



Material de estudio

- **Lectura:** *A brief history of Python*

In 1989, Van Rossum was working on Amoeba, a microkernel-based distributed system, for which he was developing system utilities. While working on **them**, Guido realized that developing in C takes too much time. He decided to spend his free time building a language that would help **him** accomplish his work faster.

He had an idea of a scripting language that would be somewhere between C and a shell script: interpreted, but much more easily programmable and readable than shell scripts. As you probably have guessed that language turned out to be Python. A fun fact: Python is not named after the snake species, but after the British surreal comedy troupe Monty Python.

According to the words of Guido: “The reference felt suitably irreverent for what was essentially a “skunkworks project”. The word “Python” was also catchy, a bit edgy, and at the same time, **it** fit in the tradition of naming languages after famous people, like Pascal, Ada, and Eiffel.”

The first release

After the language was well received at CWI, the institute Guido was working at the moment, he managed to agree with **his** manager to publish it open-source. In February 1991, Van Rossum published the source code of Python’s interpreter to alt.sources, a Usenet group for open-source code. While this may seem to be a regular thing nowadays, basically all the programming languages are open-source and on GitHub-back then, it was still unclear what would be the business model of people developing the languages.

For example, there were proprietary languages, but it was hard for those to become popular. Guido has said that open-sourcing Python was one of the things that significantly helped **it** succeed at that time. At that time, there were some difficulties involved in sharing open-source code. The source code for the Python interpreter had to be split into 21 **uuencoded** messages to share it on the newsgroup, but it was still better than carrying around a physical version of the source code like you would do before Usenet.

The first release (0.9.0) had features such as classes, exception handling, functions, and the core datatypes like list, dict, str, and so on. It was heavily inspired by ABC, a language that Guido spent some time implementing at CWI. While creating Python, his goal was to take the good parts of ABC while fixing the rest.

In January 1994, version 1.0 was released, and a separate Usenet group for it was created, marking a milestone in the history of Python. Around that time, multiple other dynamically typed and interpreted languages similar to Python were created, such as Perl and Ruby, which shows that the need for such a language was definitely in the air.

Python Standard Library. DataFlair (2022). Retrieved January 14, 2022, from: <https://data-flair.training/blogs/python-libraries/>

