Introduction to Python for MicroStation

Dan Eng – MicroStation Product Expert

Bentley®

Presenters

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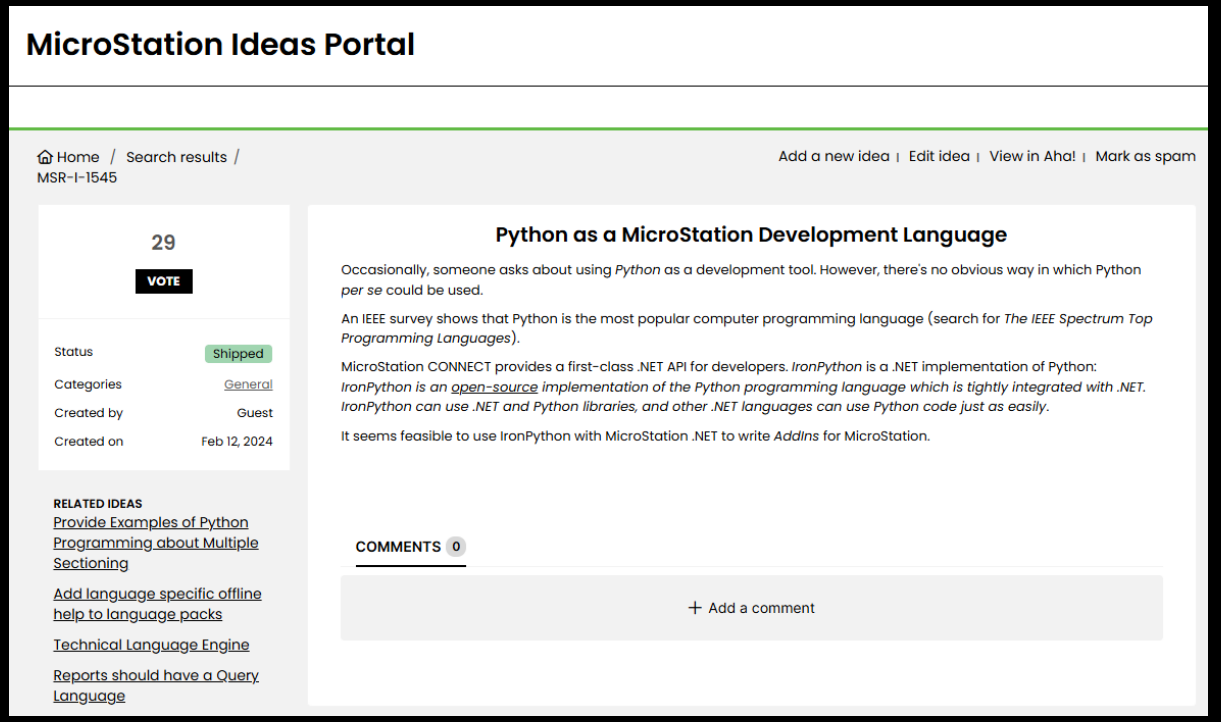
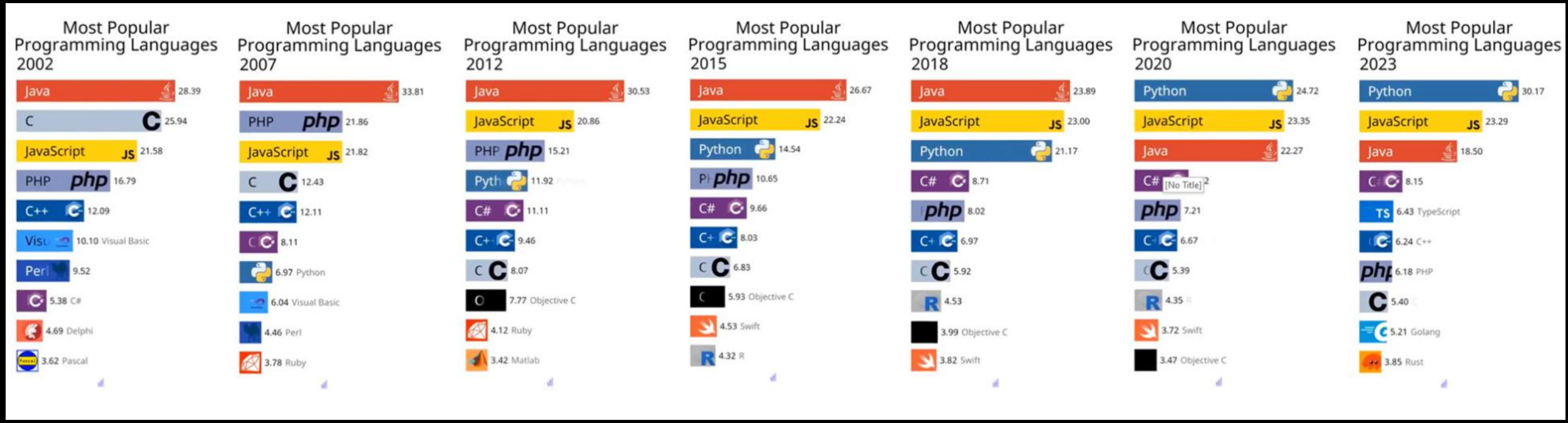
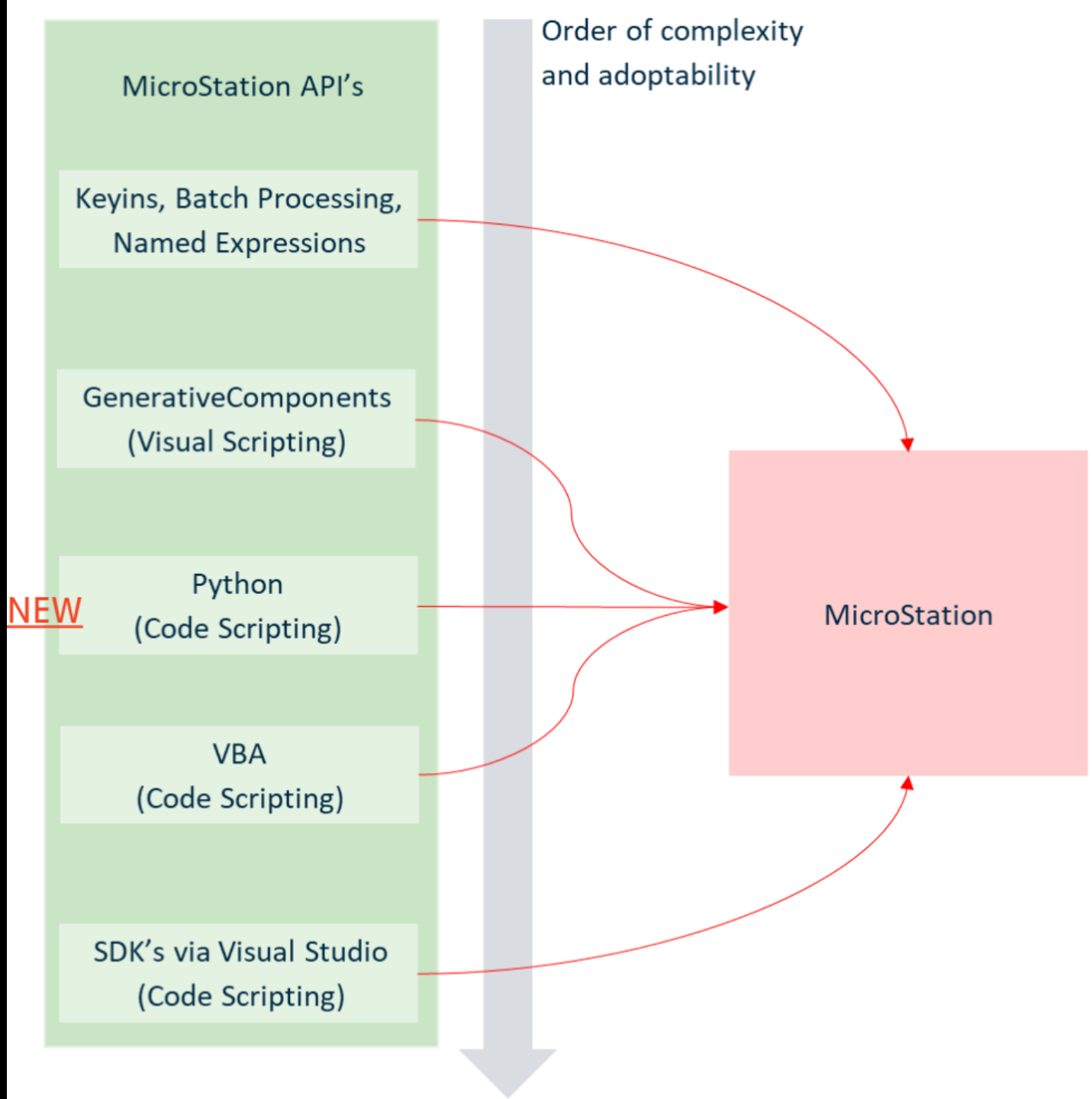
Why Python?

- Easy to Learn and Use
- Mature and Supportive Community
- Thousands of Python Libraries
- Versatility, Efficiency, and Reliability
- Big data, Machine Learning and Cloud Computing
- First choice language for many programmers and students and professionals
- Its Open Source





What can we use to Automate?



Helpful? Yes No 80% found this useful

Rate this article ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

KB0041656 - Latest Version

MicroStation Python: Create Text Fields

Revised by Leonard Jones • 7mo ago • 229 Views • ★★★★★

Welcome to the world of **MicroStation Python**! This wiki provides a Python code snippet that demonstrates how to create and place **Text Fields** from Item Types attached to Elements within MicroStation. Discover how to leverage Python's capabilities to automate tasks and enhance your MicroStation workflows.

Create Text Fields in MicroStation with Python

Let us dive into, creating and placing **Text Fields** from Item Types attached to Elements. Refer to the Python Manager wiki to create and load a python project. Name your project as "`CreateTextField.py`" and save it to your preferred directory. Open the project in the editor for

https://bentleysystems.service-now.com/community?id=kb_article_view&sys_kb_id=ef8863e...

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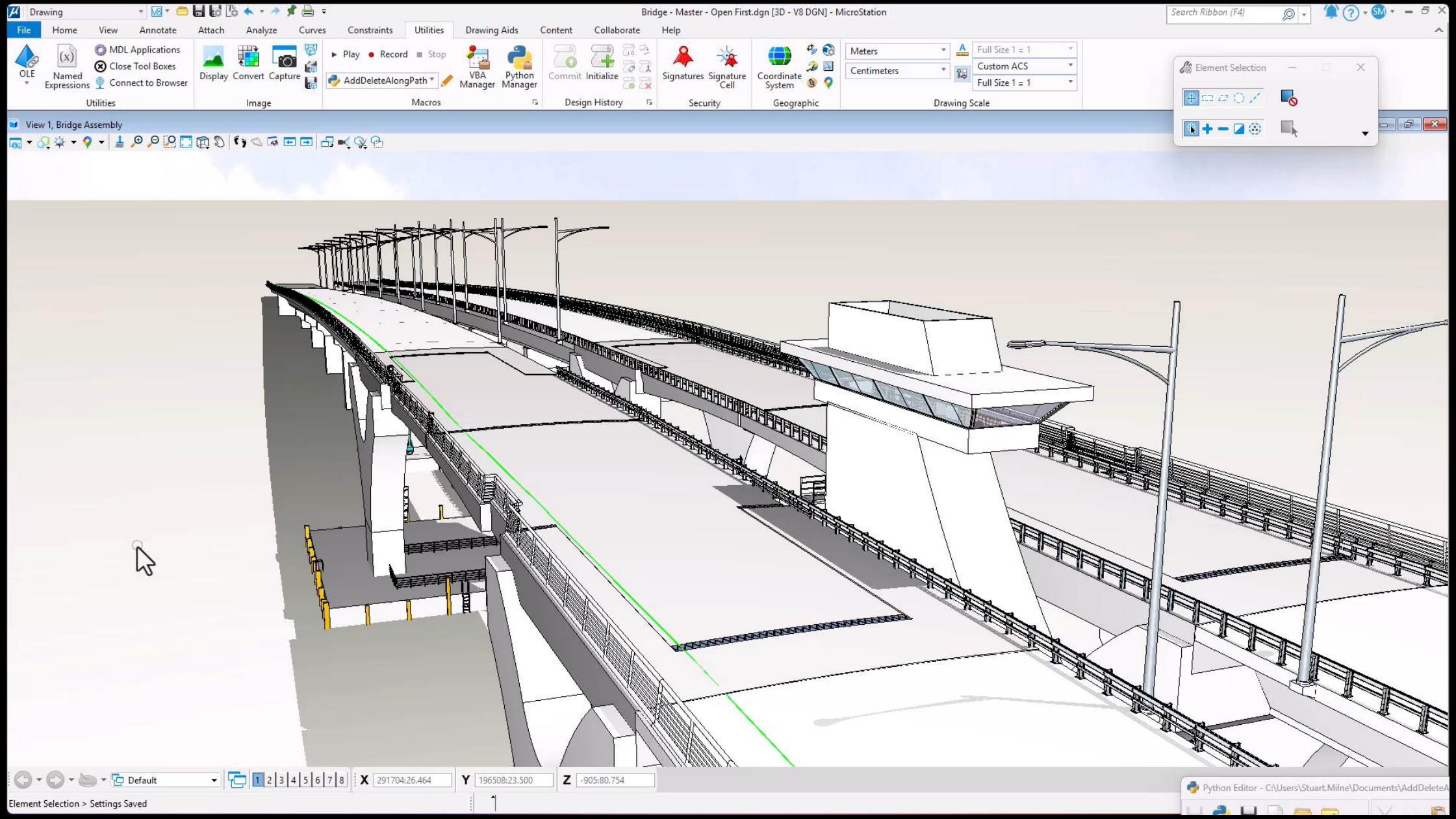


AI based AS IS condition creation for Light Poles.

Workflow

Step1

Site Survey

Step2

iTwin Capture Manage & Extract

PointCloud Data

Images

Automatic detection of LightPoles and create vectors like Points, lines, etc in DGN format

Step3

Automatic placement of Light poles using Python

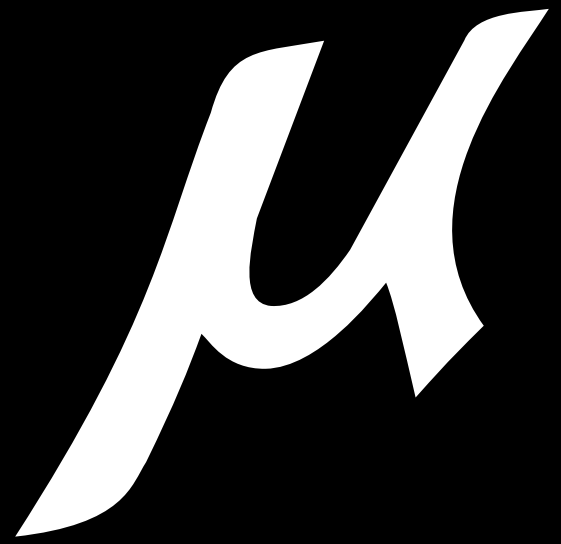
What about VBA?

- VBA is not going anywhere
- Python is an addition to VBA
- Updating VBA to Python?

What is the value of Python?

- Remove Roadblocks:
- Maximize adoptability:
- Improved Productivity:
- Win more work: .
- Increased visibility:
- Increased Footprint:
- Increased revenue:
- Innovation:
- Improved client engagement:
- Ecosystem development:

Python tools in MicroStation



Starting off with python code

Python Interpreter: Make sure you have Python installed on your computer. You can download it from the official Python website.

Text Editor or IDE: You can write your Python code in any text editor (like Notepad, Sublime Text, or VS Code) or an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) like PyCharm or Jupyter Notebook.

Basic Knowledge of Python Syntax: Understanding the basics of Python syntax, such as variables, data types, loops, and functions, is essential.

Libraries and Modules: Depending on what you want to achieve with your script, you might need to import certain libraries or modules (e.g., math, os, sys, requests).

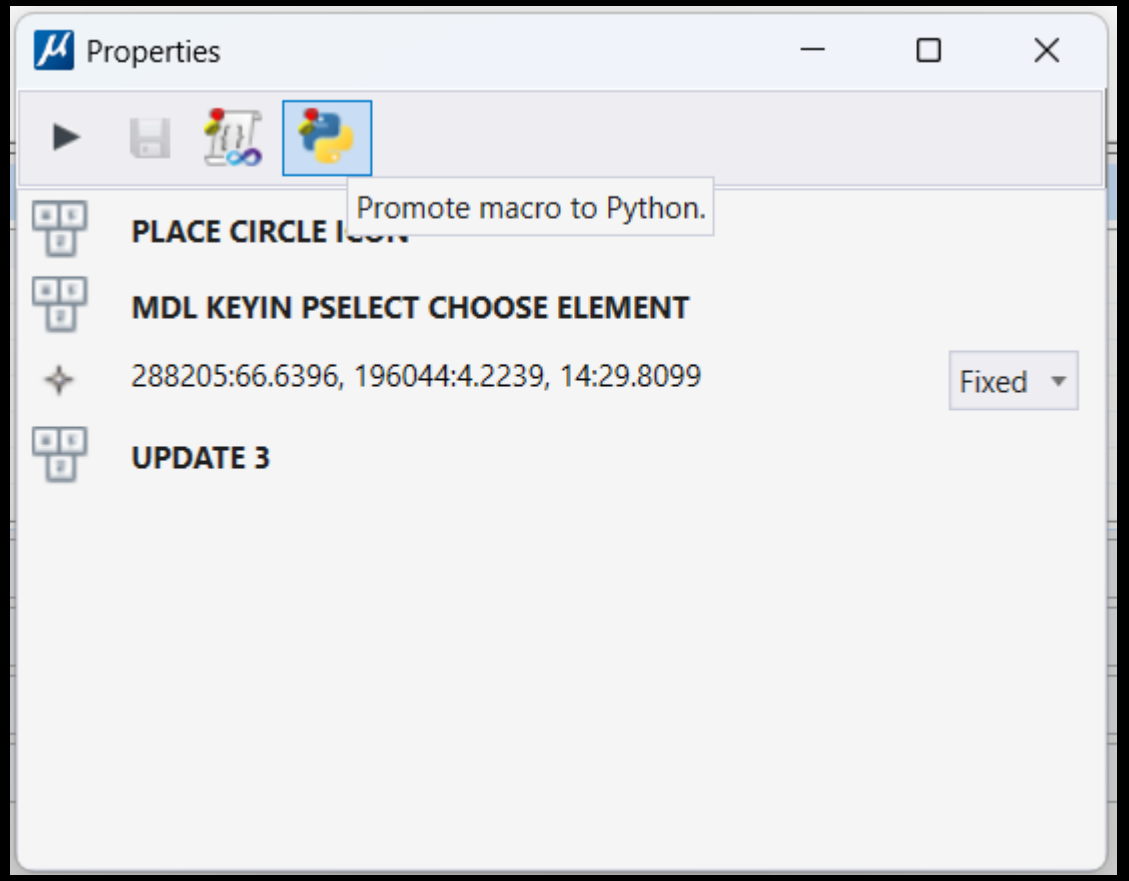
Script File: Create a .py file where you'll write your code. For example, script.py.

Ways to get started in MicroStation…

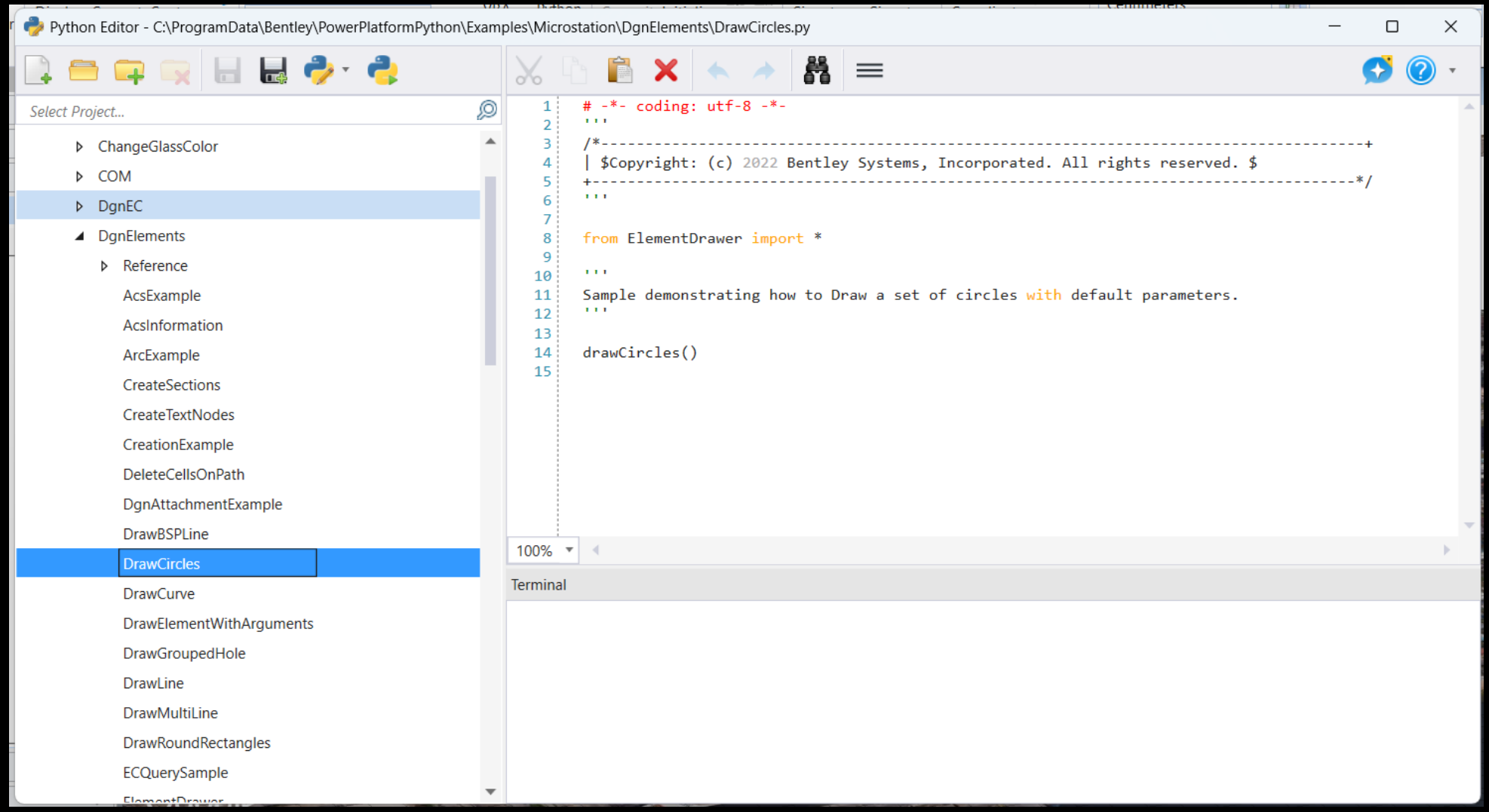
1. Python programming
2. Recording a macro – Promote to Python
3. Python Assistant

Ways to get started...

- Record a macro
- Promote macro to Python
- Review the code



What if I'm not a programmer/developer?



Vibe Coding

"Vibe coding" is an approach to application development that involves heavily relying on a large language model (LLM) for generating code.

Coined by Andrej Karpathy in early 2025, vibe coding is about "coding by vibes"—you describe what you want in plain English (or another natural language), and the AI writes the code for you

⚙️ How It Works

Describe: You give a prompt like “Make a webpage that shows the weather for a city.”

Generate: The AI writes the code (HTML, JavaScript, etc.).

Test & Refine: You run the code, see what works, and ask the AI to fix or improve it.

Iterate: Repeat until satisfied.

✅ Benefits

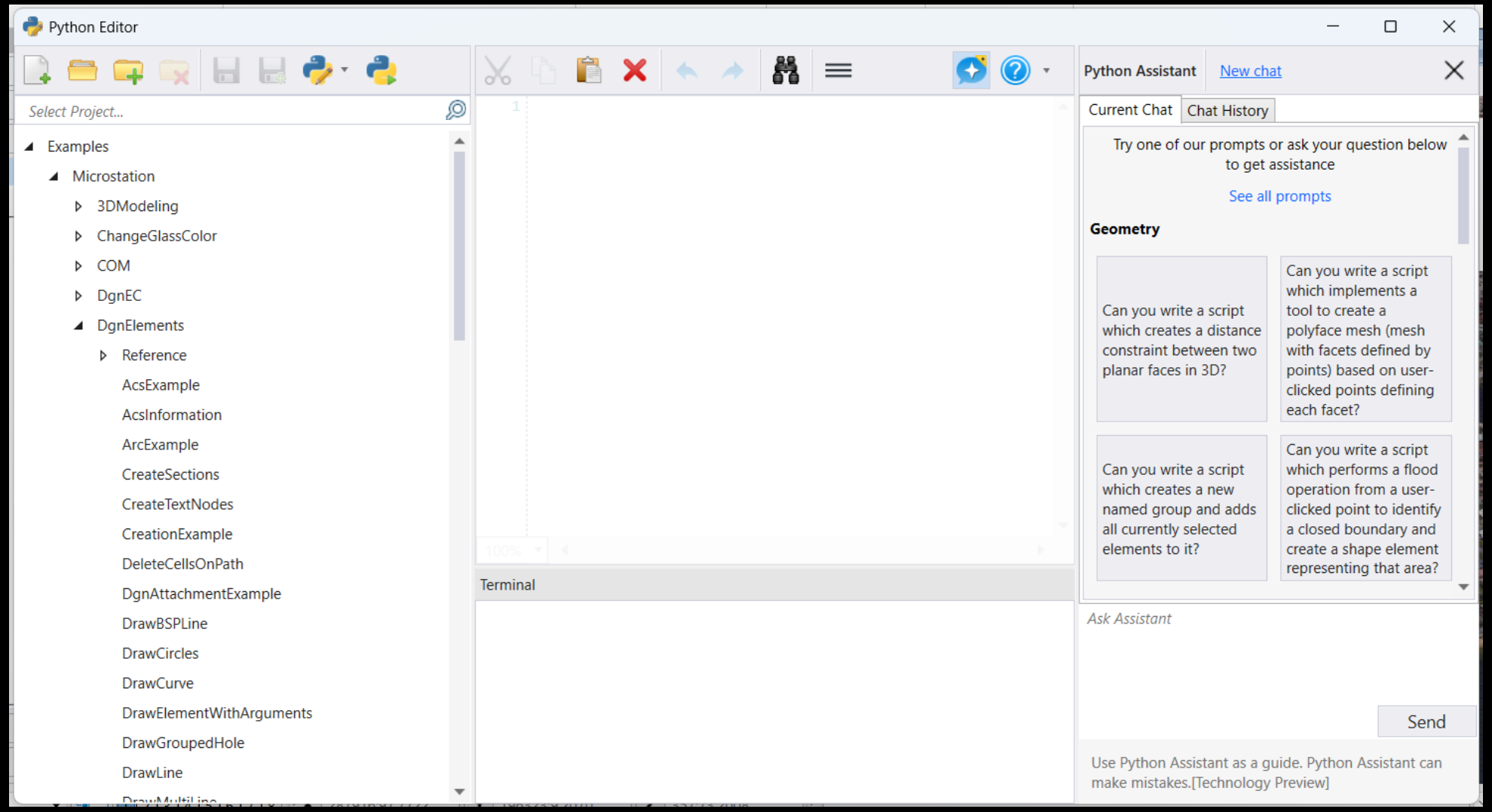
Accessibility: Great for non-programmers or beginners.

Speed: Rapid prototyping and iteration.

Creativity: Encourages artistic and expressive coding (e.g., music, visuals).

Fun: Makes coding feel more like play than work

Python Assistant – New in MicroStation 2025



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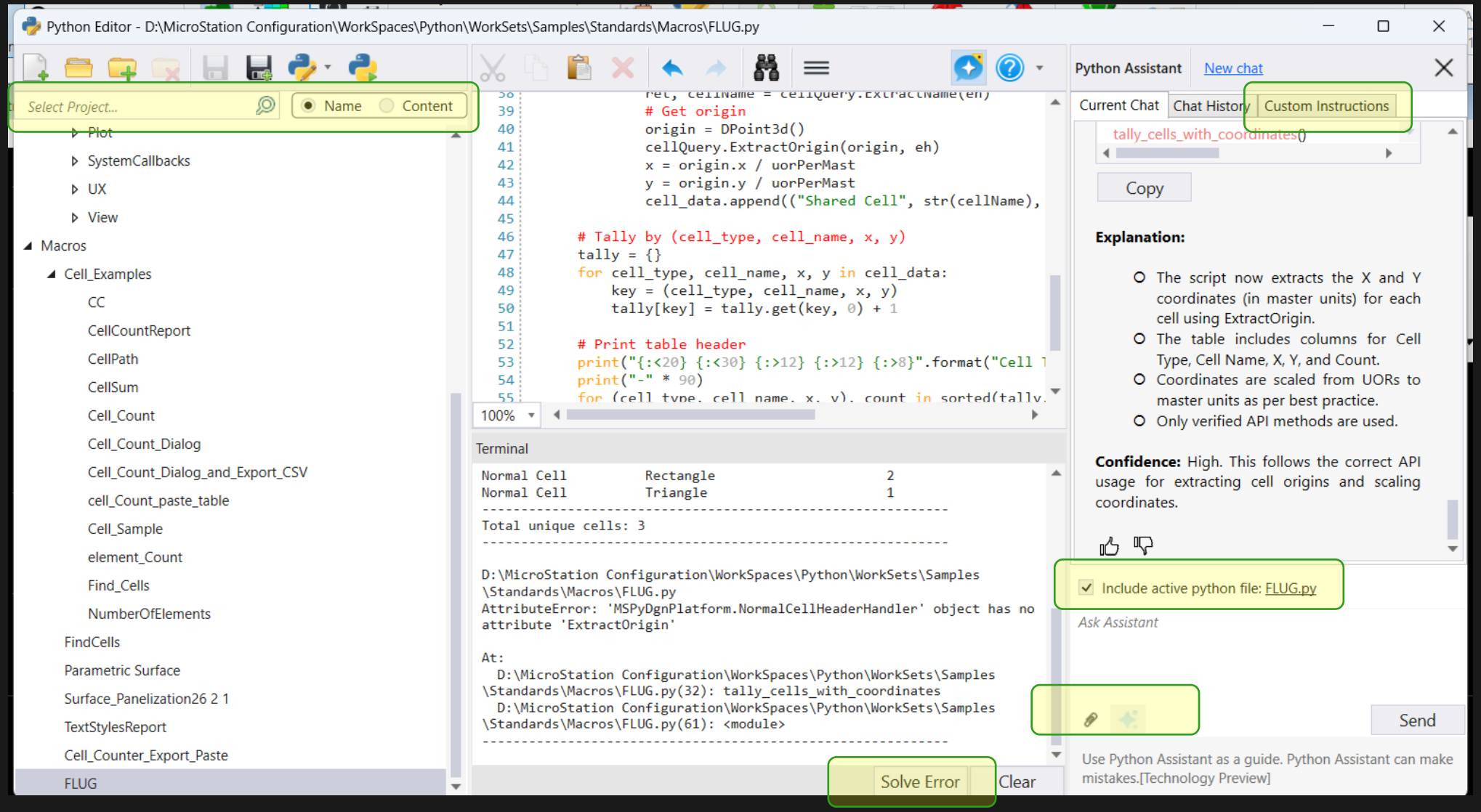
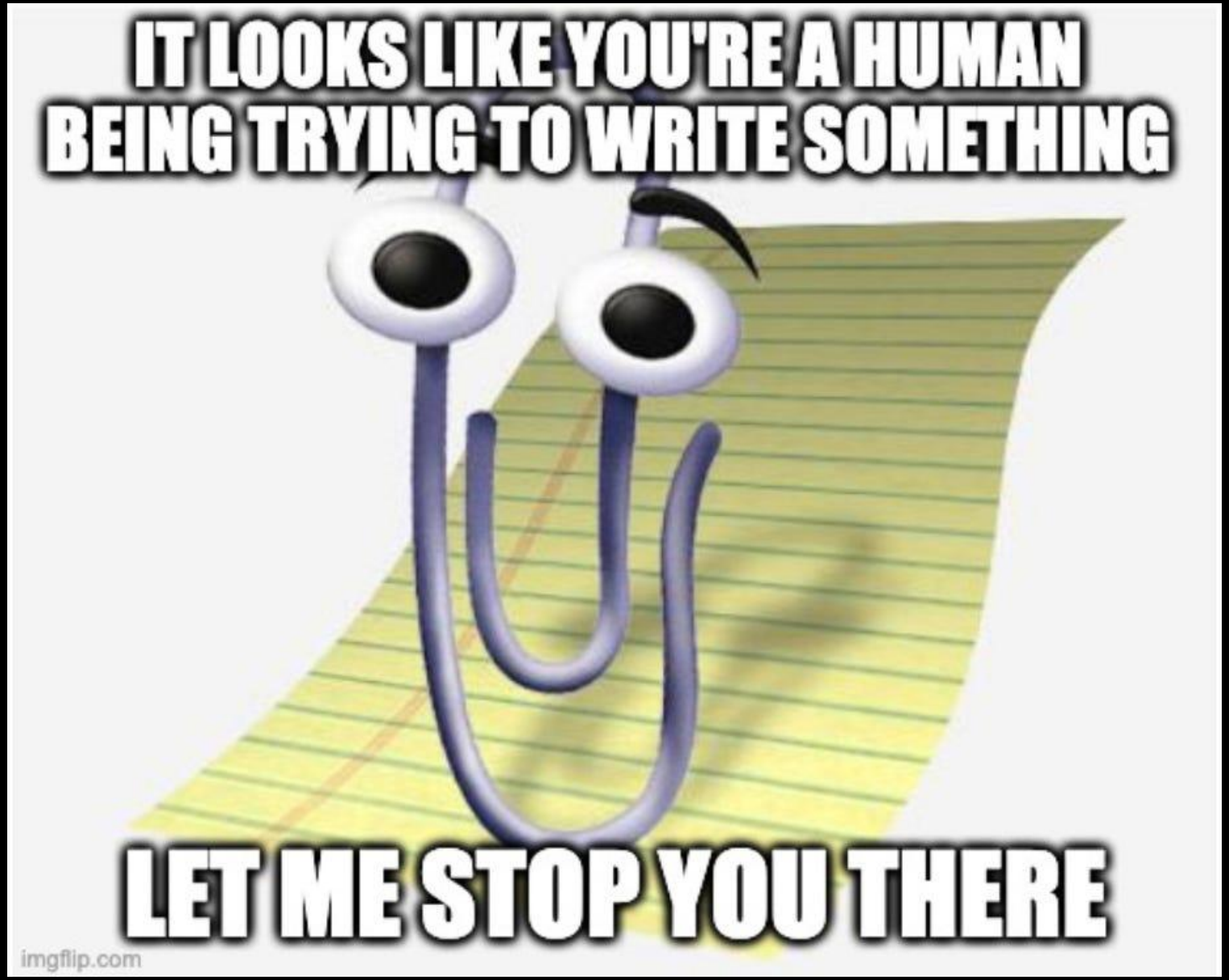




Resources

KB0040618 - Latest Version

MicroStation Python: A Journey to Hello World

Revised by Leonard Jones • 5mo ago • 905 Views • ★★★★★

Welcome to the world of **MicroStation Python**! This wiki will guide you through creating your first Python program in MicroStation, a leading computer-aided design software for infrastructure design.

Your First Python Program in MicroStation

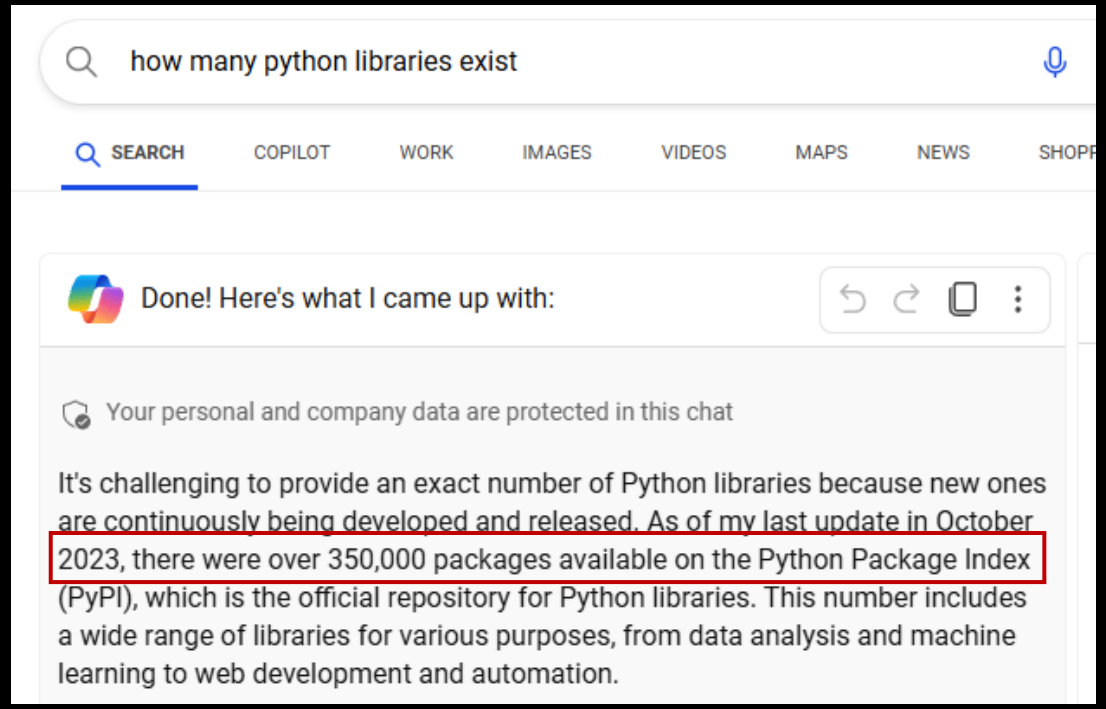
Let us dive into creating a simple "Hello World!" program in Python.

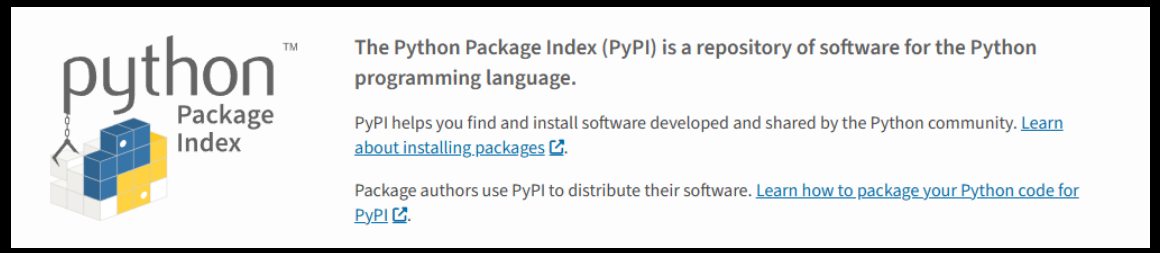
Create and Load project

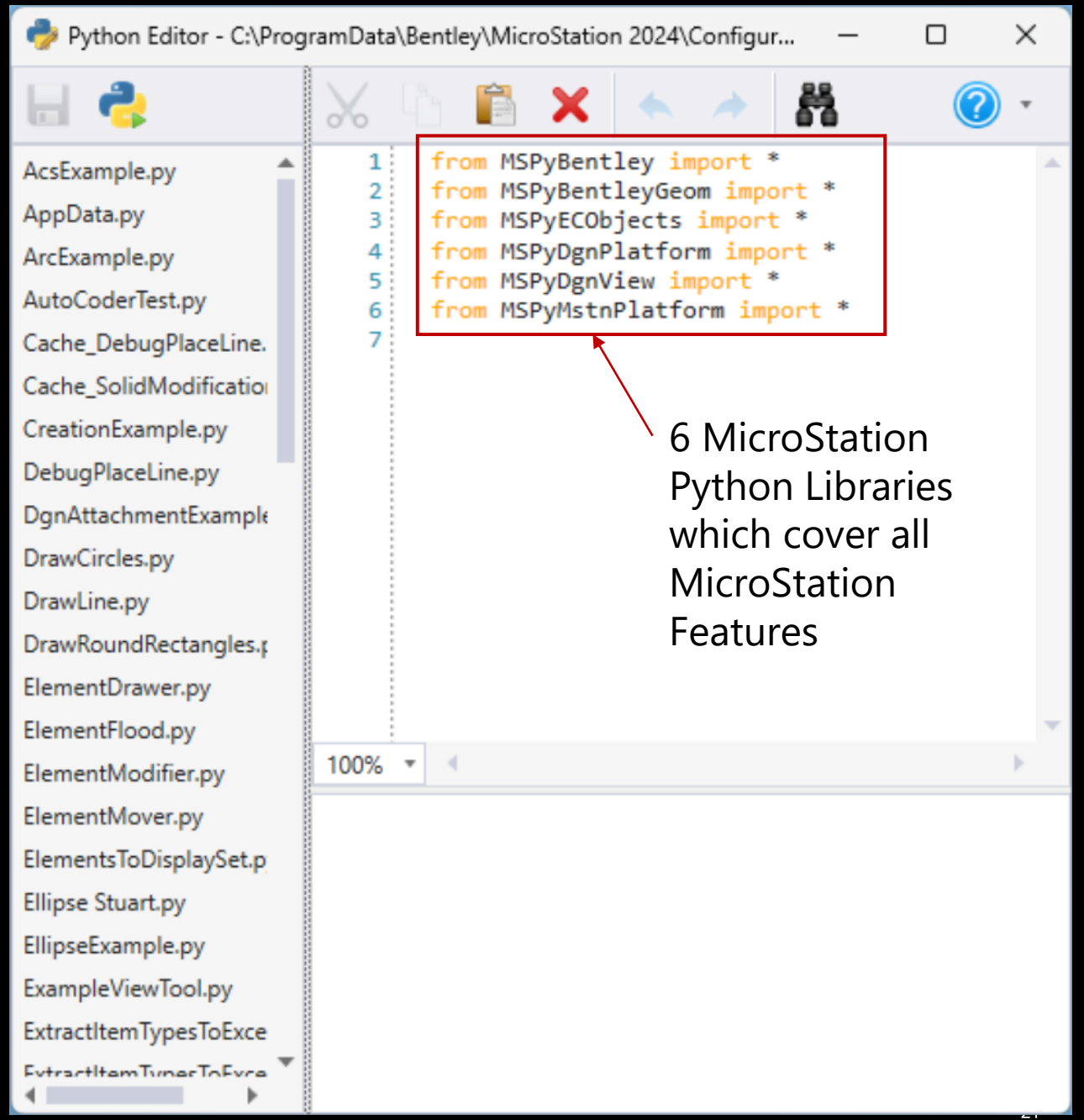
To create a new Python project in the Python Manager, click the *Create a New Python Project* icon  and name it "`HelloWorld.py`". Save it to your preferred directory.

Within the Python Manager, locate your project "`HelloWorld.py`" in the project list. Click the *Edit Python File* icon  to open the editor for writing your Python script.

Python Libraries

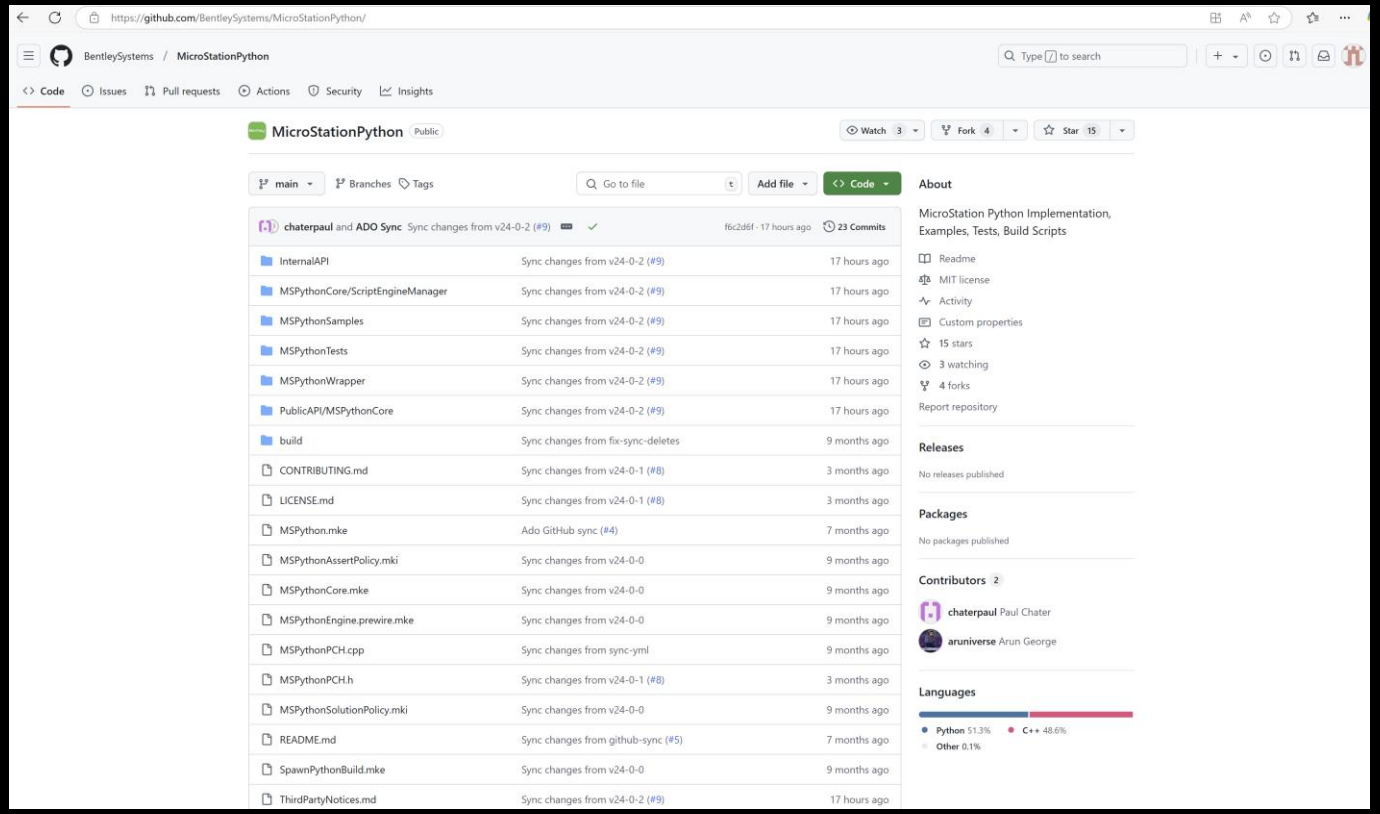






MicroStation Python GitHub Repository

- MicroStation Python is OpenSourced
- Create your own fork
- Create your own applications
- Contribute to the OpenSource development
- Stay up to date with latest Samples
- Download repository locally



Python Samples

- Python Samples
  - Solid Modifications
  - Library – Excel to Item Types
  - Display Sets
  - Arcs, Circles, Lines, Rectangles,Ellipse, LineStrings
  - Named Groups
  - Select By
  - Flood
  - Modifier and Mover
  - Item Types
  - Group Hole
  - Library - Clock
- 24.0 – 59 Python Samples
  - Referencing
  - Arguments
  - Raster
  - EC Data
  - Save to Image
  - Callbacks
  - PDF Printing

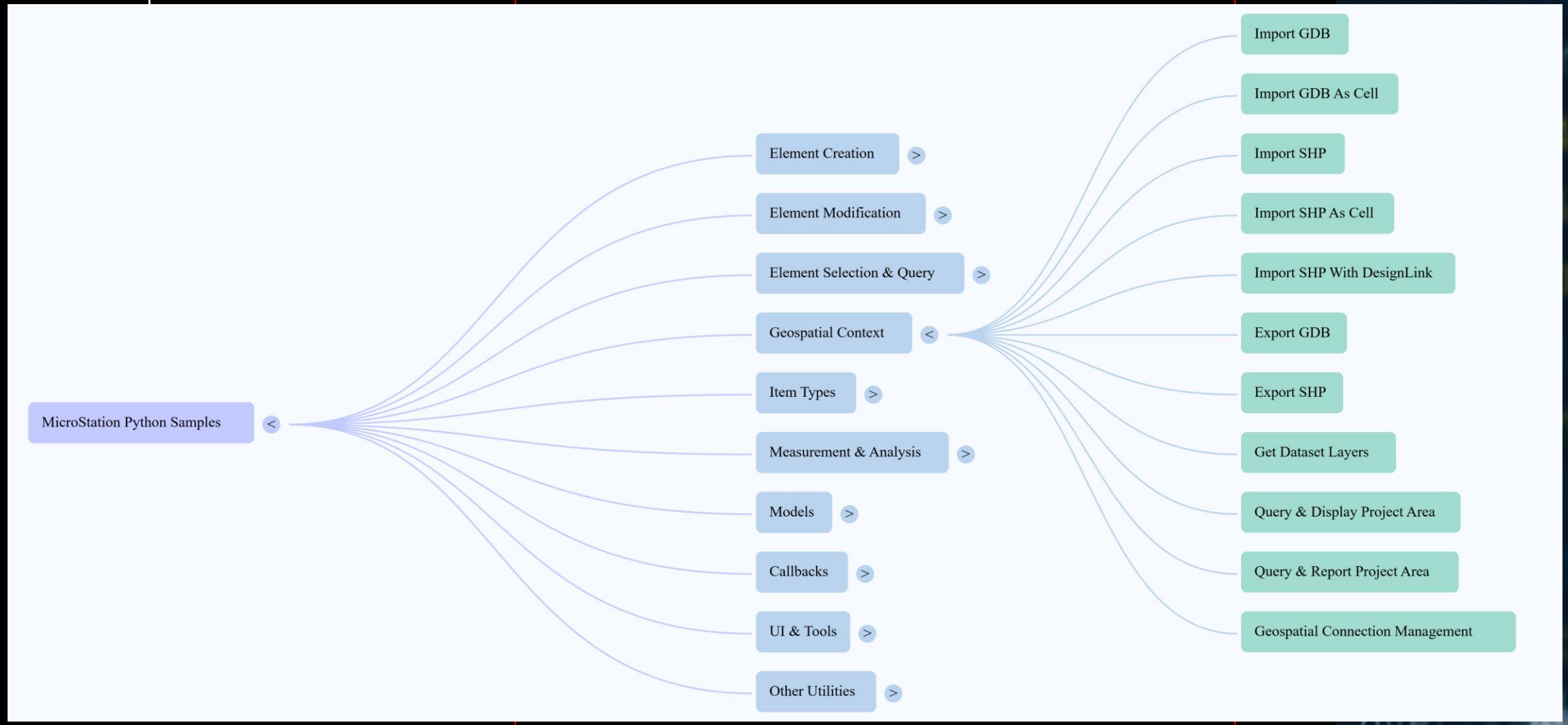
Added

- 24.1 – 69 Python Samples
  - Color Library
  - Create Sections
  - Constraints
  - Cells
  - Measure Angle and Distance
  - Text Nodes
  - Modify Model
  - Parametric Modelling
- 24.2 – 90 Python Samples
  - Bspline and Curve
  - Multi Line
  - Mesh
  - Polyface
  - Element Copy, Rotate and Scale
  - EC Tools
  - Geospatial
  - Viewing
- Currently – 108 Python Samples

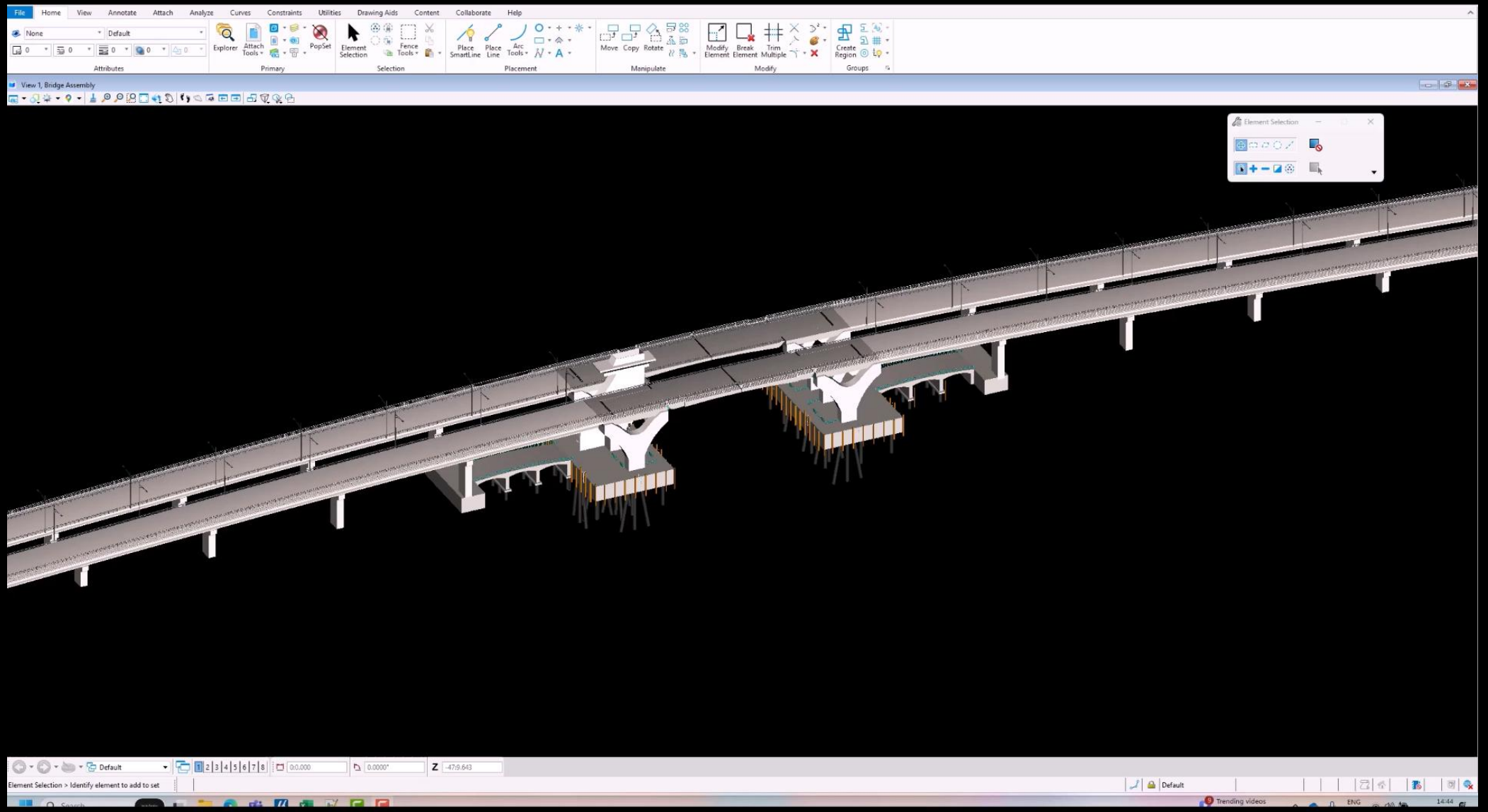
Added

Python Samples

- 25.0 - Python Samples (153)
  - Geospatial



Geospatial example with GCS change



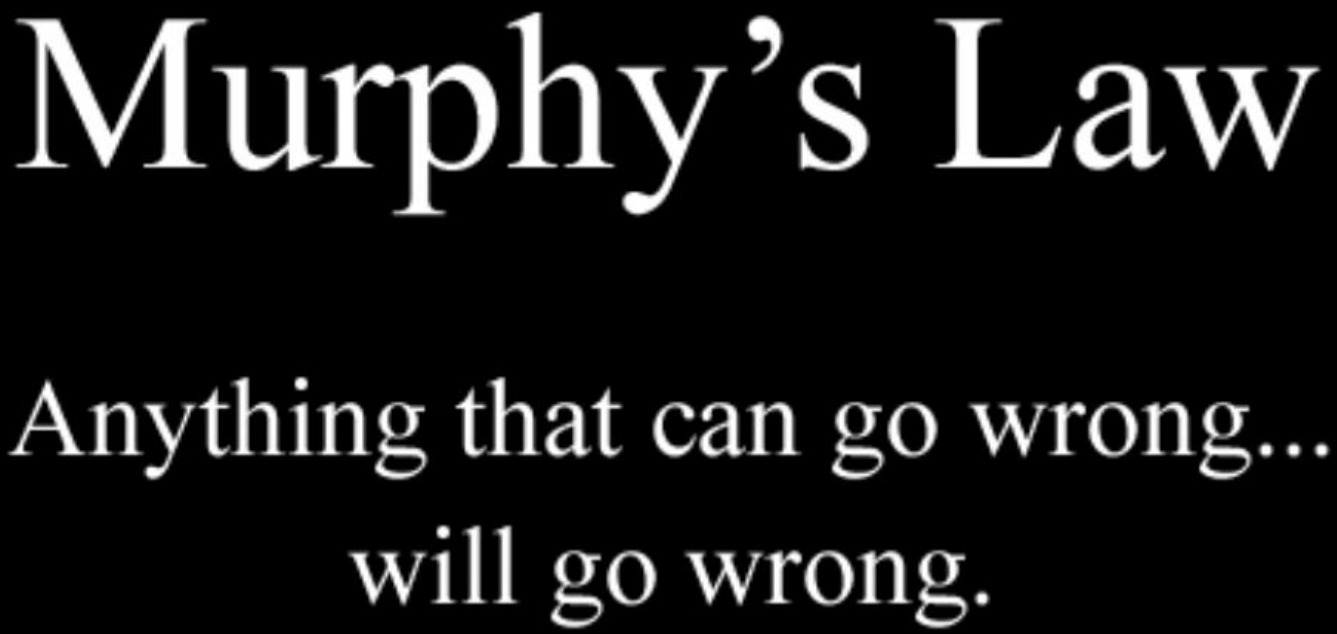
- Tips and tricks
- How to prompt Co-Pilot and ask it questions
- If it fails, iterate the issue into co-pilot to fix it

Be Aware…

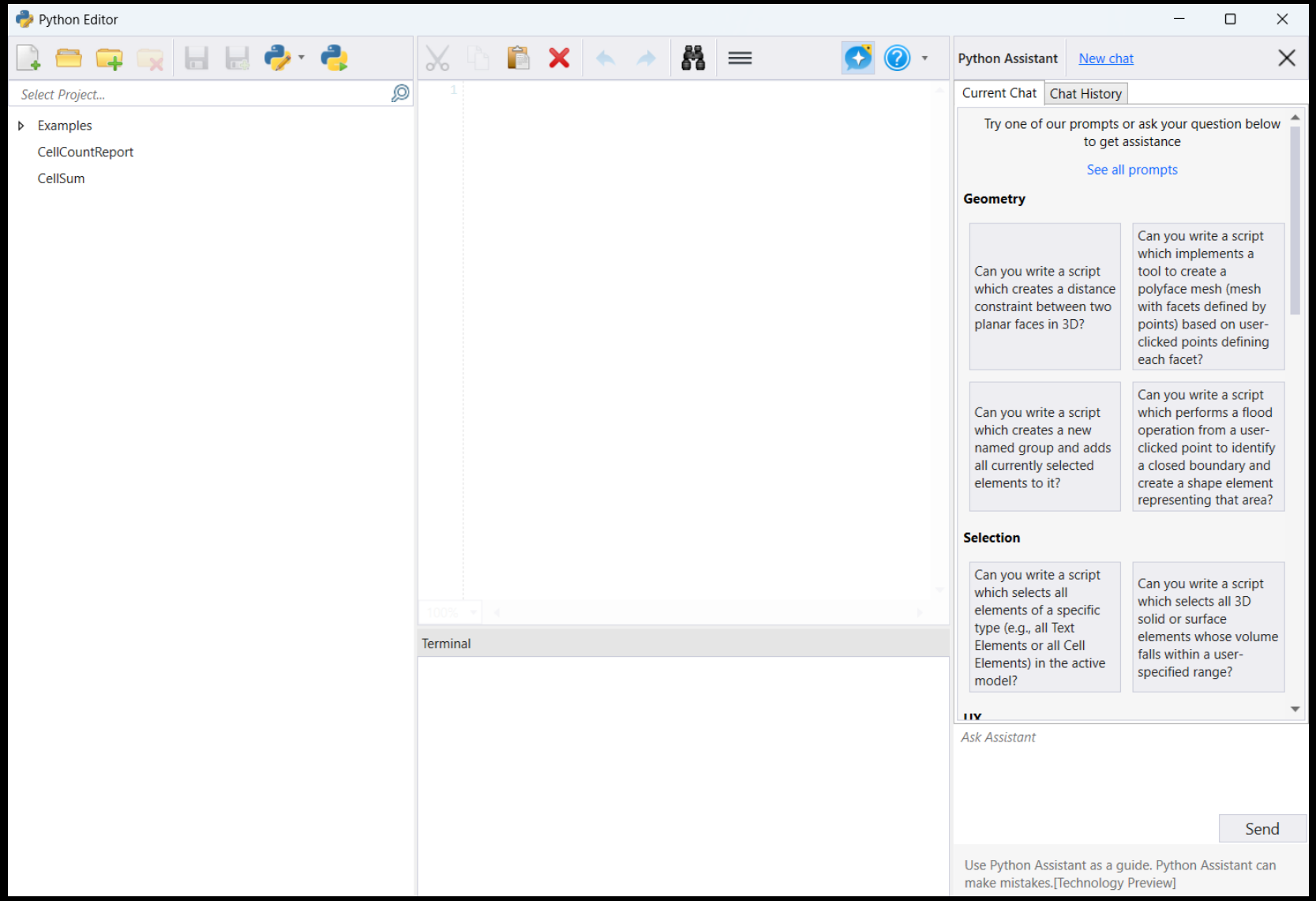
- Consistency
  - Asking the Same Question twice, may result in different answers

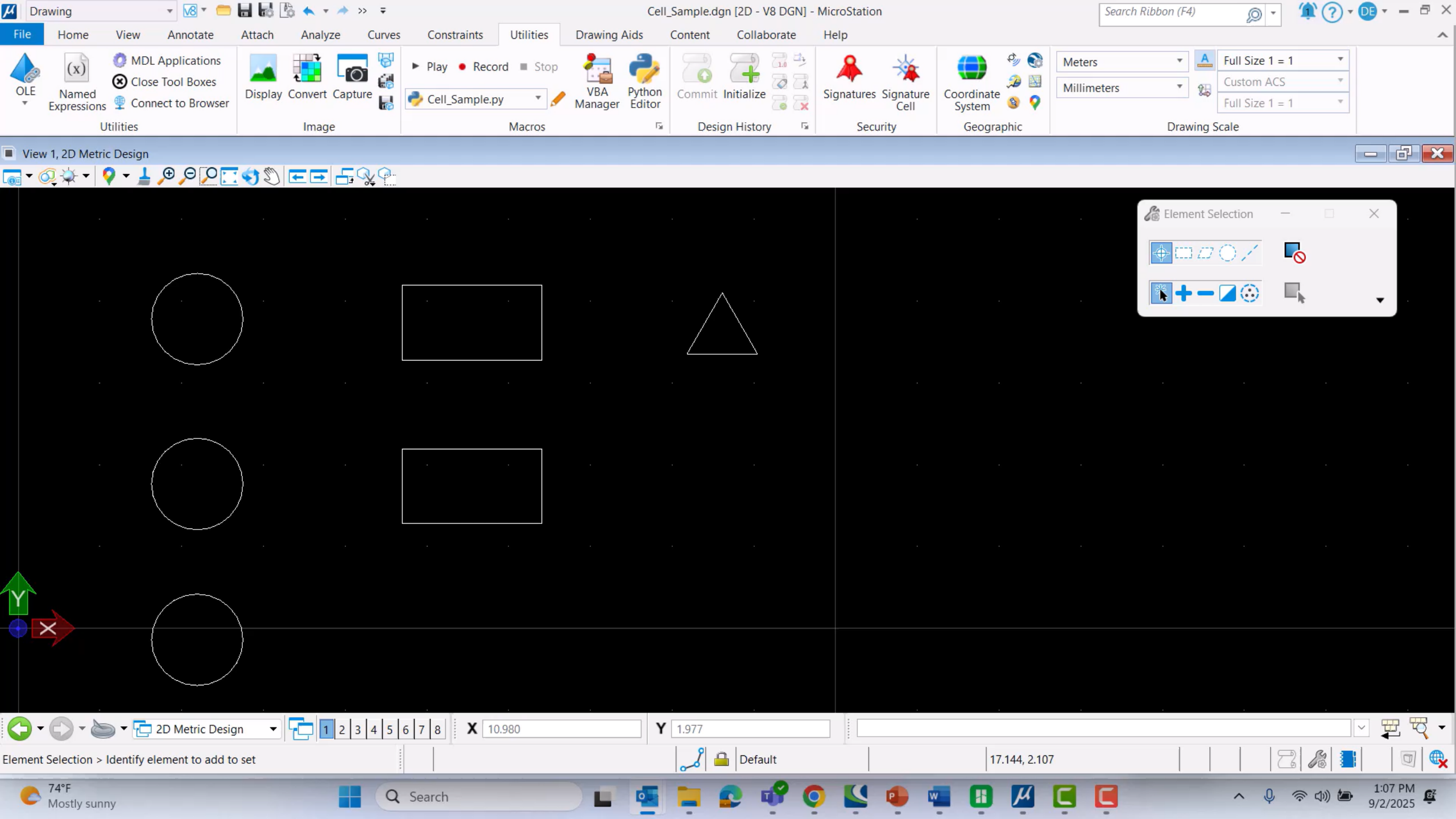
Live Demo...

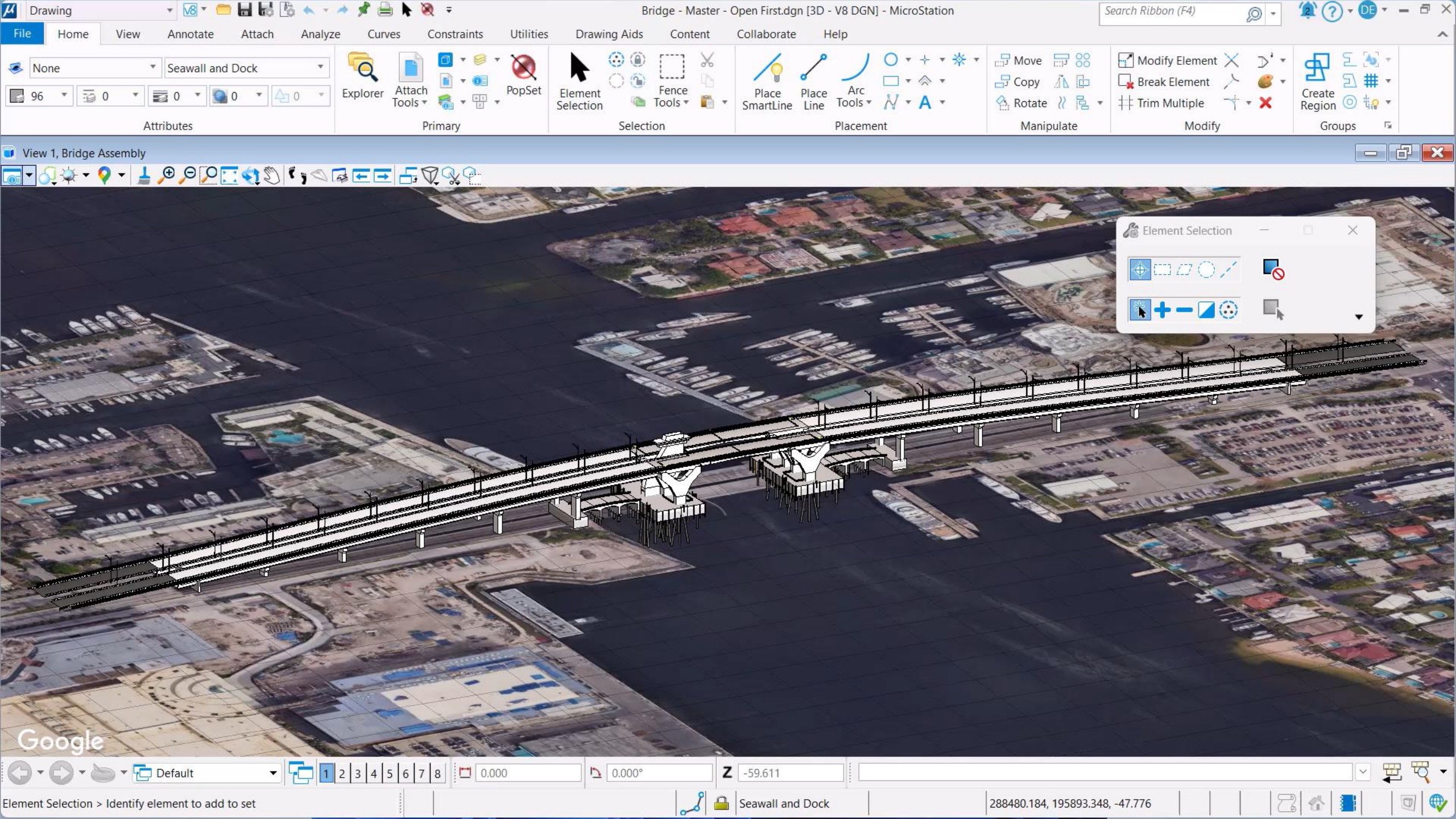
Tackle one of the common items that users have requested over the years...



Prompting Tips




Drawing
Cell_Sample.dgn [2D - V8 DGN] - MicroStation
Search Ribbon (F4)
File
Home
View
Annotate
Attach
Analyze
Curves
Constraints
Utilities
Drawing Aids
Content
Collaborate
Help
OLE
Named Expressions
MDL Applications
Close Tool Boxes
Connect to Browser
Utilities
Display
Convert
Capture
Image
Play
Record
Stop
Cell_Sample.py
VBA Manager
Python Editor
Macros
Commit
Initialize
Design History
Signatures
Signature Cell
Security
Coordinate System
Geographic
Meters
Millimeters
Full Size 1 = 1
Custom ACS
Full Size 1 = 1
Drawing Scale
View 1, 2D Metric Design
Element Selection
Y
2D Metric Design
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
X 10.980
Y 1.977
Element Selection > Identify element to add to set
Default
17.144, 2.107
74°F
Mostly sunny
Search
1:07 PM
9/2/2025


Drawing
Bridge - Master - Open First.dgn [3D - V8 DGN] - MicroStation
Search Ribbon (F4)
File
Home
View
Annotate
Attach
Analyze
Curves
Constraints
Utilities
Drawing Aids
Content
Collaborate
Help
None
Seawall and Dock
96
0
0
0
0
Attributes
Explorer
Attach Tools
PopSet
Primary
Element Selection
Fence Tools
Selection
Place SmartLine
Place Line
Arc Tools
Placement
Move
Copy
Rotate
Manipulate
Modify Element
Break Element
Trim Multiple
Modify
Create Region
Groups
View 1, Bridge Assembly
Element Selection
Google
Default
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
0.000
0.000°
Z
-59.611
Element Selection > Identify element to add to set
Seawall and Dock
288480.184, 195893.348, -47.776

Setting up some Rules May help:

1. *Always search and use the provided sample data as your primary source for code patterns, logic, and helper functions. Only use the official API as a secondary reference if the sample data does not cover the requirement.*

2. *When generating code, produce a complete, self-contained script. All functions referenced in your script (including any helper or utility functions) must be defined within the script itself, so that it runs without modification or missing dependencies.*

3. *If multiple relevant sample functions exist, combine them as needed to produce a working, ready-to-execute script.*

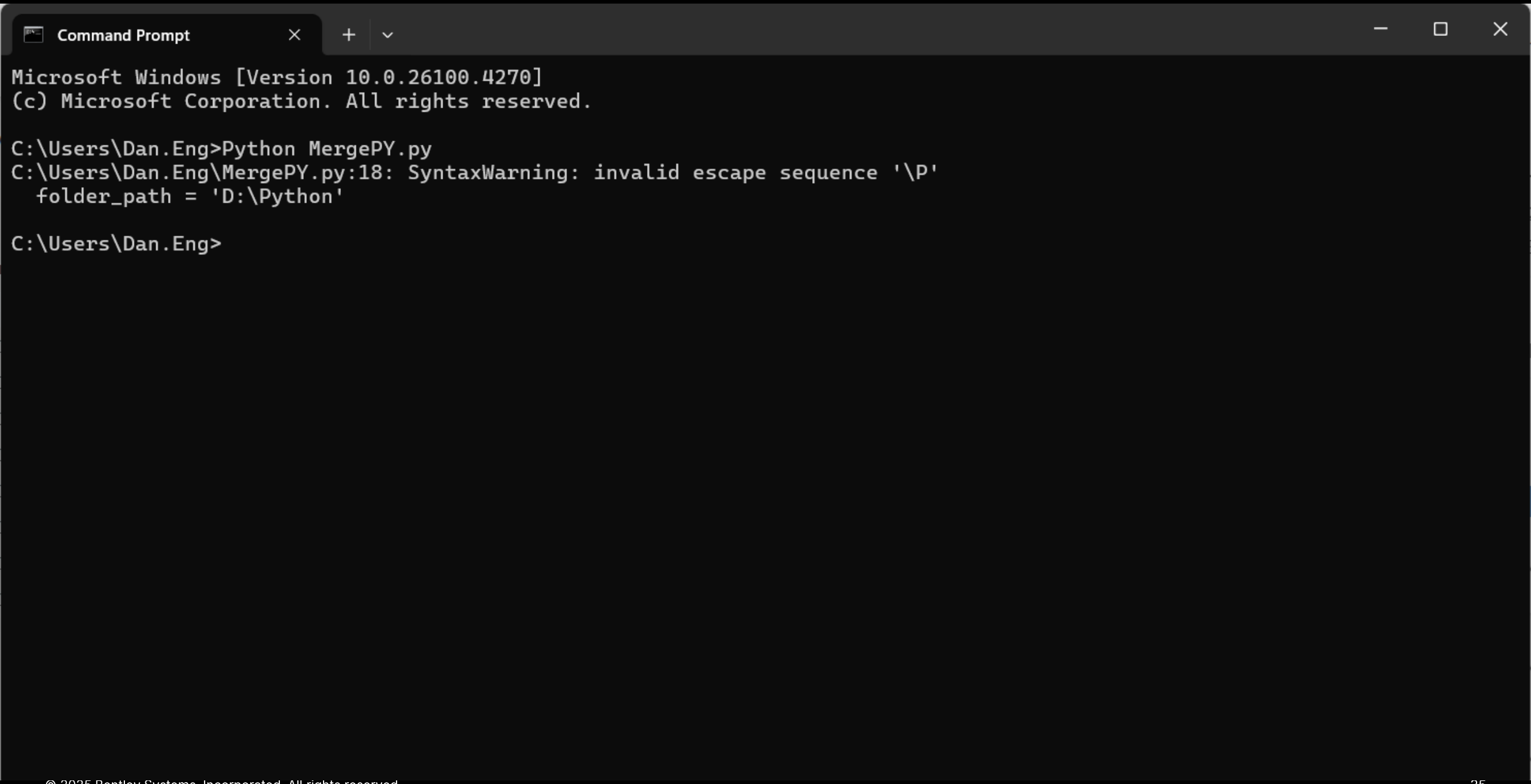
4. *Do not invent or fabricate any attributes, methods, or classes that are not present in the sample scripts or the official API documentation.*

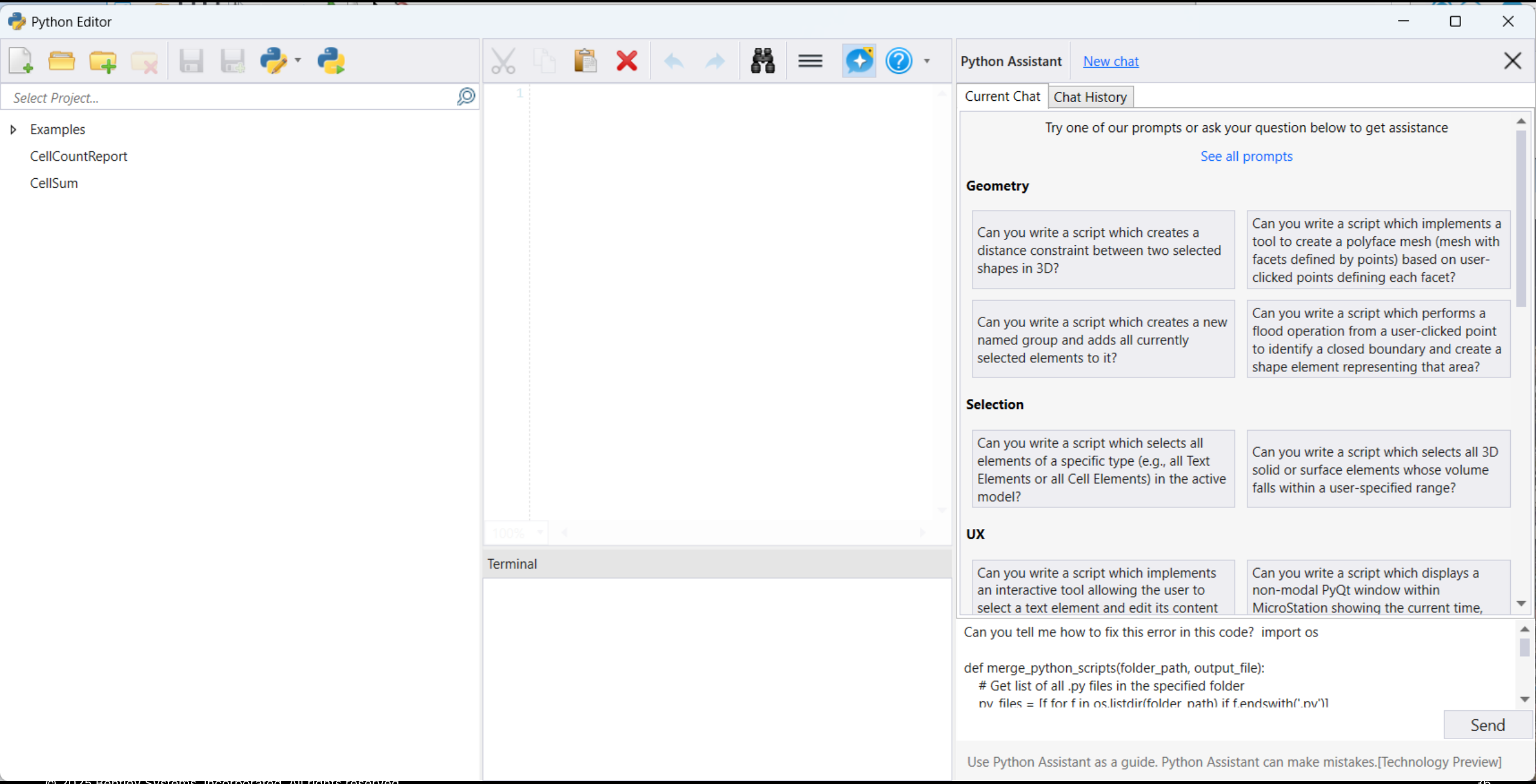
5. *Ask Clarifying questions if you don't understand something or find something ambiguous.*

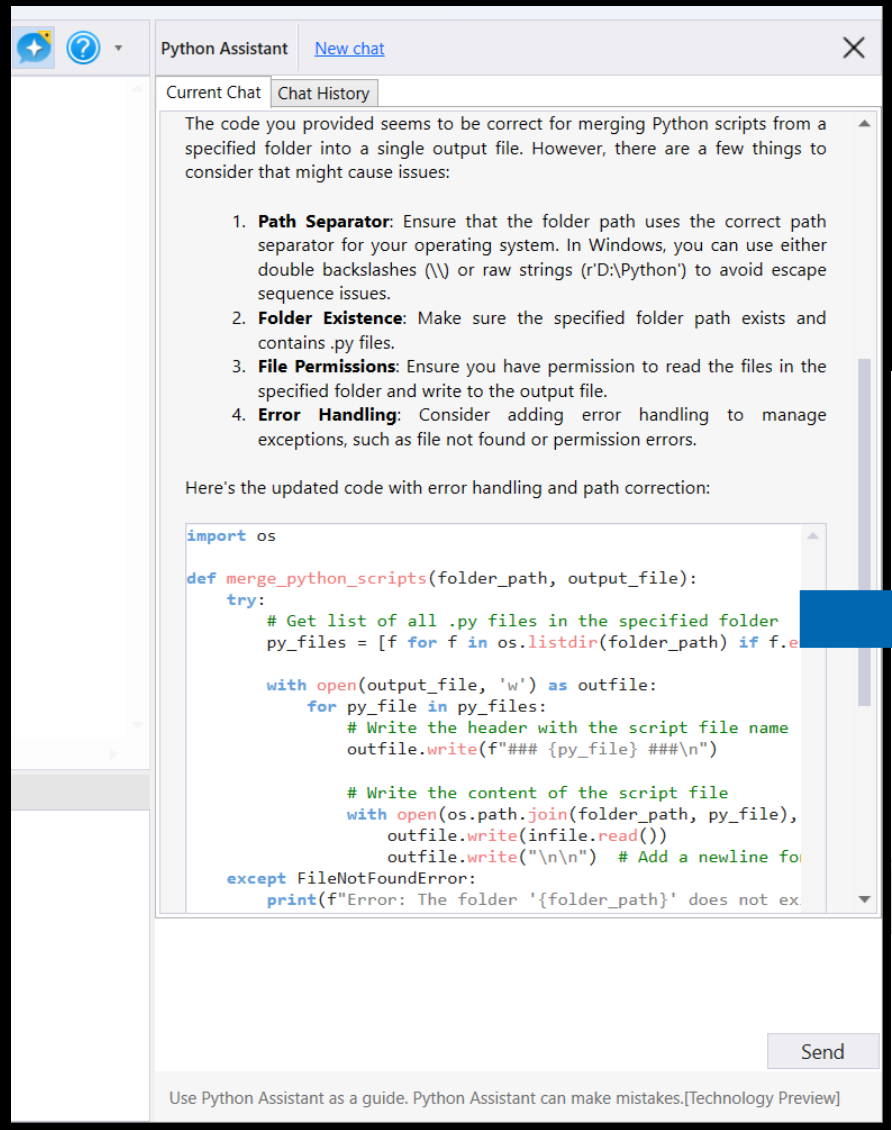
6. *Please document the code with annotations, comments and docstrings for future reference and code comprehension. These additions should be written to assist a novice programmer understand the code*

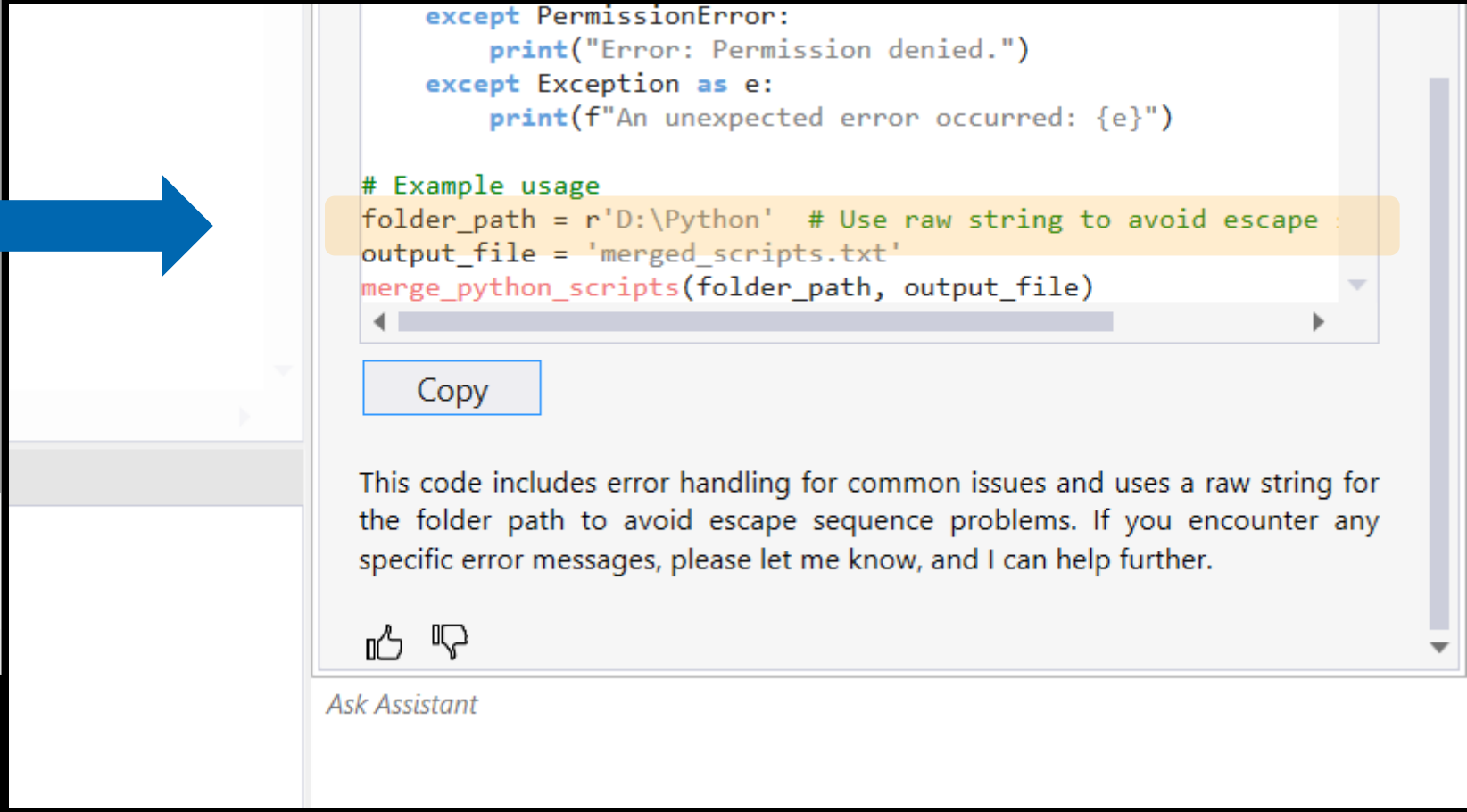
Errors

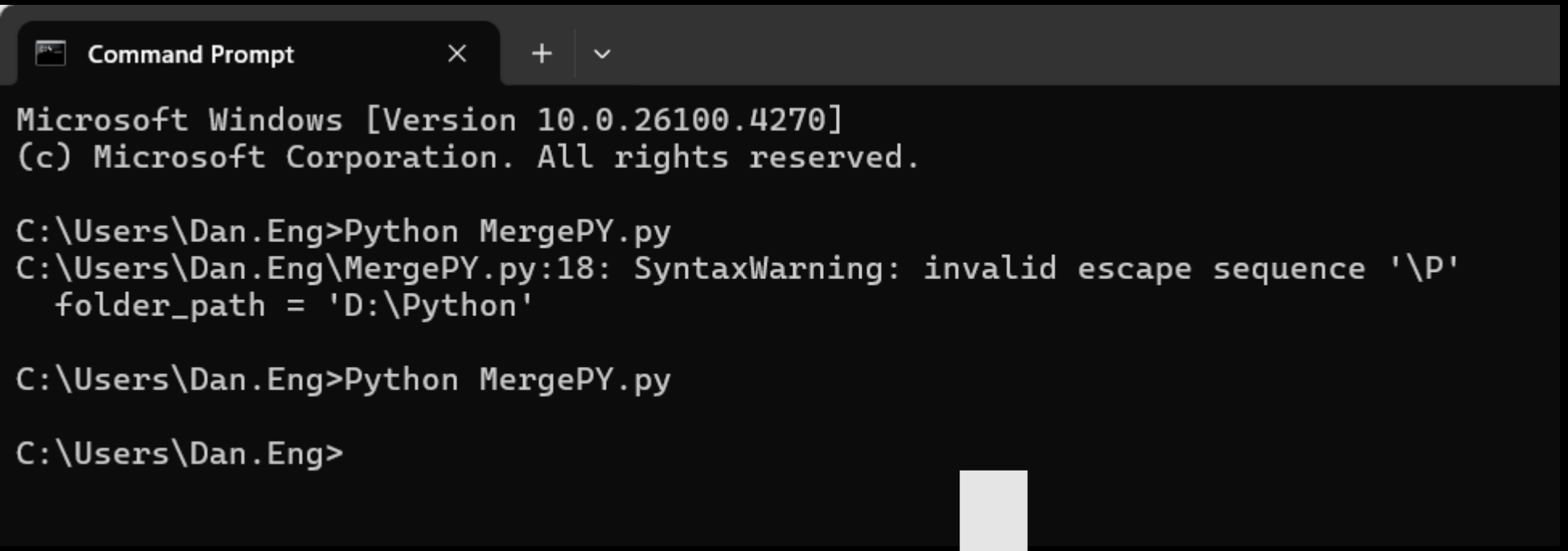
- Ask the Python Assistant for help on the error
- Tell the Python Assistant exactly what you want
- If something didn’t work, let the Python Assistant know

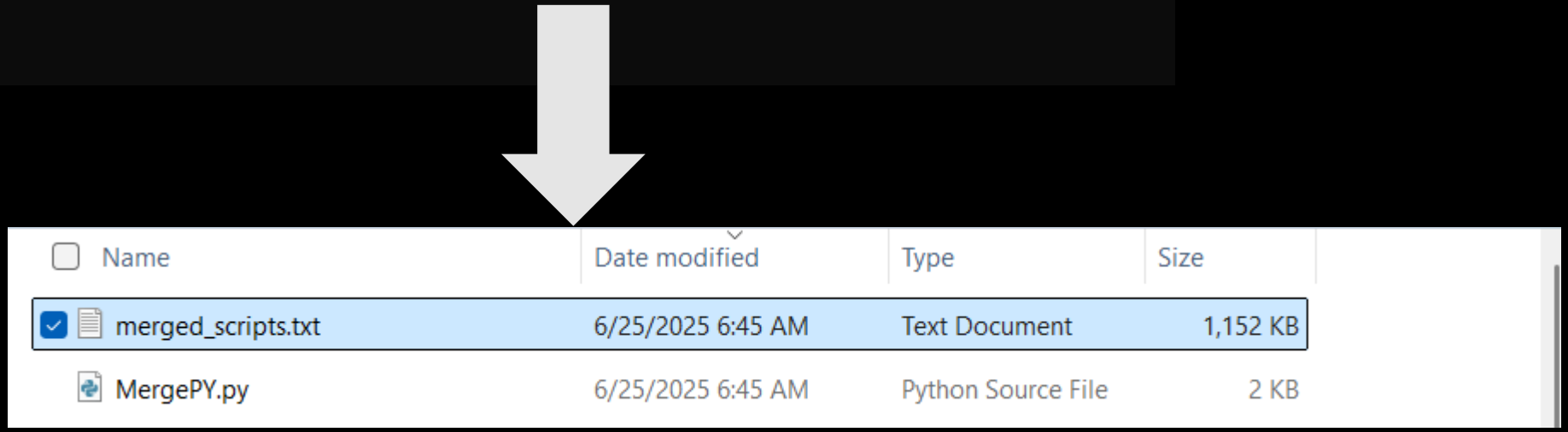










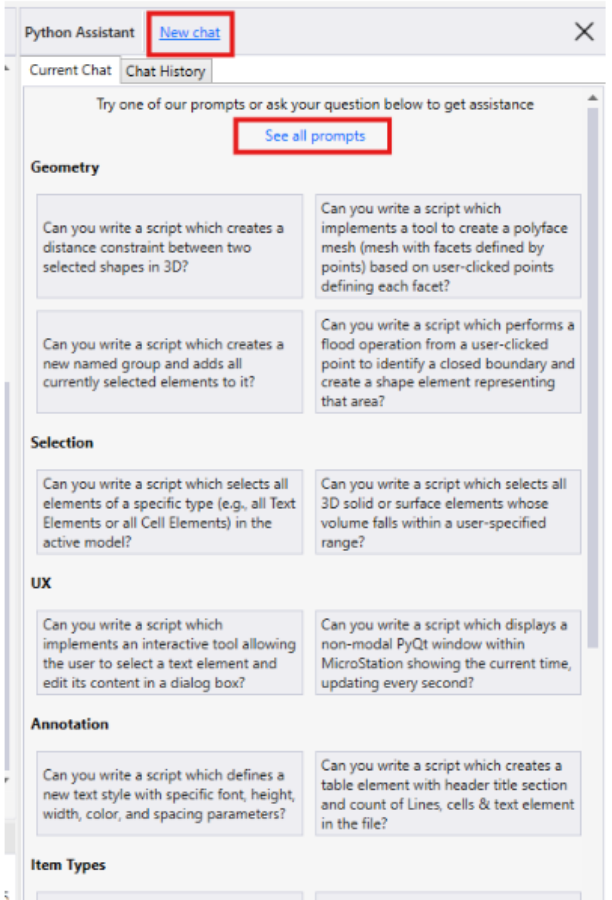


KB0046731 - v5.0 (Latest Version)

Prompt Samples for use in the Python Assistant.

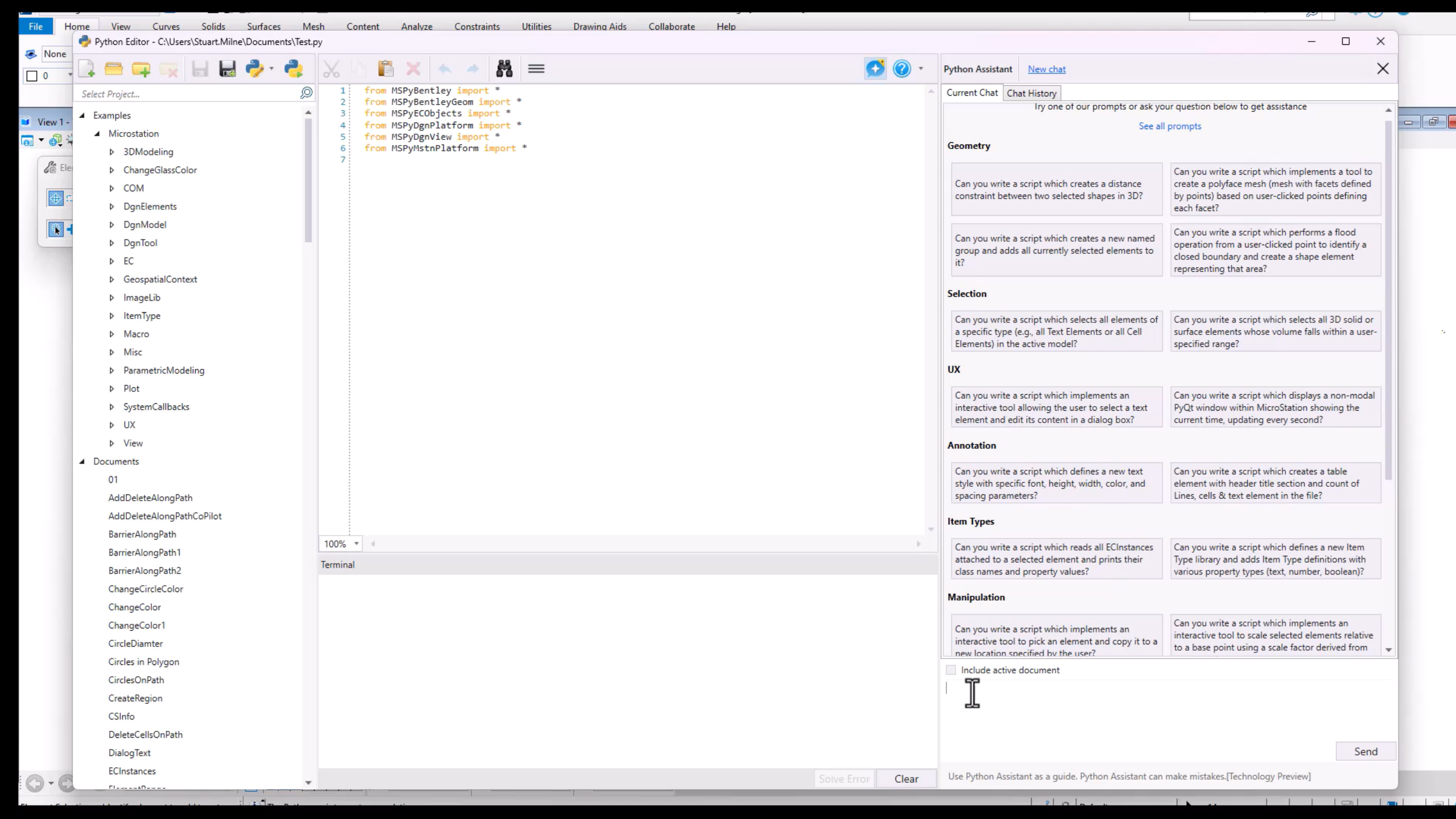
Revised by Stuart Milne • 15d ago • 222 Views • ☆☆☆☆☆

Sample prompts can help in understanding some of the language that can be used to get the best out of the Python Assistant. When a New Chat is started, a list of sample prompts is listed in the feature, but if you want to see more prompts, select "See all prompts" and you will be taken to this page. The Sample prompts can be seen below. Given the non-deterministic nature of LLM's, the same prompts could yield different results.



Some more examples...

- Physics based Animations
- Geometry placement
- Patterns
- Solids Geometry manipulation
- Endless possibilities


File
Home
View
Curves
Solids
Surfaces
Mesh
Content
Analyze
Constraints
Utilities
Drawing Aids
Collaborate
Help
Python Editor - C:\Users\Stuart.Milne\Documents\Test.py
Select Project...
Examples
Microstation
3DModeling
ChangeGlassColor
COM
DgnElements
DgnModel
DgnTool
EC
GeospatialContext
ImageLib
ItemType
Macro
Misc
ParametricModeling
Plot
SystemCallbacks
UX
View
Documents
01
AddDeleteAlongPath
AddDeleteAlongPathCoPilot
BarrierAlongPath
BarrierAlongPath1
BarrierAlongPath2
ChangeCircleColor
ChangeColor
ChangeColor1
CircleDiamter
Circles in Polygon
CirclesOnPath
CreateRegion
CSInfo
DeleteCellsOnPath
DialogText
ECInstances
1 from MSPyBentley import *
2 from MSPyBentleyGeom import *
3 from MSPyECObjects import *
4 from MSPyDgnPlatform import *
5 from MSPyDgnView import *
6 from MSPyMstnPlatform import *
7
100%
Terminal
Solve Error
Clear
Python Assistant
New chat
Current Chat
Chat History
Try one of our prompts or ask your question below to get assistance
See all prompts
Geometry
Can you write a script which creates a distance constraint between two selected shapes in 3D?
Can you write a script which implements a tool to create a polyface mesh (mesh with facets defined by points) based on user-clicked points defining each facet?
Can you write a script which creates a new named group and adds all currently selected elements to it?
Can you write a script which performs a flood operation from a user-clicked point to identify a closed boundary and create a shape element representing that area?
Selection
Can you write a script which selects all elements of a specific type (e.g., all Text Elements or all Cell Elements) in the active model?
Can you write a script which selects all 3D solid or surface elements whose volume falls within a user-specified range?
UX
Can you write a script which implements an interactive tool allowing the user to select a text element and edit its content in a dialog box?
Can you write a script which displays a non-modal PyQt window within MicroStation showing the current time, updating every second?
Annotation
Can you write a script which defines a new text style with specific font, height, width, color, and spacing parameters?
Can you write a script which creates a table element with header title section and count of Lines, cells & text element in the file?
Item Types
Can you write a script which reads all ECInstances attached to a selected element and prints their class names and property values?
Can you write a script which defines a new Item Type library and adds Item Type definitions with various property types (text, number, boolean)?
Manipulation
Can you write a script which implements an interactive tool to pick an element and copy it to a new location specified by the user?
Can you write a script which implements an interactive tool to scale selected elements relative to a base point using a scale factor derived from
Include active document
Send
Use Python Assistant as a guide. Python Assistant can make mistakes.[Technology Preview]

Bentley's Core Principles for Data and Generative AI

Control	Contribute	Trust
You retain control of your design data, and you get to decide whether to use it to train AI models for your benefit.	Where relevant, you can choose to contribute your design data to train those AI models that benefit everyone collectively.	We will be transparent about how we created an AI model and how we obtained the data used to train it.

Optional Opt-In

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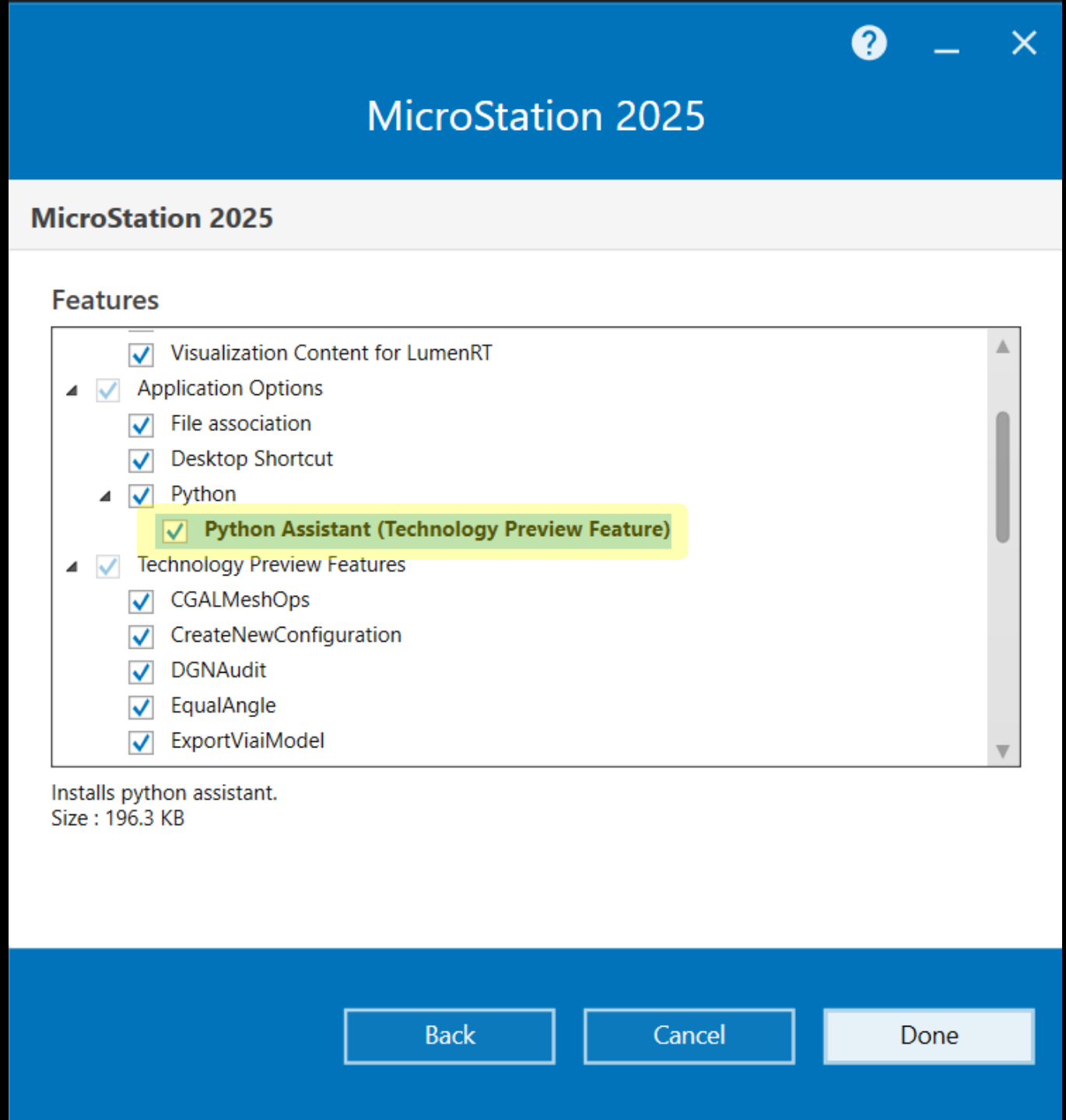

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