

IRC Library for Python 3 https://github.com/nutjob-laboratories/erkle

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SUMMARY	
PHILOSOPHY	
LOW LEVEL	
WHY NOT USE TWISTED OR IRCLIB?	
REQUIREMENTS	
PYTHON LIBRARIES	3
ERKLE OBJECT	•
CONFIGURATION DICTIONARY	4
METHODS	
USABLE BEFORE CONNECTING TO AN IRC SERVER	
USABLE AFTER CONNECTING TO AN IRC SERVER	
ATTRIBUTES	
THE "IRC" DECORATOR, TAGS, AND EVENTS	
TAGS	a
EVENTS	Δ
EVENT SETS	
ERKLE.EVENTS.DUMP	
ERKLE.EVENTS.MESSAGES	
CUSTOM DATA CLASSES	
USER CLASS	13
WHOIS CLASS	
EXAMPLES	
GREETER BOT	4.4
AUTO-OP BOTUSING CLIENT AND EVENT TAGS	
	10
LICENSE	
MIT LICENSE	17





Summary

Erkle is a low level, event-driven IRC library for Python 3, designed for <u>IRC bots</u>, <u>IRC clients</u>, or any other IRC-related purpose.

Philosophy

Erkle was designed with the following in mind:

- **Little or no boilerplate code.** To write a IRC bot or client, the programmer should only have to write the functionality he or she wants to employ.
- Modular code. Most IRC bots or clients will require some common functionality. The programmer shouldn't have to <u>reinvent the wheel</u> every time they create a new bot or client. Code should be able to be isolated into <u>modules</u> for repeated use.
- **Little or no software requirements.** The library should use the Python standard library over third party libraries whenever possible.
- Whenever possible, the library should mirror the protocol. Having an understanding of how the IRC protocol works should give an understanding of how the library works.
- **General purpose.** The library should be able to be used for IRC bots, IRC clients, or any other IRC-based purpose, with no preference for any one specific function.
- **Multiple clients, multiple connections.** The library should make it easy to create and maintain multiple IRC connections/clients at once, from a single program.
- **Not a "black box".** The library should not prevent the user from using the library to perform functions not envisioned by the library's author. Important internal objects and functionality should be easily available to the user.

Low Level

To use *Erkle*, understanding IRC and the IRC protocol is a necessity. *Erkle* is designed to be low level, meaning its interface is influenced by the protocol itself. Since there's no syntactic sugar to hide the difficult or complex parts of the protocol, *Erkle* code should be easy to understand if you understand the underlying protocol.

The IRC protocol is defined in a series of RFC documents:

- RFC 1459
- RFC 2812

Why not use **Twisted** or **irclib**?

I wanted an IRC library with as few requirements as possible, and didn't require subclassing. I also wanted a client that was small enough to be bundled with an application, rather than requiring a user to install it through **pip** or some other package manager. Last, I wanted a library that wasn't focused on writing IRC bots *or* writing IRC clients; I wanted a library that would work for any IRC-related activity. Since I couldn't find this library, I decided to write *Erkle*.

Requirements

Erkle uses, for the most part, only modules in the Python standard library. To use <u>SSL/TLS</u> to connect to IRC servers, however, the <u>pyOpenSSL</u> library must be installed. To install this library via the Python package installer, <u>pip</u>, execute this command:

pip install pyOpenSSL

Python libraries

Erkle uses the following modules from the standard library:

- sys
- os
- socket
- collections
- string
- threading
- ssl (only if it is available)

Erkle Object

Erkle is a class that creates and manages an IRC connection. To instantiate an *Erkle* object, pass a configuration dictionary as an argument to the class; this will return an instance of the *Erkle* class. In this document, an instance of the *Erkle* class is called an *Erkle object*.

Configuration dictionary

The configuration dictionary must contain nickname and server keys; all other keys are optional

Key	Туре	Default	Optional	Description
nickname	str	n/a	No	Sets the nickname the client will use. The key can be shortened to "nick".
server	str	n/a	No	Sets the host name or IP address of the IRC server the client will connect to.
port	int	6667	Yes	Sets the server port the client will connect to.
username	str	The client's nickname	Yes	Sets the username the client will use. The key can be shortened to "user".
realname	str	"Erkle 0.033 IRC Client"	Yes	Sets the real name the client will use. The key can be shortened to "real".
alternate	str	Nickname followed by an underscore	Yes	Sets the nickname the client will use if the initial nickname is already taken. The key can be shortened to "alt".
password	str	None	Yes	Sets the password to be used to connect to the IRC server.
ssl	bool	False	Yes	Sets whether SSL/TLS is used to connect to the server.
encoding	str	"utf-8"	Yes	Sets what string encoding the server uses.
flood-protection	bool	True	Yes	Sets whether <u>flood protection</u> is used or not.
flood-rate	int	2	Yes	Sets how often messages are sent to the server if flood protection is turned on, in seconds.
clock-frequency	float	1	Yes	Sets how often the tick event is triggered, in seconds. See <i>Events</i> on page 9.
multithreaded	bool	False	Yes	Executes <i>Erkle</i> 's connect() method in a separate thread.
show-input	bool	False	Yes	Set this to <i>True</i> to print all incoming IRC messages to the console.
show-output	bool	False	Yes	Set this to <i>True</i> to print all outgoing IRC messages to the console.

Methods

Usable before connecting to an IRC server

Once the *Erkle* object is created, use its **connect()** method to cause the object to connect to the IRC server.

Method	Arguments	Description
connect	None.	Connects to the IRC server. If the multithreaded configuration option is set to <i>True</i> , the IRC client/connection will be executed in a separate thread.
disable	• tag (string) •	Prevents any hooked functions tagged with tag from executing. Any number of tags can be enabled, as long as they are passed as individual arguments. See <i>Tags</i> , page 9. This method can be called while the client is connected.
enable	• tag (string) •	Removes tag from the list of disabled tags; hooked functions with this tag will be executed as normal. Any number of tags can be enabled, as long as they are passed as individual arguments. See <i>Tags</i> , page 9. This method can be called while the client is connected.
tag	• tag (string) •	Adds a tag to the <i>Erkle</i> object. Only hooked functions with that tag will be called when an event is triggered. See <i>Tags</i> , page 9. This method can be called while the client is connected. This method can be called while the client is connected.
untag	• tag (string) •	Removes a tag from the <i>Erkle</i> object. See <i>Tags</i> , page 9. This method can be called while the client is connected. This method can be called while the client is connected.

Usable after connecting to an IRC server

The following methods can only be used after the *Erkle* object's **connect()** method has been called. If flood protection is turned on (the default), any outgoing messages to the server are added to a queue and sent at a rate of rate of one message every two seconds.

Method	Arguments	Description
thread	None.	If <i>Erkle</i> has the multithreaded configuration option set to <i>True</i> , the object's <i>Thread</i> object (see the Python documentation for the <i>Threading</i> library) will be returned; otherwise, None is returned.
kill	None.	If <i>Erkle</i> has the multithreaded configuration option set to <i>True</i> , this will terminate the object's thread.
socket	None.	Returns the socket the <i>Erkle</i> object is using for the IRC connection.
send	data (string)	Sends a "raw" message to the IRC server; the message will not be processed in any way before being sent.
privmsg	 target (string) OR target (list) message (string) 	Sends a chat message to a channel or user. This can also be called via an alias: msg (). Pass a list of channels or users to send a PRIVMSG to multiple users or channels.

cprivmsg	 nickname (string) channel (string) message (string) 	Sends a private message to nickname in channel that bypasses flood protection limits. Both the target nickname and the client must be in the same channel, and the client must be a channel operator. Not all servers support the CPRIVMSG command; if the server currently connected to supports CPRIVMSG it should be in the client's commands attribute.
action	• target (string) OR target (list) • message (string)	Sends a CTCP action message to a channel or user. This can also be called via an alias: me (). Pass a list of channels or users to send a CTCP action to multiple users or channels.
notice	• target (string) OR target (list) • message (string)	Sends a notice to a user or channel Pass a list of channels or users to send a NOTICE to multiple users or channels.
cnotice	 nickname (string) channel (string) message (string) 	Sends a channel NOTICE to nickname in channel that bypasses flood protection limits. Both the target nickname and the client must be in the same channel, and the client must be a channel operator. Not all servers support the CNOTICE command; if the server currently connected to supports CNOTICE it should be in the client's commands attribute.
oper	username (string)password (string)	Logs into an IRC operator account on the server. If the login is successful, the server will trigger an oper event.
join	channel (string)key (string)	Joins a channel.
part	channel (string)reason (string)	Leaves a channel.
kick	target (string)channel (string)reason (string)	Kicks a user from a channel (the client must be a channel operator in the channel).
ban	• channel (string) • mask (string)	Bans any user who's nick/host/username matches a mask from a channel (the client must be a channel operator in the channel). See <u>RFC 1459</u> for more information on masks.
unban	channel (string)mask (string)	Removes a channel ban from a channel (the client must be a channel operator in the channel).
lock	channel (string)key (string)	Sets a channel key on a channel (the client must be a channel operator in the channel).
unlock	channel (string)key (string)	Removes a channel key from a channel (the client must be a channel operator in the channel).
mode	target (string)mode (string)	Sets a mode on a channel or user. See <u>RFC 1459</u> for more information on modes.
invite	user (string)channel (string)	Sends a channel invitation to a user.
away	• message (string)	Sets the client to "away" on the IRC server.
back	None.	Sets the client to "back" on the IRC server.
whois	• user (string)	Requests WHOIS data on a user from the server. When the WHOIS data is received, the whois event will be triggered.
list	None.	Requests a list of channels from the server. When the channel list is received, the list event will be triggered.
quit	• reason (string)	Disconnects from the IRC server. If <i>Erkle</i> is running in multithreaded mode, this will terminate the object's thread.

Attributes

An *Erkle* object also has a number of attributes that store information about the server, client, and the *Erkle* object. Not all of these values will be available immediately; the values are populated as the server sends the appropriate data to the client. Most of these values should be available by the time the **registered** event is triggered.

Attribute	Туре	Description
nickname	string	The client's nickname.
username	string	The client's username.
realname	string	The client's realname.
server	string	The server's address.
port	integer	The server's port.
password	string	The password used to connect to the server, if there is one.
usessl	boolean	Whether SSL is being used for this connection or not.
hostname	string	The server's hostname.
software	string	The server's software.
options	list	A list of the options the server supports.
network	string	The network the server belongs to.
commands	list	A list of commands supported by the server.
maxchannels	integer	The maximum number of channels a client can join on the server.
maxnicklen	integer	The maximum number of characters allowed for a nickname on the server.
channellen	integer	The maximum number of characters allowed for a channel name on the server.
topiclen	integer	The maximum number of characters allowed for a channel topic on the server.
kicklen	integer	The maximum number of characters allowed for a kick message on the server.
awaylen	integer	The maximum number of characters allowed for an away message on the server.
maxtargets	integer	The maximum number of targets a message can be sent to on a server.
modes	integer	The maximum number of channel modes that can be set on the server.
chantypes	list	What channel types the server uses.
prefix	list of lists	What channel status prefixes the server uses; each entry contains a list with the first value being the status type, and the second value being the prefix used for that type.
chanmodes	list	What channel modes the server uses.
casemapping	string	The casemapping the server uses.
spoofed	string	If the client's host is spoofed by the server, then the spoofed host name will be stored here.

users	dictionary of lists	An in-memory database of channel users. The dictionary uses channel names for keys, and each dictionary entry is a list of the named channel's users. The list will only contain users in channels the <i>Erkle</i> object has joined and is still present in. Each list entry is a <i>User</i> class object (see <i>User class</i> on page 13).
topic	dictionary	An in-memory database of channel topics. The dictionary uses channel names for keys, and each dictionary entry is a string containing the named channel's topic (or <i>None</i> if the topic is blank or unknown).
channels	list of lists	An in-memory database of all the channels on a server. This attribute starts empty by default; it will only be populated if the Erkle list() method is called. Each entry in the list a list that contains, in this order: 0. channel name (string) 1. number of users in the channel (integer) 2. channel topic (string) (None if there's no topic)
uptime	integer	Reflects how many seconds have elapsed since the <i>Erkle</i> object's connect() method was called.
tags	list	A list of tags that has been applied to the <i>Erkle</i> object.
encoding	string	The string encoding scheme the Erkle object is using.
multithreaded	boolean	If <i>Erkle</i> is running in a separate thread, this is will be <i>True</i> ; otherwise, this will be <i>False</i> .

The "irc" decorator, tags, and events

Included with the *Erkle* object is the *irc* decorator. The *irc* decorator is used to <u>decorate functions</u> that should be executed when specific events occur; this is called "hooking" an event. *irc* exposes one method: **event**. To hook an event, pass the name of the event (as a string) as the only argument to the **event** method. For example, to hook an event named "connect", the decorator required would look like:

```
@irc.event("connect")
```

Events can be hooked to an unlimited number of functions. Function hooks will be executed in the order in which they were hooked.

Tags

Hooked functions can also have **tags**, which are any number of strings attached to the hooked function's event. To add tags to a hooked function, pass them as additional arguments (after the event) to the function's decorator. For example, to add the tags "myfunc" and "chat" to a function hooked to the "public" event, you would use:

```
@irc.event("public", "myfunc", "chat")
```

Tags are used with Erkle's disable() and enable() methods (see Methods on page 5).

Hooked functions can have any number of tags, and tags do not have to be unique. Hooked functions that do *not* have any tags cannot be disabled with the disable() method.

The *Erkle* object can be tagged as well by using *Erkle*'s tag() and untag() methods. When a tag is added to the *Erkle* object, only hooked functions with that tag will be called when an event is triggered. *Erkle* objects can have multiple tags. By default, *Erkle* objects have no tags and will call every hooked function triggered by an event.

Hooked functions with an asterisk (*) tag will be executed by every *Erkle* object, regardless of how the object is tagged. Since this is a special tag, *Erkle* objects cannot have this tag, and an error will be thrown if an asterisk is added or removed from *Erkle* object's tags.

Events

There are 28 IRC events that can be hooked. The hooked function can take a number of different arguments, depending on the event. The first (and sometimes only) argument passed to every hooked function is **connection**, which is the *Erkle* object running the IRC connection.

Event	Arguments	Description
connecting	Erkle object	Triggered when the <i>Erkle</i> object starts the connection process.
connect	Erkle object	Triggered when the <i>Erkle</i> object connects to IRC.
motd	Erkle objectmessage (string)	Triggered when the server's message of the day (MOTD) is received.
registered	Erkle object	Triggered when registration with the IRC server is complete.
nick-taken	Erkle objectnickname (string)	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> 's nickname is already taken during registration; nickname contains the new nickname.
ping	Erkle object	Triggered when the IRC server sends <i>Erkle</i> a PING command.

join	Erkle objectnickname (string)host (string)channel (string)	Triggered whenever a user joins a channel <i>Erkle</i> is in. nickname contains the user's nickname, host contains the user's host, and channel contains the name of the channel joined. This event will trigger when the <i>Erkle</i> object joins a channel as well.
joined	Erkle objectchannel (string)	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> joins a channel. channel contains the name of the joined channel.
part	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) channel (string) reason (string) 	Triggered whenever a user leaves a channel <i>Erkle</i> is in. nickname contains the nickname of the user, host contains the user's host, channel contains the name of the channel, and reason contains the reason why the user quit. If no reason has been provided, reason will be set to None .
parted	Erkle objectchannel (string)	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> leaves a channel. channel contains the name of the parted channel.
auit .	Erkle objectnickname (string)host (string)reason (string)	Triggered when a user quits the IRC server. nickname contains the user's nickname, host contains the user's host, and reason contains the reason why the user quit. If no reason has been provided, reason will be set to None .
	Erkle objectnickname (string)host (string)new_nickname (string)	Triggered when a user changes their nickname. nickname contains the user's original nickname, host contains the user's host, and new_nickname contains the user's new nickname.
names	Erkle objectchannel (string)users (list)	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> generates a list of users in a specific channel. This list will be regenerated every time a user changes their nick, quits IRC, or leaves a channel. channel contains the name of the channel, and users contains a list of users in that channel. Each entry in the list is a <i>User</i> class object (see <i>User class</i> on page 13). Generated user lists are stored in the <i>Erkle</i> object, accessible in the users attribute.
public	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) channel (string) message (string) 	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> receives a public message. nickname contains the sender's nickname, host contains the sender's host, channel contains the name of the channel the message was sent to, and message contains the message contents.
private	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) message (string) 	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> receives a private message. nickname contains the sender's nickname, host contains the sender's host, and message contains the message contents.
notice	Erkle objectsender (string)message (string)	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> receives a notice message. sender contains the nickname of the sender, and message contains the message contents.
action	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) target (string) message (string) 	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> receives a CTCP action message. nickname contains the sender's nickname, host contains the sender's host, target contains the name of the channel or username the message was sent to, and message contains the message contents.
away	Erkle objectnickname (string)reason (string)	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> receives an "away" notification.
back	Erkle object	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> unsets itself as "away".

topic	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) channel (string) topic (string) 	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> receives a channel topic update. nickname contains the topic setter's nickname, host contains the setter's host, channel contains channel name, and topic contains the channel's topic. If the topic is set to an empty string, topic is set to <i>None</i> .
mode	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) target (string) mode (string) 	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> receives a channel or user mode change notification. nickname contains the mode setter's nickname, host contains the setter's host, target contains the user or channel the mode applies to, and mode contains the modes (and mode parameters) being set. If the mode is being set by the server, nickname and host will be set to the server's hostname.
kick	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) channel (string) target (string) reason (string) 	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> receives a kick notification. nickname contains the kicker's nickname, host contains the kicker's host, channel contains the channel being kicked from, target contains the nickname of the user being kicked, and reason contains the reason given for the kick. If no reason is provided, reason will be set to <i>None</i> .
kicked	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) channel (string) reason (string) 	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> is kicked from a channel. nickname contains the kicker's nickname, host contains the kicker's host, channel contains the channel being kicked from, and reason contains the reason given for the kick. If no reason is provided, reason will be set to <i>None</i> .
invite	 Erkle object nickname (string) host (string) channel (string) 	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> receives a channel invitation. nickname contains the inviter's nickname, host contains the inviter's host, and channel contains the channel <i>Erkle</i> is being invited to.
whois	Erkle objectwhois (string)	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> receives WHOIS data from the server. whois contains a <i>Whois</i> class object (see <i>Whois class</i> on page 13).
list	Erkle objectchannels (list of lists)	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> receives a channel list from the server. Each entry in channels is a list that contains, in this order: 0. channel name (string) 1. number of users in the channel (integer) 2. channel topic (string) (<i>None</i> if there's no topic)
oper	Erkle object	Triggered when <i>Erkle</i> is granted IRC operator status (usually the result of the oper() method being called on the <i>Erkle</i> object).
line	Erkle objectline (string)	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> receives a line of data from the server.
error	 Erkle object code (string) subject (string) reason (string) 	Triggered whenever <i>Erkle</i> receives an error message from the server. code is the error's code (from the IRC RFC documents), subject is the "subject" of the error (if there is no "target", subject will be set to <i>None</i>), and reason contains a short description of the error.
tick	Erkle object	Triggered once per second by default. The interval can be changed with the clock-frequency option (see <i>Erkle Object</i> on page 4).

Erkle's connect() is a blocking function (if not ran in multithreaded mode), so hooked functions should be declared before connect() is called.

For programs with multiple IRC connections (and, thus, multiple *Erkle* objects), understand that hooked events apply to *every* connection. So, if you hook the "public" event to a function, that function will be called

when *every connection triggers a "public" event*. To restrict some hooked functions to a specific *Erkle* object, add a tag to the object with the tag() method, and add that tag to any hooked functions you'd like the object to call. To make sure a hooked function executes on *all* connections, apply the * tag to it.

Event sets

Erkle contains a few sets of pre-written event handlers; they reside in the **erkle.events** package. To use an event set, simply import it.

Package	erkle.events.dump
Hooks	action, away, back, connect, join, kick, kicked, mode, motd, names, nick, nick-taken, notice, part, ping, private, public, quit, topic, welcome
Description	Prints event-specific data from every Erkle event to the console.

Package	erkle.events.messages
Hooks	action, notice, private, public
Description	Prints incoming messages to the console.

Custom data classes

User class

The *User* class is used by the *Erkle* client to store user information. *User* has no methods, only attributes.

Attribute	Туре	Description
nickname	string	The user's nickname.
username	string	The user's username.
host	string	The user's host.
op	boolean	True if the user is a channel operator, False if not.
voiced	boolean	True if the user is voiced, False if not.
owner	boolean	True if the user is a channel owner, False if not.
admin	boolean	True if the user is an admin, False if not.
halfop	boolean	True if the user is a channel half-op, False if not.

Whois class

The *Whois* class is used by *Erkle* to present results from the WHOIS command. *Whois* has no methods, only attributes.

Attribute	Туре	Description
nickame	string	The user's nickname.
username	string	The user's username.
host	string	The user's host.
realname	string	The user's real name.
privs	string	The user's privileges; if the user has none, this will be set to <i>None</i> .
idle	integer	How long the user has been idle, in seconds.
signon	integer	When the user connected to IRC as a UNIX epoch timestamp.
channels	list	What channels the user is in.
server	string	What server the user is connected to.

Examples

Greeter Bot

Here's an example bot that connect to an IRC server, join a channel, and greets everyone who joins that channel by name:

```
from erkle import *
CHANNEL = "#erklebot"
# Join #erklebot as soon as we connect
@irc.event("registered")
def welcomed(connection):
  connection.join(CHANNEL)
# Greet everyone who joins #erklebot
@irc.event("join")
def joined(connection, nickname, host, channel):
  connection.msg("Welcome to "+CHANNEL+", "+nickname+"!")
# Configure and create the IRC client
config = {
     'nickname': 'greetbot',
     'server': 'irc.efnet.org'
bot = Erkle(config)
# Connect to IRC
bot.connect()
```

Auto-Op Bot

This bot will automatically grant channel operator status to any user in a list of nicknames contained in the script. The bot will have to be granted channel operator status by another channel operator, however.

```
from erkle import *
CHANNELS = [ "#erklebot", "#erklesupport", "#pythonfans" ]
OPERATORS = [ "alice", "bob", "carol", "dave" ]
# Join all channels in the CHANNEL list as soon
# as we connect
@irc.event("registered")
def welcomed(connection):
  for channel in CHANNELS:
    connection.join(channel)
# If anyone with a nickname in the OPERATORS list
# joins a channel the client is in, send a mode
# message to the server to grant channel operator status
@irc.event("join")
def joined(connection, nickname, host, channel):
  if nickname in OPERATORS:
    connection.mode(channel, "+o "+nickname)
    connection.privmsg(nickname, "Welcome back, "+nickname)
# Configure and create the client
config = {
     'nick': 'greetbot',
     'server': 'irc.efnet.org', 'port': 6667
bot = Erkle(config)
# Connect the client to the IRC server
bot.connect()
```

Using client and event tags

This bot will connect to the same channel on two different IRC networks and display any public chat. Each client will use a tagged "public" event that only that client will execute.

```
from erkle import *
CHANNEL = "#erklebot"
# This event will only be triggered when the client
# connected to EFnet gets a "public" event
@irc.event("public", "EFnet")
def public(connection, nickname, host, channel, message):
     print("EFnet->"+nickname+": "+message)
# This event will only be triggered when the client
# connected to Rizon gets a "public" event
@irc.event("public", "Rizon")
def public(connection, nickname, host, channel, message):
     print("Rizon->"+nickname+": "+message)
# This event will be triggered by both clients
@irc.event("registered", "*")
def welcomed(connection):
  connection.join(CHANNEL)
# Configure and create the EFnet client
config = {
     'nick': 'multibot',
     'alternate': 'mult1b0t',
     'server': 'irc.efnet.org',
     'multithreaded': True
efnet bot = Erkle(config)
# Add the "EFnet" tag to the EFnet client
efnet bot.tag("EFnet")
# Configure and create the Rizon client
config = {
     'nick': 'multibot',
     'alternate': 'mult1b0t',
     'server': 'irc.rizon.org',
     'multithreaded': True
rizon bot = Erkle(config)
# Add the "Rizon" tag to the Rizon client
rizon bot.tag("Rizon")
# Connect both clients to IRC, each on
# their own thread
efnet bot.connect()
rizon bot.connect()
```

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