Introduction

The Reportlab PDF Toolkit started life in the year 2000 by a company called "Reportlab Inc.". Reportlab is now owned by "ReportLab Europe Ltd". They produce the open source version of Reportlab. The Reportlab toolkit is actually the foundation of their commercial product, **Report Markup Language** which is available in their **Reportlab PLUS** package. This book is focused on the open source version of Reportlab. The Reportlab PDF Toolkit allows you to create in Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) quickly and efficiently in the Python programming language. Reportlab is the defacto method of generating PDFs in Python. You can also use Reportlab to create charts and graphics in bimap and vector formats in addition to PDF. Reportlab is known for its ability to generate a PDF fast. In fact, Wikipedia chose Reportlab as their tool of choice for generating PDFs of their content. Anytime you click the "Download as PDF" link on the left side of a Wikipedia page, it uses Python and Reportlab to create the PDF!

In this book, you will learn how to use Reportlab to create PDFs too. This book will be split into three sections. We will be covering the following topics in the first section:

- The canvas
- Drawing
- Working with fonts
- PLATYPUS
- Paragraphs
- Tables
- Other Flowables
- Graphics
- and More!

In the second section, we will learn about data processing. The idea here is to take in several different data formats and turn them into PDFs. For example, it is quite common to receive data in XML or JSON. But learning how to take that information and turn it into a report is something that isn't covered very often. You will learn how to do that here. In the process we will discover how to make multipage documents with paragraphs and tables that flow across the pages correctly.

The last section of the book will cover some of the other libraries you might need when working with PDFs with Python. In this section we will learn about the following:

- PyPDF2
- pdfminer
- PyFPDF