# JSON vs CSV

We use an Excel spreadsheet primarily to document our network inventory, yes I know it's old school, but it does maintain an accurate list of our network.

For Python, I want to use this information to gather information, test something, or even configure them. I thought of two options, using comma-separated values (CSV) or JavaScript Object Notation (JSON). Upon completing my DevNet Associate and Python training, I found JSON to be the perfect option to gather my network devices I want Python to use.

I simply create a new tab, and copy rows to form a list I want Python to work on. For example if I wanted to ping a pool of network devices, I just copy that pool into a new tab and save it as a CSV file. Then use my CSV to JSON convert program to get the JSON file.

Here are some pros of using JSON over CSV:
- JSON is better at showing hierarchical/relational data.
- Python CSV reader application is terrible.
- JSON is more adaptive because it simply a Python dictionary.
- JSON is scalable.

I've decided to build my scripts based using JSON for my network inventory. I've created a program to convert CSV to JSON, so problem solved!

Regards,

James.