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It is often described as a "batteries included" language due to its comprehensive [standard library](#).<sup>[33][34]</sup>

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Python was invented in the late 1980s<sup>[41]</sup> by [Guido van Rossum](#) at [Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica](#) (CWI) in the [Netherlands](#) as a successor to the [ABC programming language](#), which was inspired by [SETL](#),<sup>[42]</sup> capable of [exception handling](#) and interfacing with the [Amoeba](#) operating system.<sup>[11]</sup>

Its implementation began in December 1989.<sup>[43]</sup> Van Rossum shouldered sole responsibility for the project, as the lead developer, until 12 July 2018, when he announced his "permanent vacation" from his responsibilities as Python's "[benevolent dictator for life](#)" (BDFL), a title the Python community bestowed upon him to reflect his long-term commitment as the project's chief decision-maker<sup>[44]</sup> (he's since come out of retirement and is self-titled "BDFL-emeritus").

In January 2019, active Python core developers elected a five-member Steering Council to lead the project.<sup>[45][46]</sup>

Python 2.0 was released on 16 October 2000, with many major new features such as [list comprehensions](#), [cycle-detecting](#) garbage collection, [reference counting](#), and [Unicode](#) support.<sup>[47]</sup>

Python 3.0, released on 3 December 2008, with many of its major features [backported](#) to Python 2.6.x<sup>[48]</sup> and 2.7.x. Releases of Python 3 include the `2to3` utility, which automates the translation of Python 2 code to Python 3.<sup>[49]</sup>

Python 2.7's [end-of-life](#) was initially set for 2015, then postponed to 2020 out of concern that a large body of existing code could not easily be forward-ported to Python 3.<sup>[50][51]</sup>

No further security patches or other improvements will be released for it.<sup>[52][53]</sup> Currently only 3.8 and later are supported (2023 security issues were fixed in e.g. 3.7.17, the final 3.7.x release<sup>[54]</sup>). While Python 2.7 and older is officially unsupported,

a different unofficial Python implementation, [PyPy](#), continues to support Python 2, i.e. "2.7.18+" (plus 3.9 and 3.10), with the plus meaning (at least some) "[backported](#) security updates".<sup>[55]</sup>