Guido van Rossum

BIOGRAPHY OF A SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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Guido van Rossum's Early Life

Guido van Rossum was born in 1956 in The Hague, Netherlands. He got into the field of computing while he was studying mathematics at the University of Amsterdam. After he received his Master's degree and Mathematics and Computer Science in 1982, van Rossum later worked for several research institutes. The institutes including Dutch Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), United States National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and also Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI).
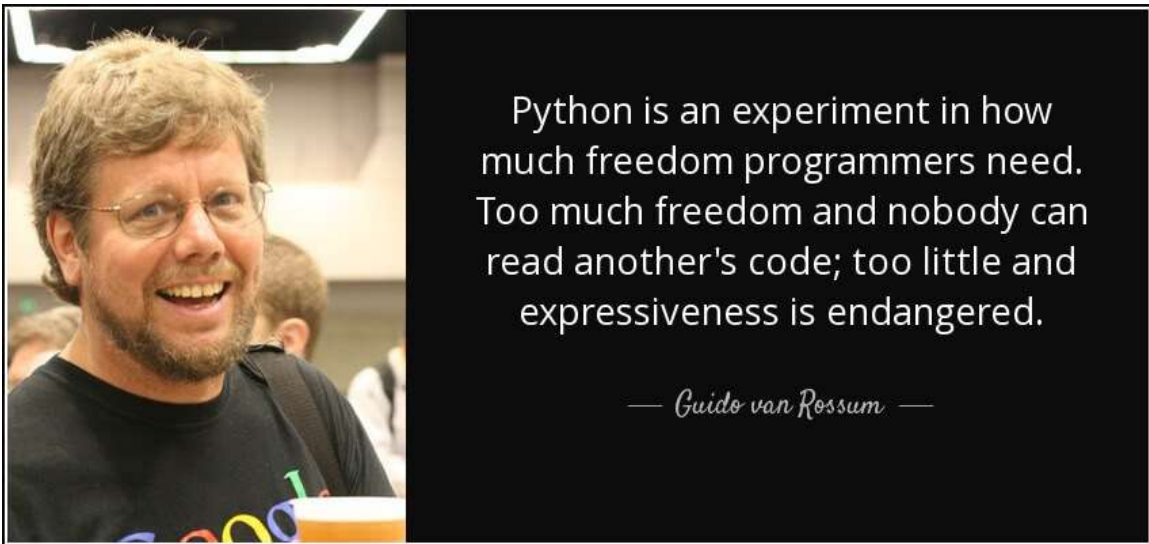

Guido van Rossum's Early Attempts

While van Rossum is in CWI, he worked with Meertens and Leo Geurts on ABC, a language designed to be easy to use for scientists without a programming background. In the end, ABC was unsuccessful at gaining a user base, then van Rossum moved on to work on Amoebo, an operating system created by Andres Tanenbaum.

While working on Amoeba, van Rossum was tired of writing many small utility programs in C. So, he longed for a language that would be simple and convenient for quick and dirty tasks. From example UNIX shell scripts, but with the expressivity of a high-level programming language.

Van Rossum decided to write such language in 1989, by drawing heavily from the features of ABC. Van Rossum named that language "Python", and it improved upon ABC by being highly extensible through modules.

Impact On The Computing World

Guido van Rossum has been one of the most influential software engineers of out time and his work keep affecting the world rapidly. The user rate of Python language has growth rapidly in recent years. Due to its easy adaption, it is now replacing Java and C as the first starting language for beginners. Besides that, Python also having a huge impact on Data Analytic, Machine Learning, Cloud Backends, Scientific Computing, and more due in part to its large collection of specialized libraries, such as Django web framework and NumPy scientific computing package. Python is now the most popular language in these fields. Python's popularity is widely known that even Google uses this language to crawl web pages. Eventually, we can say that Python runs an important role in the development of these fields.

Guido van Rossum's Today

After having a huge success in Python, van Rossum joined Google for certain years and developed Mondrian, a data visualization software based on Python. Then he left Google and join Dropbox in 2013. In October 2019, Van Rossum left Dropbox and officially retired. But now, 12 November 2020, van Rossum announced that he is going to join Microsoft where he found that retirement is too boring.

So let us looking forward to his next achievement.