Date: 2012-09-13
Subject: Comments on N0416, lines 50 and 51
Document: N0423

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Message from Larry to Kevin

Subject: ISO SC22 WG23 comments on the Python annex

Kevin,

The ISO SC22 WG23 group is meeting this week and we received two
comments on section E.23.2 of Python annex in document N0410 (from SC22
WG23 document website: http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/plv/) that we need
your expertise on:

1. The import "statement without the from clause" should be the "from
statement without the import clause"

2. "from *" should be "import *"

Are these comments accurate?

(These comments are from document N0416 on the SC22 WG23 website in
case you want to see the original comment)

Here is the E.23.2 text:

E.23.2 Guidance to language users
- When practicable, consider using the import statement without the
from clause. This forces the importing program to use qualification
to access the imported module's attributes;
- When using the import statement, rather than use the from * form
(which imports all of the module's attributes into the importing
program's namespace), instead use the from clause to explicitly name the
attributes that you want to import (e.g., from alpha import a, b, c)
so that variables, functions and classes are not inadvertently overlaid;
and
- Avoid implicit references to global values from within functions
to make code clearer. In order to update globals within a function
or class, place the global statement at the beginning of the function
definition and list the variables so it is clearer to the reader which
variables are local and which are global (e.g., global a, b, c).

Response from Kevin:

Bullet 1 is correct but it's understandable why people might think
it's wrong so I have amended it as below with new text shown as
highlighted:

- When practicable, consider using the import statement without the
from clause. This forces the importing program to use qualification
to access the imported module's attributes. While it is true that
using the from statement is more convenient due to less typing
required (i.e., no need to qualify names), of the two statements,
the from statement (on its own or when coupled to an import as in:
from module import *) is the only one that can cause namespace corruption.

Bullet 2 is also correct but I have amended it as below:

- When using the import statement, rather than use the import module from * form (which imports all of the module's attributes into the importing program's namespace), instead use the from clause to explicitly name the attributes that you want to import (e.g., from alpha import a, b, c) so that variables, functions and classes are not inadvertently overlaid; and ...

I hope that helps. Note that I reformatted both to use the Courier New font in places to make it clearer.