Python Evangelism 101

or

“Python Meets The Enterprise”

Peter Wang
Teaching Languages

- Readability
- Ease of use
- “Fits in your head”
- Incremental sense of accomplishment
  - aka “gets things done”
- Deployment
  - aka “Lookie what I did!”
Professional Languages

- Readability
- Ease of use
- “Fits in your head”
- Gets things done
- Legacy integration
- Good libraries
- “Lookie what I did!”
Don’t care about...

• Technical purity
• e-peen factor
• (beyond “Lookie what I did”)
Truths about Programmers
Truths about Good Programmers

• Lazy
• (in a good way!)
• just want things to work
• Temperamental tinkerers
• Obsessed with details
• (Sometimes)
• Spoiled kids who just want to have fun
• And sometimes create Fortune 100 companies
Fun & Passion

- Americans are obsessed with “fun”
- Alias for Passionate Creativity
- Early adopters tend to be passionate
- Passion
  - leads to Motivation
  - leads to Productivity
  - (leads to suffering?)
Truths about Software
Arguable Truths about Software

Software Development is a Craft
Arguable Truths about Software

Software Development is a Craft
Observations About Languages
Completely Controversial Observations about Languages
Completely Controversial Observations about Languages
Exercises

1. Draw lines corresponding to expected effort for each language
   • Difference to reality is the Moxie Gap
   • Directly modulates Motivation

2. Add Lisp to that graph
One Truth About Python

• Power scales with the ability of the programmer
• Novices can do simple things
• Really bright people build tools
  • Novices leverage these tools
• Lone sysadmins <3 perl
• Mavericks in small workgroups <3 Python
Python meets the enterprise
Python meets The Enterprise
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Python meets The Enterprise

- “Original Sin of Enterprise Software Development”
- Programmers are fungible
- In low-productivity regions, almost true.
- Not true to really effectively leverage Python
Good News

More businesses are using Python.
Bad News

More businesses are using Python.
Bad News

More managers are managing Python programmers.
Bad News

More managers are managing ex-Java programmers writing Python code.
The Java Question

There exist Java people.
The Java Question

There exist Java_People.
The Java Question

There exist

com.sun.stereotypes.offensive.JavaPeople
The Java Question

How do we foster a Pythonic mindset in people from Bondage & Discipline languages?
Suggestions

- Fun
- Passion
- Motivation
Why this talk at SciPy?

- Scientists program to get things done
- Early adopters
- Likely to be Python evangelists within your groups & organizations
Things To Do

• Introduce Python to your friends
• Make useful tools
• Be friendly
  • not snarky
  • (like me)
• Be open
Things Not To Do

• Introduce Python to your frenemies
• Foist Python on the unwilling
• Vaccinate your group against dynamic languages
TL;DR

• We all enjoy coding in Python.
• We want to continue coding in Python.
• We don’t want a wasteland of failed deployments.
• Leave that to Java.
• Make useful tools; let those change minds.