**Goal:** To be able to combine multiple PDFs into one using python. This can be done very easily with an Adobe Reader Pro license, but many of us do not have that. For those of us that have IDLE (Python GUI), there is a loophole.

Python is a powerful object oriented programming language that can do many tasks with only a few lines of code. Please follow the instructions to get started.
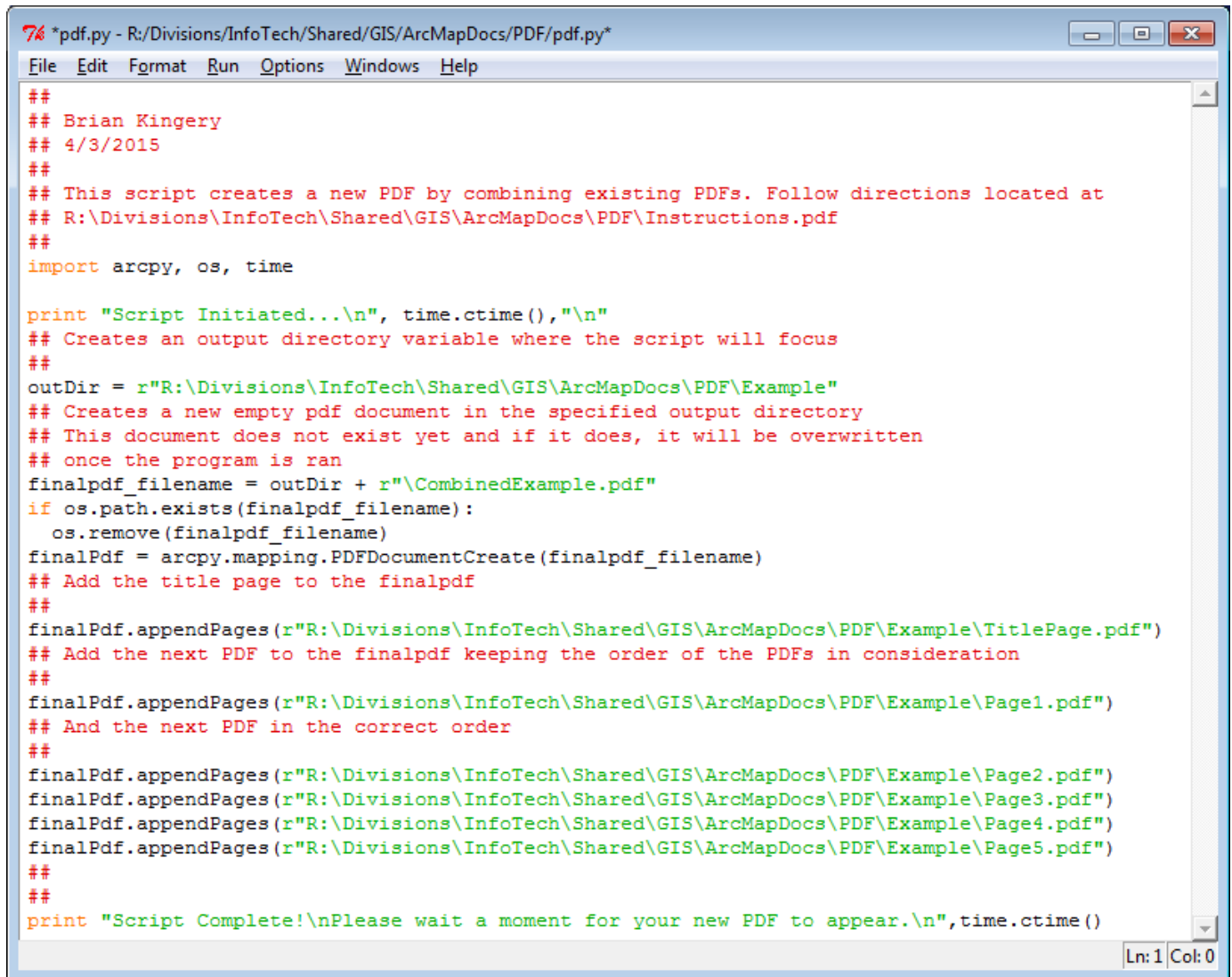
1. Open the Global User Interface (GUI) window. The Python Shell should open.
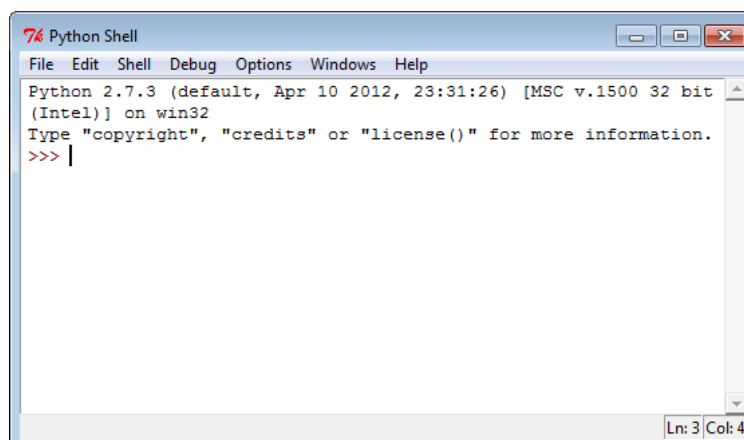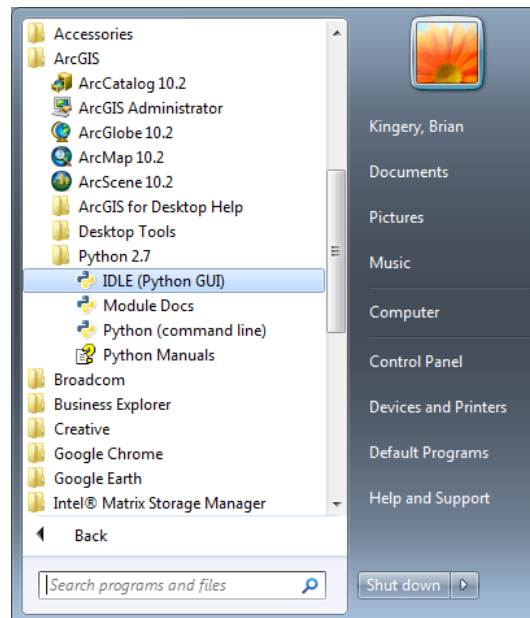
2. In the Python Shell, we are now going to open the python file where everything will be explained.

File→ Open→ R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\pdf.py

Don't be intimidated by the code. You will only have to change a few items to combine all of your PDFs.

```
7% *pdf.py - R:/Divisions/InfoTech/Shared/GIS/ArcMapDocs/PDF/pdf.py*
File  Edit  Format  Run  Options  Windows  Help

##
## Brian Kingery
## 4/3/2015
##
## This script creates a new PDF by combining existing PDFs. Follow directions located at
## R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Instructions.pdf
##
import arcpy, os, time

print "Script Initiated...\n", time.ctime(),"\n"
## Creates an output directory variable where the script will focus
##
outDir = r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example"
## Creates a new empty pdf document in the specified output directory
## This document does not exist yet and if it does, it will be overwritten
## once the program is ran
finalpdf_filename = outDir + r"\CombinedExample.pdf"
if os.path.exists(finalpdf_filename):
  os.remove(finalpdf_filename)
finalPdf = arcpy.mapping.PDFDocumentCreate(finalpdf_filename)
## Add the title page to the finalpdf
##
finalPdf.appendPages(r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\TitlePage.pdf")
## Add the next PDF to the finalpdf keeping the order of the PDFs in consideration
##
finalPdf.appendPages(r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page1.pdf")
## And the next PDF in the correct order
##
finalPdf.appendPages(r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page2.pdf")
finalPdf.appendPages(r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page3.pdf")
finalPdf.appendPages(r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page4.pdf")
finalPdf.appendPages(r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page5.pdf")
##
##
print "Script Complete!\nPlease wait a moment for your new PDF to appear.\n",time.ctime()
                                                                              Ln: 1 Col: 0
```

This is how I would like you to see the program since you will not need to change anything else to accomplish your goal other than what is indicated. There are only 5 things that you will need to focus on.

```
## Creates an output directory variable where the script will focus          1
##
          r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example"
## Creates a new empty pdf document in the specified output directory
## This document does not exist yet and if it does, it will be overwritten
## once the program is ran                                      2
                              r"\CombinedExample.pdf"


## Add the title page to the finalpdf                                        3
##
                    r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\TitlePage.pdf")
## Add the next PDF to the finalpdf keeping the order of the PDFs in consideration
##
                    r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page1.pdf")  4
## And the next PDF in the correct order
##
                    r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page2.pdf")
                    r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page3.pdf")  5
                    r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page4.pdf")
                    r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\GIS\ArcMapDocs\PDF\Example\Page5.pdf")
```

1

This is where you will change the code by typing the folder where you would like your new PDF to be placed. Only change the text **INSIDE** the quotation marks. Other examples would be – r"H:\Projects" or r"R:\Divisions\InfoTech\Shared\Projects\GoogleEarth"

2

This is where you will create the name of your final PDF that will show all of the individual PDFs once they are combined. Only change the text, CombinedExample of the line r"\CombinedExample.pdf" Make sure not change the r"\ at the beginning and the .pdf" at the end otherwise the script will not work correctly. Other examples would be r"\FinalPresentation.pdf" or r"\LeeHallMapBook.pdf"

3

This line controls the first PDF that you would like to have in your combination of PDFs. Only change the text **INSIDE** the quotation marks.

4

This line controls the second PDF that you would like to have in your combination of PDFs. Only change the text **INSIDE** the quotation marks.

5

The order of the PDFs is very important and will determine the order in which they show up when they are combined. You can add as many PDFs as you like.

3. Once you are done adding all of your PDFs, you are now ready to save and run your program. Make sure to **File→Save As** rather than just saving. You can save the Python file to your Desktop or wherever you like so you can reuse in the future. When saving, make sure to add the **.py** file extension so Python recognizes the file as a program.
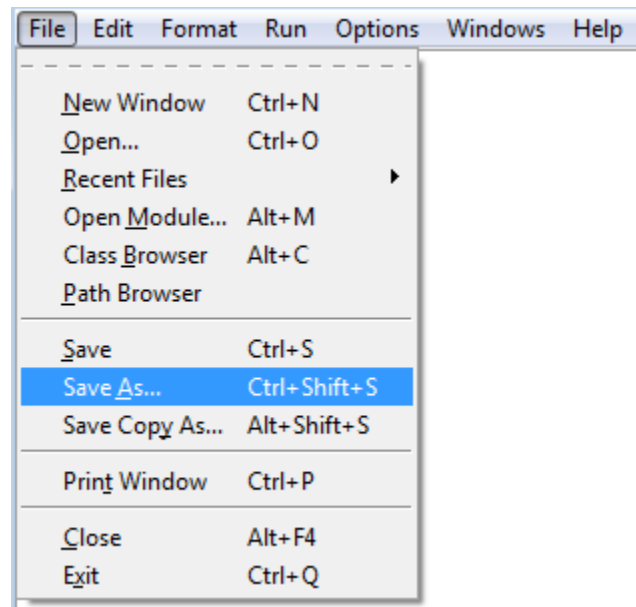
Example
File→ Save As→ Choose Folder **→** NameOfFile**.py**
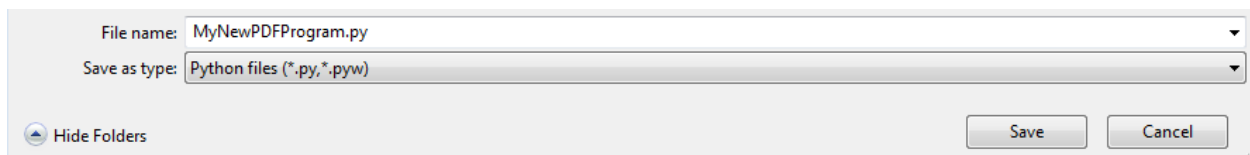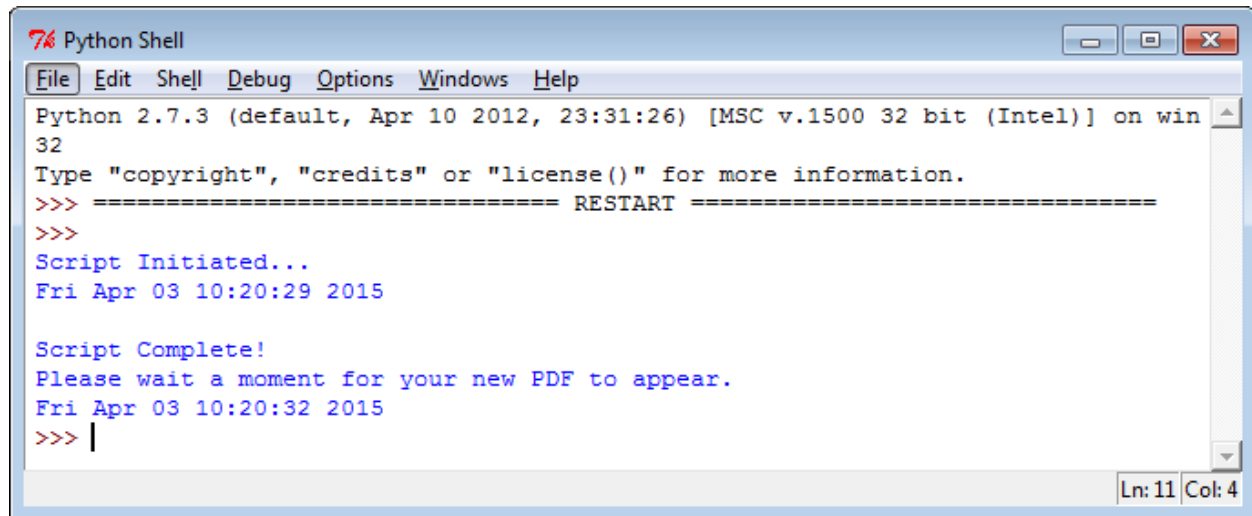

4. You are now ready to run your program!

Run→ Run Module
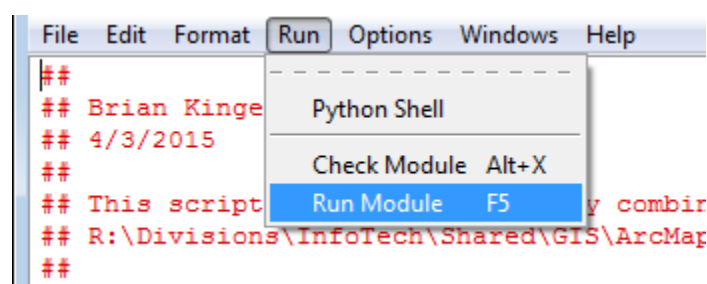
5. If you look in the Python Shell, messages will appear with time stamps providing you feedback.

6. Allow some time for the computer to finish compiling the PDFs into one and it will show up in your Windows Explorer window with your title that you designated during step number **2**.

Note
To open the .py Python file directly from Windows Explorer you need to **Right Click→Edit with IDLE** rather than just double clicking the file like other files.
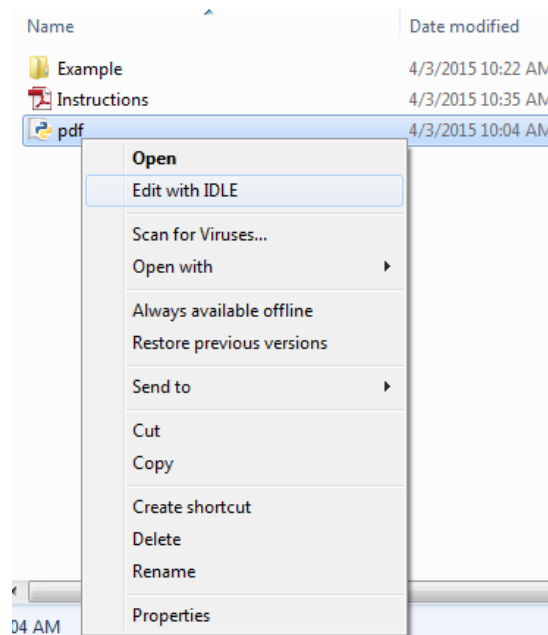
Congratulations! You are now a programmer. If you would like any clarification of steps or simply cannot get the methodology to work, I am always available to assist.

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