

## Summary

The <http://www.astropython.org> site is one of the top two generic informational / resource sites about Python in astronomy. This was originally developed by TLA, Tom R., Eli Bressert and Gus Muench and went live in January 2010.

This site uses Google App Engine and is basically all custom code built around the bloggart engine. Currently it is getting a bit stale for a few reasons:

- There is no good mechanism for guest posting to expand the community of people contributing.
- It is painful to add content because of the antiquated entry interface which now seems to work only on firefox.
- The comment system is lacking (no feedback to comment authors etc).
- The website code itself is convoluted and difficult to maintain / improve

The plan is to start over with all modern tools to bring fresh energy and involvement into this project. All details of how to do this to be determined, but one requirement is to migrate most of the current content. Part of this would be re-evaluating current resources as well as digging around to freshen up the resource list.

## Proposed plan (but open for discussion and change!)

*I am not a web developer and not hip to the latest bling, but our hypothetical student is.*

Roughly the same: Retain the same top-level concept for astropython.org

- Curated (moderated) content with high signal to noise
- Content delivered as a mashup of a classic single-stream blog post but with a separate content types that have different list-view properties.
  - Forum (news, announcements, rants) Forum -> Community. contains links and descriptions of various communities. Including conferences.
  - Resources (packages and tools) - CONSIDER RENAMING to PACKAGES
    - how to sort? Categories: Recommended, Statistics, Astrometry, Deprecated. need to decide which ones are “Recommended” and “Deprecated”
  - Tutorials (inline tutorials or links to tutorials) -> Learn and Teach -> Tutorials, lessons, links, snippets
    - Snippets (useful code snippets) (in practice the discoverability of these is problematic).
    - python4astronomers

- need dedicated python install instructions.
- subcategory TIPS. similar to <http://hints.macworld.com/>. Auto tweet. - can give stars and/or upvotes.
- NEW PAGE/Category = News.

## Update

- Django-based backend
- Modern CSS frontend such as twitter bootstrap
- Open policy for posting material (blog posts, resources, tutorials)
  - Use open authentication (google, oauth, etc) with a group of moderators that review everything first.
  - Some users would be trusted and not require moderator review
  - Users can edit their content to prevent rot
- Content tagging
- Other ways to improve discoverability? One thing to remember is that the intended content on this site is not vast and so we may not need to over-design the search capability. (and google is our friend). Maybe just tags that you click on, which presents a list view where the tag list is now filtered and you can keep on narrowing down with new tag clicks. I.e. keep it simple.
- Comment system, e.g. disqus.
- Content entry / editing
  - WYSIWYG?
  - Markdown + Preview
  - both?
- RSS / Atom feed, auto-tweets, email subscription with options?

## Other ideas

- Feed aggregator?
- tag cloud with sizes reflecting number of uses
- upvoting/liking packages?
- Categories: News, Teach/Learn, Packages
- use github markdown? integration with github?
- Things to add/migrate content:
  - <http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/tiki-index.php?page=python>
  - TABLE:  
<http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/tiki-index.php?page=Python+Switchers+Guide>
  - [http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/tiki-index.php?page=idl\\_vs\\_python](http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/tiki-index.php?page=idl_vs_python)
  - imerge with python4astronomers install instructions;  
<http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/tiki-index.php?page=Python+Setup+for+Astronomy>
  - <http://www.astrobetter.com/blog/category/python/>
- way to tag/categorize newsletter worthy content.
- tagging taxonomy to be hardcoded/suggested. click at least one package, option for subcategory.

