# LingQ Bulk Lesson Importer Tool

By Green Airplane

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## Introduction

This tool automates importing large amounts of text into the language learning system at <https://www.lingq.com>. It can upload entire books in one go. It does this by commandeering a Firefox browser window and making it do the same steps you would do during manual import. For this purpose it uses the [Selenium Browser Autmation Framework](http://docs.seleniumhq.org/). (Other browsers were tested, with unsatisfactory results) The tool was implemented as a PowerShell script to make it transparent and easy to modify. The script uses several Selenium DLL files, which can be freely downloaded from the Selenium website. For the sake of convenience I have also included them with the tool. I do not claim any ownership of these DLLs.

The tool assumes you already have your text prepared - split into small plain-text files, properly named and numbered. This task depends on your specific circumstances (such as the format of your e-book), therefore making a generic tool that handles this is too difficult. (I may release something that will help a bit in the future)

## Prerequisites

* **Windows 7 or later.** (may possibly work on Vista or XP, this has not been tested.)
* **Mozilla Firefox browser**
* **.NET Framework 4.0 or higher**. The .NET framework is usually shipped with your operating system, and Windows Update keeps it up to date. If this is not the case, you can download it here <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/vstudio/aa496123>
* **PowerShell 3.0 or higher.** Depending on your operating system, it's possible you already have PowerShell. If this is not the case, you can install it by following the instructions here <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh847837.aspx>

## Parts of the solution

* **LingQBulkUploader.ps1** - the script itself
* The DLLs:

*ThoughtWorks.Selenium.Core.dll*

*Selenium.WebDriverBackedSelenium.dll*

*Selenium.WebDriver.dll*

*WebDriver.dll*

*WebDriver.Support.dll*

**Note: I included these DLL files for convenience only. They are from the standard Selenium distributable package. You can download them yourself from here** [**http://selenium-release.storage.googleapis.com/2.45/selenium-dotnet-2.45.0.zip**](http://selenium-release.storage.googleapis.com/2.45/selenium-dotnet-2.45.0.zip) **Copy the DLLs from the net40 folder to the folder where the script file is located.**

## Preparation

**1. LingQ Course**

Make sure you have a course ready on the LingQ site. I recommend you create a new course for the import. Don't use a course where you already have a lot of lessons. If you make a mistake, or the import fails halfway through for whatever reason, you'll have to manually delete all the unwanted lessons, which is a pain.

Once your course is created, navigate to it in your browser. You should have an url that looks like this:

https://www.lingq.com/learn/**ja**/courses/**199553**/

You will need two values from the url:

* Language code - in my case "ja"
* Course id - in my case "199553"

**2. Files to import**

Place all the files you want to import in a single folder. Use only plain text files (.txt). Do not put anything else in the folder (the script will try to import any file present in the folder). The files will be imported in alphabetical order, taking into account numbers in file names (natural ordering is used, i.e. "part 1 of 10" will be first and "part 10 of 10" last). The lesson title will be the file name without extension (without the ".txt").

Example of input folder contents:

第1章　最悪の誕生日　The Worst Birthday - part 1 of 4.txt

第1章　最悪の誕生日　The Worst Birthday - part 2 of 4.txt

第1章　最悪の誕生日　The Worst Birthday - part 3 of 4.txt

第1章　最悪の誕生日　The Worst Birthday - part 4 of 4.txt

第2章　ドビーの警告　Dobby's Warning - part 1 of 7.txt

第2章　ドビーの警告　Dobby's Warning - part 2 of 7.txt

第2章　ドビーの警告　Dobby's Warning - part 3 of 7.txt

第2章　ドビーの警告　Dobby's Warning - part 4 of 7.txt

第2章　ドビーの警告　Dobby's Warning - part 5 of 7.txt

第2章　ドビーの警告　Dobby's Warning - part 6 of 7.txt

第2章　ドビーの警告　Dobby's Warning - part 7 of 7.txt

...

第18章　ドビーのごほうび　Dobby's Reward - part 8 of 8.txt

I recommend importing the whole book in one go. If you do it in parts, LingQ likes to mess up the lesson order a bit.

## Running the script

The script has 5 parameters. All of them are necessary for the script to work:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| username | Your LingQ username. |
| password | Your LingQ password. |
| courseId | ID number of the course you want to import into. See previous section for details. |
| languageCode | Two-letter code of your course's language, such us ja, de, es... |
| inputFolder | Folder where your files are |

1. If you haven't done so already, download the tool. Go to <https://github.com/TheGreenAirplane/LingQBulkImporter> and click **Download ZIP** in the lower right part of the page. Unzip the downloaded archive.
2. **Open PowerShell console**. Click the Start button, type in **PoweShell**. In the search result under **Programs** click **Windows PowerShell**. (If PowerShell doesn't come up in the search, it means you don't have it installed. Refer to section "Prerequisites")

**NOTE**: If you’ve never run PowerShell scripts before, it’s likely that your PowerShell **Execution Policy** is set to “**Restricted**”. If you try to run the script with restricted execution policy, you’ll get an error that looks like this:

**LingQBulkUpload.ps1 cannot be loaded because running scripts is disabled**

**on this system.**

You can also verify this by typing *Get-ExecutionPolicy* in the PowerShell console window.

To change execution policy, you must run the PowerShell console with administrator privileges. Right-click on the PowerShell icon and choose “Run as Administrator”. If a dialog window appears, asking “Do you want to allow the following program to make changes to your computer?” click “Yes”. In the PowerShell console window type:

*Set-ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted*

PowerShell will ask you if you really want to change the execution policy. Press “Y” and then Enter. You can now run the script (proceed to step 3). After the import is finished, you can set the execution policy back to “Restricted” by typing

*Set-ExecutionPolicy Restricted*

Or you can leave it unrestricted.

1. **Navigate to the folder where the script file is located (where you unzipped the downloaded file).** For example, if the script is in C:\downloads\LingQBulkImporter-master, type   
   **cd C:\downloads\LingQBulkImporter-master** in the PowerShell console window.
2. **Run the script with necessary parameters.**Example usage:  
   *.\LingQBulkUpload.ps1 -username myusername -password mypassword -courseId 199553 -languageCode ja -inputFolder "C:\My books\HP2\Files to import"*
3. A Firefox window will launch. It will try to log into LingQ with your username and password, and then import the lessons one by one. Observe this process for a while. Make sure it has logged in correctly and the first one or two lessons were imported. Do not close or interfere with the Firefox window until all the files are imported.

## Support & Feedback

If you have problems running the script, you can contact me via the LingQ forum, or at **green.airplane@gmail.com**. Make sure you put "LINGQ TOOL" in the email subject. I may try to help, if my schedule permits. However, bear in mind that **I do not make any commitment or promise to provide technical support for this tool. I made this tool for my own purposes, and then released it out of good will. All support (if any) I may choose to provide, will be on a good will basis as well.**

You may also send me feedback. **I am especially eager to hear if you had trouble following these instructions, or if something needs to be clearer or more detailed.** I am a software developer, I sometimes have trouble judging how much information people who are not skilled with computers really need.

I realize the tool is rudimentary and rather clumsy. However, I do not plan to invest any more time in improving it, because a) it works, and b) I consider the whole approach using Selenium to be highly suboptimal. For this reason I am also not likely to take feature requests. If you are up to it, you can modify the tool in any way you see fit. I would be interested in seeing your improvements.