

# portable Python ifconfig

---

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2007-03/msg00421.html>

---

- *From:* Bart Van Loon <[bbbart@xxxxxxxx](mailto:bbbart@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 4 Mar 2007 02:38:58 +0500
- 

Hi all,

I'm looking for a portable (FreeBSD and Linux) way of getting typical ifconfig information into Python.

Some research on the web brought me to Linux only solutions

<http://aspn.activestate.com/ASPN/Cookbook/Python/Recipe/439094>  
<http://aspn.activestate.com/ASPN/Cookbook/Python/Recipe/439093>

which I didn't manage to port to FreeBSD (I'm not that experienced). Finally though, I found out about pyifconfig:

<http://mail.python.org/pipermail/python-list/1999-August/009274.html>

which compiles fine on Linux after changing <python1.5/Python.h> to <python2.4/Python.h>. On FreeBSD there is no SIOCGIFHWADDR, so I just commented out that part.

I can now do

```
In [1]: from pyifconfig import pyifconfig
```

```
In [2]: pyifconfig('ath0')
Out[2]:
{'addr': '192.168.50.104',
'brdaddr': '192.168.50.255',
'hwaddr': '00:17:f2:4c:a5:0c',
'netmask': '255.255.255.0'}
```

on Linux, and

```
In [1]: from pyifconfig import pyifconfig
```

```
In [2]: pyifconfig('vr1')
Out[2]:
{'addr': '192.168.50.1',
'brdaddr': '192.168.50.255',
'hwaddr': '\xff\xff',
```

## portable Python ifconfig

```
'netmask': '255.255.255.0'}
```

on FreeBSD.

The problem now is that I get seemingly random information when I pass a non-existing interface, a down interface or an empty string to `pyifconfig`, which is very hard to figure out from inside a script:

```
In [3]: pyifconfig('foobar')
Out[3]:
{'addr': '104.154.165.183',
'brdaddr': '104.154.165.183',
'hwaddr': '00:00:68:9a:a5:b7',
'netmask': '104.154.165.183'}
```

so, any pointers here on how I can go on from this point?

any help is appreciated

--

regards,  
BBBart

Wormwood : Calvin, how about you?

Calvin : Hard to say ma'am. I think my cerebellum just fused.

.