

DroneAPI (DroneKit)

A Tutorial on Drone Control

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3DR



About you, me, us.

- Me: embedded geek -> fun with drones
- You: want to code with drones
- Basic python knowledge required
- This is a lightning tutorial
- Questions?

Why do this?

- Sad mavlink on drones-discuss
- Need a *simple* API that handles common requests
- On LAN or coprocessor
- Let the API also work on Android, WAN, etc...

DroneAPI overview

- Small surface area (attributes, observers and changing state)
- Connect to the API provider to find a vehicle
- The vehicle object is a **model** of vehicle state
- Read vehicle attributes (v.location, v.mode, v.parameters ["MAX_THRUST"] etc...)
- Call v.flush() after writes
- Use the observer pattern for notification of state changes.

Lesson 0: Install the SDK

- [github: diydrones/droneapi-python](#) - “Embedded Linux Talk”
- Connect to a vehicle or SITL

```
mavproxy.py --master=localhost:14550  
module load droneapi.module.api
```

Lesson 1: Go to a location

```
api start simple_goto.py
```

```
api                = local_connect()  
vehicle            = api.get_vehicles()[0]  
vehicle.mode       = VehicleMode("GUIDED")  
origin              = Location(-34.36, 149.16, 30,  
is_relative=True)
```

```
vehicle.commands.goto(origin)  
vehicle.flush()
```

Lesson 2: A GCS in 50 lines

- A GCS?
- Observers
- Tk for a GUI

```
root = Tk()
root.wm_title("microGCS - the worlds crummiest GCS")
...
def updateGUI(label, value):
    label['text'] = value
...
v.add_attribute_observer('attitude', lambda attr: updateGUI(attitudeLabel, v.
attitude))
```

Doing this for real

- Find a friend - diydrones.com
- Find or build a drone
- Safety
 - Fly semi-manually first
 - No automatic arming
 - The 'mode switch' is your friend
 - Use a GCS
- Flight tutorial links included in the github

Thanks

- Looking for a fun hobby?
- Looking for a fun job?
- Want to see a balloon pop? (Watch this)
- Want to do this on Android/Java? (See Fredia)
- Contact me: github.com/geeksville
- Questions?