Growing a Python community at an enterprise scale

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Overview

- What is Bloomberg
- The start of Python at Bloomberg
- The growth of Python at Bloomberg
- Python Infrastructure
- The Python Guild
- How the guild works & focus groups
- What we have achieved
What is Bloomberg?

The Bloomberg Terminal is software that delivers a diverse array of information, news and analytics to facilitate financial decision-making.
What is Bloomberg?

• A technology company, headquartered in NYC

• Founded in 1981

• 325,000+ subscribers in 170 countries

• Approximately 20,000 employees in 167 locations around the world
What is Bloomberg?

• 6,000+ software engineers

• 150+ technologists and data scientists devoted to machine learning

• One of the largest private networks in the world

• 120 billion pieces of data from the financial markets each day, with a peak of more than 10 million messages/second

• 2 million news stories ingested / published each day (500+ news stories ingested/second) with news content from 125K+ sources.

• Over 1 billion messages and Instant Bloomberg (IB) chats handled daily
Python @ Bloomberg in the shadows
A monster is born!
An opportunistic monster was born
Let’s do SOA

- CreateItemRequest
- ReadItemRequest
- ProcessOrderRequest
- TransformOrderRequest
- CleanKitchenRequest
- CallUserAboutItemRequest
- PerformTaxDeclarationRequest
- UnrelatedRequest
- WhatIsTheAirspeedVelocityOfAnUnladenSwallow
A community was born
A community was born
A community was born
Isn’t Python too slow?
Wait, this is so fast!
External engagement to foster internal

- Contributing to CPython and other projects
- Talks and sponsoring at conferences
- Hosting external events.
- PyLondinium

- + 1 on recruiting
- + 1 on retention
- + 1 on skill
Python Infrastructure
No magic

• Active community
• Hard work
• Management buy-in
• Iterative reform
Our definition of Guilds and Guild Leaders

Communities centered on specific technical topics of interest and for the advancement of technology in Bloomberg.

Guild Leaders are charged to influence the use of the technology internally and engage with the technology community externally.
Guild organisation
Guild organisation
Conference engagement

Internal influence

Presentations & meetups

Collaborative development
Conferences
External Events
Code Development
IMPOSTER SYNDROME IS THE INABILITY TO ACCEPT ONE'S OWN ACCOMPLISHMENT AND THE CONSTANT FEAR OF BEING EXPOSED AS A FRAUD.
Pragmatic Recommendations
How We Organize

• Open meeting with Guild Leaders

• Newsletter

• Retrospectives
What we have achieved

• A mainly C++ company that changed — “Why in Python?” “Why not in Python?”

• We have an active, ever-growing community

• Python Infrastructure team
What’s next?
Thank you!

https://www.bloomberg.com/careers