



B u i l d i n g Y o u r

S k u n k w o r k s

D e r e k W i l l i s , w a s h i n g t o n p o s t . c o m |

S L A 2 0 0 7

D e r e k W i l l i s , w a s h i n g t o n p o s t . c o m |

What's in it for me?

(the Alice Pepper question)

(the Alice Pepper question)

- Independence
- Productivity
- Increased skills and value

Old Way vs. New Way

- Take file from Web
 - Copy & paste into text editor
 - Clean up
 - Import into spreadsheet
 - Repeat
-
- Write script to take file from web, clean it up and create a new spreadsheet.

RISK S

(t h i n g s y o u m a y n o t h a v e
c o n s i d e r e d)

(t h i n g s y o u m a y n o t h a v e
c o n s i d e r e d)

- G e t t i n g o v e r w h e l m e d
- G e t t i n g p i g e o n h o l e d
- G e t t i n g m o v e d t o I T
- G e t t i n g m o v e d t o t h e w e b s i t e !

Start Your Engines

- Identify your initial goal
- Choose your route based on that goal
- Have a minimum result
- Read

Let's Talk Costs

- Do a current software/hardware inventory
- Find out what other people use
- Buy if it makes sense

Cost Comparison

- SQL Server Enterprise Edition: \$13,969
- Oracle Enterprise Edition: \$40,000 per CPU or \$800 per user
- MS Office Standard: \$399
- Windows Server 2003 Enterprise: \$1,950
- Visual Studio Professional Edition: \$799

- MySQL: \$0
- PostgreSQL: \$0
- OpenOffice: \$0
- Apache Server: \$0
- Python/Perl/PHP: \$0

I d e a l s

- F r e e l y a v a i l a b l e , o p e n s o u r c e
s o f t w a r e
- A d a t a b a s e o f s o m e k i n d
- F l e x i b i l i t y

B u i l d i n g v s . U s i n g

- P i c k a b u i l d i n g t o o l
- E s t a b l i s h p r i o r i t i e s - w h a t ' s
t h e b i g g e s t n e e d ?
- S t e a l f r o m t h e b e s t

Advertisement for Python

A loop in Python looks like this:

```
name = 'Derek'  
for letter in name: print letter
```

```
D  
e  
r  
e  
k
```


a p l a y i n t h r e e

p a r t s

a p l a y i n t h r e e

p a r t s

- S t a r t w i t h a b l o g , m a y b e
- G r a d u a t e t o a w i k i
- V e r s i o n c o n t r o l - w h e n y o u ' v e
c o m p l e t e l y g o n e g e e k

Going Further

- Email lists
- Fellow librarians
- People who deal with data
- Join a local user group