PythonNet:

1. Download the most recent 64-bit version Python for .Net which is available here:

https://pypi.python.org/pypi/pythonnet/2.3.0

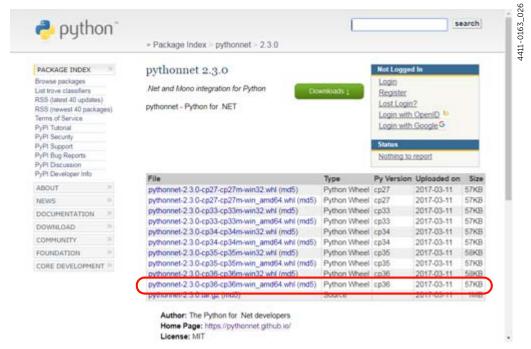


As of the date of this document, the most recent **64-bit** version is:

pythonnet-2.3.0-cp36-cp36m-win_amd64.whl

See Figure A-6.

Figure A-6: List of Available Python for .Net Download Packages

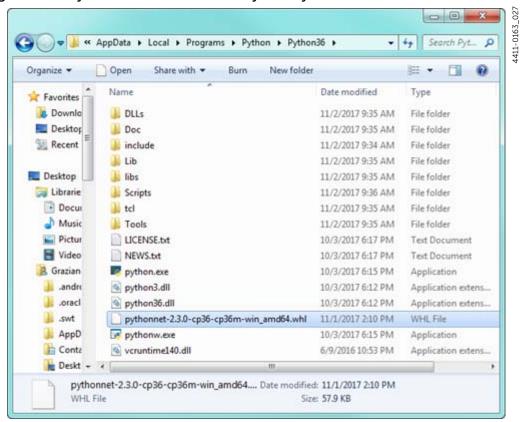


- 2. Open a Windows Explorer window and navigate to the directory in which the **Python for .Net** file was saved.
- **3.** Open a second Explorer window and navigate to the Python^{TM} installation directory on the host computer. This is typically:

C:\Users\[user name]\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36

4. Move or place a copy of the **Python for .Net** file into the Python[™] installation directory. See Figure A-7.

Figure A-7: Python[™] Installation Directory with Python for .Net File



5. Open a Command Prompt window.

Figure A-8: Typical Command Prompt Window

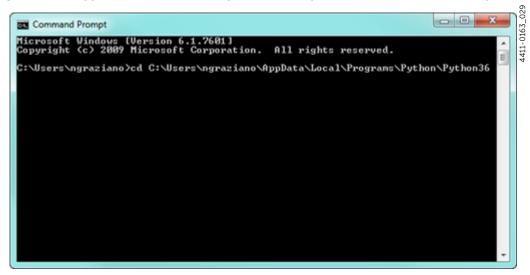


6. Issue the following command to change to the installation directory for Python $^{\text{TM}}$.

CD
C:\Users\[user_name]\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python3
6

See Figure A-9.

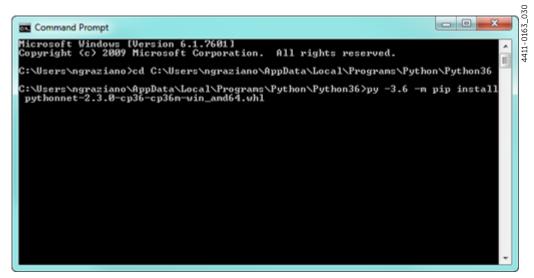
Figure A-9: Typical Command Prompt Window: Python[™] Installation Directory



7. Issue the command to instruct the **pip package manager**^a to install the **Python for** .Net *.whl file:

```
py -3.6 -m pip install pythonnet-2.3.0-cp36-cp36m-
win_amd64.whl
See Figure A-10.
```

Figure A-10: Command to Launch PIP Package Manager



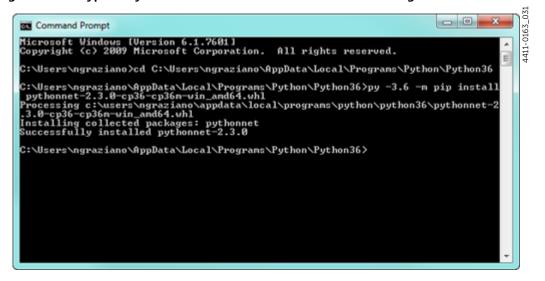
a. \mathbf{pip} is a package management system used to install and manage software packages written in PvthonTM.

8. Once installed, they system will return a Successfully Installed pythonnet-x.y.z message indicating that Python[™] scripts may now be executed. See Figure A-11.



x.y.z corresponds to the specific version of PythonNet that has been installed.

Figure A-11: Typical Python for .Net Installation Successful Message



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