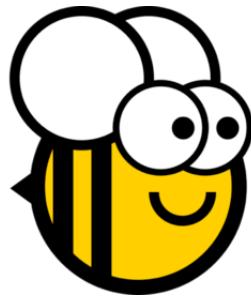


Building Cross Platform Applications in Python using BeeWare

Bob Marchese

What is BeeWare?

The Pitch :



The BeeWare project is a collection of open source tools that enable a Python programmer to create and deploy applications for a variety of platforms. The goal is to make the development experience as easy as possible and to include mobile platforms along with the traditional desktops.

- One codebase, multiple apps
- Uses Python native tools
- Targets mobile and desktop
- Applications behave natively
- Opens source, BSD licensed
- Compatible with modern Python

The BeeWare Project

Home Page <https://pybee.org/>

Founded by Dr. Russel Keith-Magee, one of the Django core developers

His talk at PyCon 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaPzLIJ57dk>

Under active development on GitHub with a core team of 8 people and nearly 100 contributors worldwide.

Getting Started with BeeWare

- As a Python native tool, the developer experience begins with pip
- Best practices suggest that you should use virtual environments

```
D:\>mkvirtualenv beeware-env
Using base prefix 'd:\\python36-32'
New python executable in D:\\Envs\\beeware-env\\Scripts\\python.exe
Installing setuptools, pip, wheel...done.

(beeware-env) D:\\>pip install beeware
Collecting beeware
...
(beeware-env) D:\\>
```

Create a New Project

- BeeWare includes a script for starting a new project
 - Based on Cookiecutter, a general purpose tool for setting up projects
 - Uses a template from Briefcase

```
D:\>beeware new
Creating new BeeWare project using the Briefcase Template...
app_name [appname]: demo
formal_name [App Name]: Demo Application
description [An app that ... ]: Show BeeWare's features
author [Jane Developer]: Bob Marchese
author_email [jane@example.com]: bobm123@gmail.com
bundle [com.example]: com.bobmarchese
Select license:
1 - BSD license
...
8 - Other
Choose from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 [1]:
Select gui_framework:
1 - Toga
2 - None
Choose from 1, 2 [1]:
```

What Briefcase Gives You

- A project director with a stub application

```
demo/
  .gitignore
  LICENSE
  README.rst
  setup.py
  demo/
    app.py
    __init__.py
    __main__.py
    __pycache__/
```

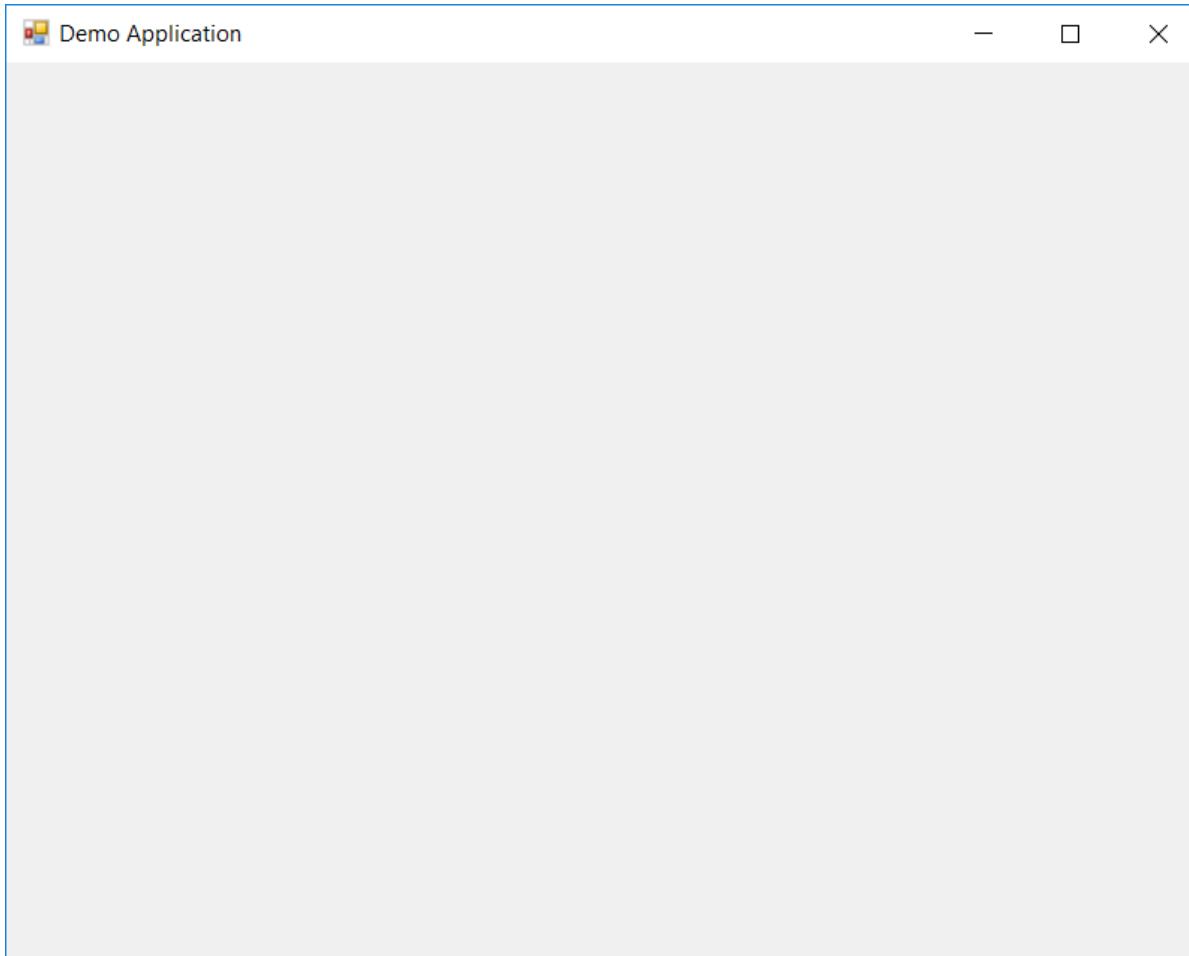
- To run it, navigate to demo and run as a python module

```
(beeware-env) D:\>cd demo
```

```
(beeware-env) D:\demo>python -m demo
```

The Starter App (WinForms version)

A fully functional Windows application that doesn't do anything useful.



The Starter App Code

Code goes in `demo/demo/app.py`

```
import toga
from toga.style import Pack
from toga.style.pack import COLUMN, ROW

class DemoApplication(toga.App):
    def startup(self):
        # Create a main window with a name matching the app
        self.main_window = toga.MainWindow(title=self.name)

        # Create a main content box
        main_box = toga.Box()

        # Add the content on the main window
        self.main_window.content = main_box

        # Show the main window
        self.main_window.show()

    def main():
        return DemoApplication('Demo Application',
                              'com.bobmarchese.demo')
```

Deploy the Application with Briefcase



This is where Briefcase component of the BeeWare project comes in. The setup.py BeeWare generated earlier includes info for building each target platform.

- Setup.py collects the dependencies and gets them ready for packaging
- Places them in the project folder under Windows, Linux, macos etc.

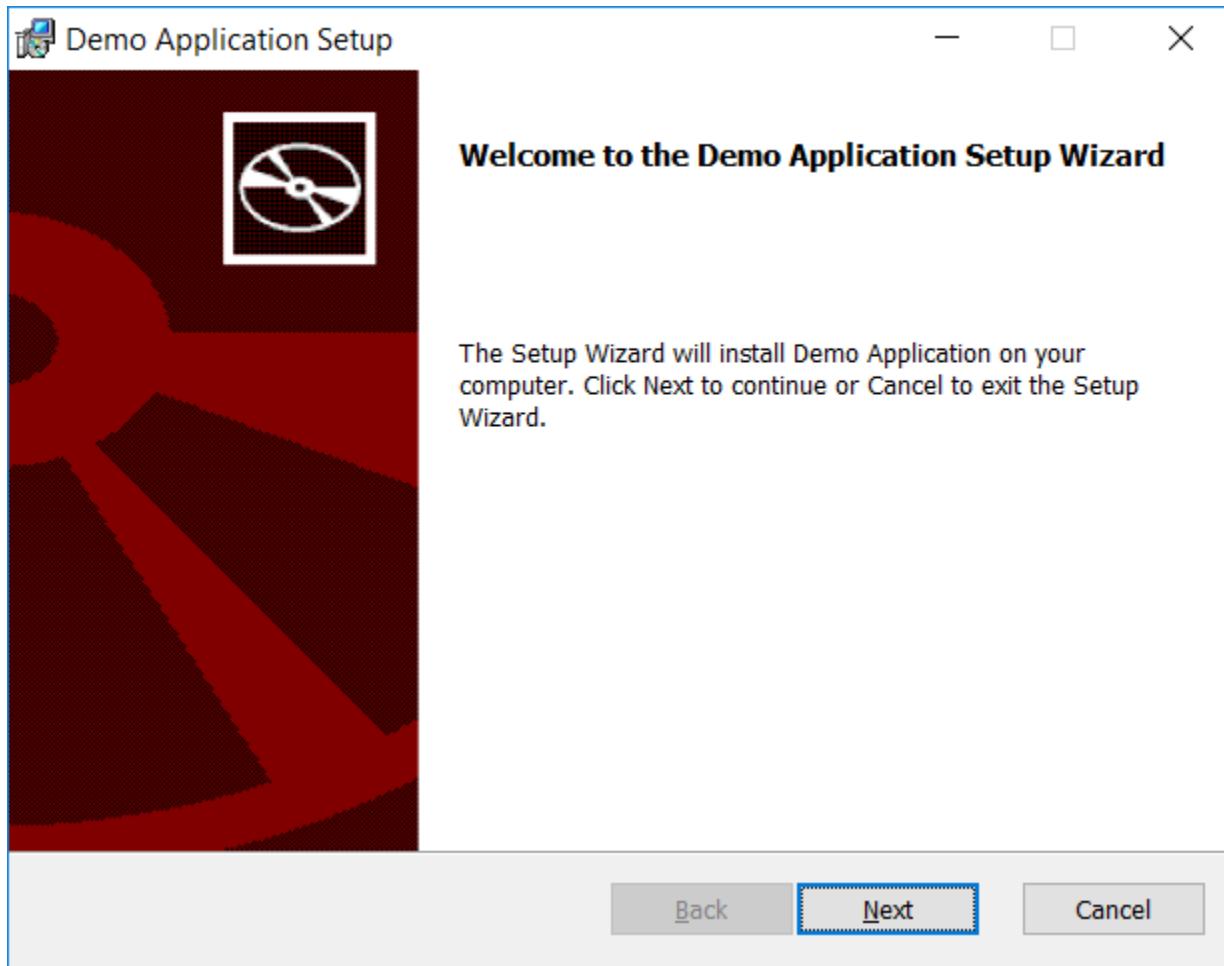
Create a Windows Installer

To create a windows installer, Run the build command from the project directory. This generates subdirectory that containing a .msi installer produced by the WiX toolkit.

```
(beeware-env) D:\demo>python setup.py windows -s
```

A Windows Installer

You can give this to a friend. They can install and run it and they never need to know it was written in python!



Installing on Desktop Platforms - Linux

```
python setup.py linux -s
```

This produces a Linux subdirectory containing a shell script that will start the application.

Installing on Desktop Platforms - macOS

```
python setup.py macos -s
```

This produces a macOS subdirectory containing an application bundle.

Installing on Mobile Platforms - Android

```
python setup.py android -s
```

This produces an android subdirectory that contains a Gradle project. It will also launch the app on the first Android device or simulator that can be found running on (or attached to) your computer.

Installing on Mobile Platforms - iOS

```
python setup.py ios -s
```

This starts the iOS simulator (you may be asked to select an API and a simulator device on which to run the app) and run your app.

It will also produce an `ios` subdirectory that contains an XCode project called `Hello World.xcodeproj`. You can open this project in XCode to run your application.

More Information on Briefcase

Documentation and examples can be found here:

<https://briefcase.readthedocs.io/>

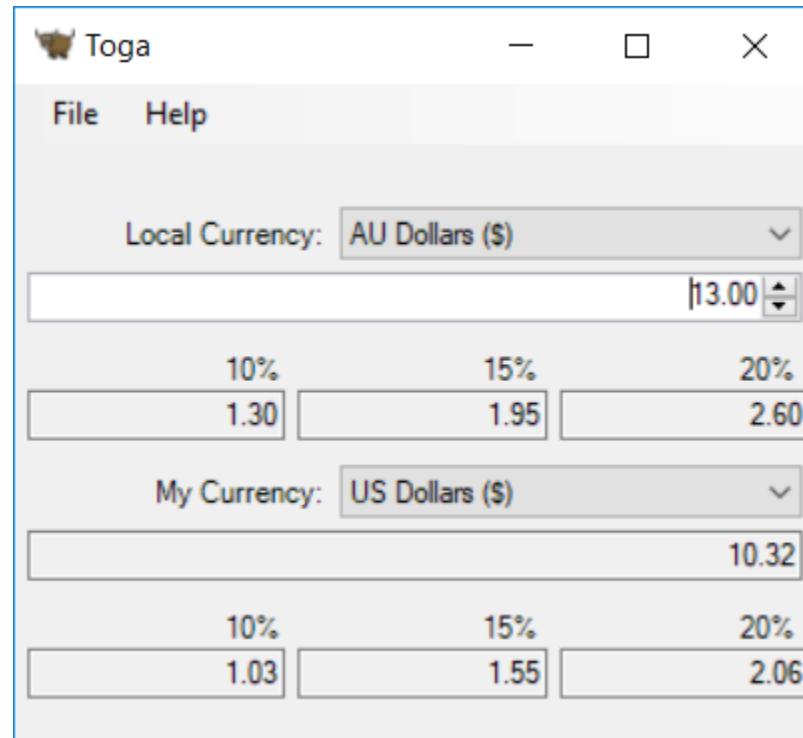
A More Useful App

Russell wrote an application called "Travel Tips". It shows costs in local and home currency, then calculates the amount for a tip.

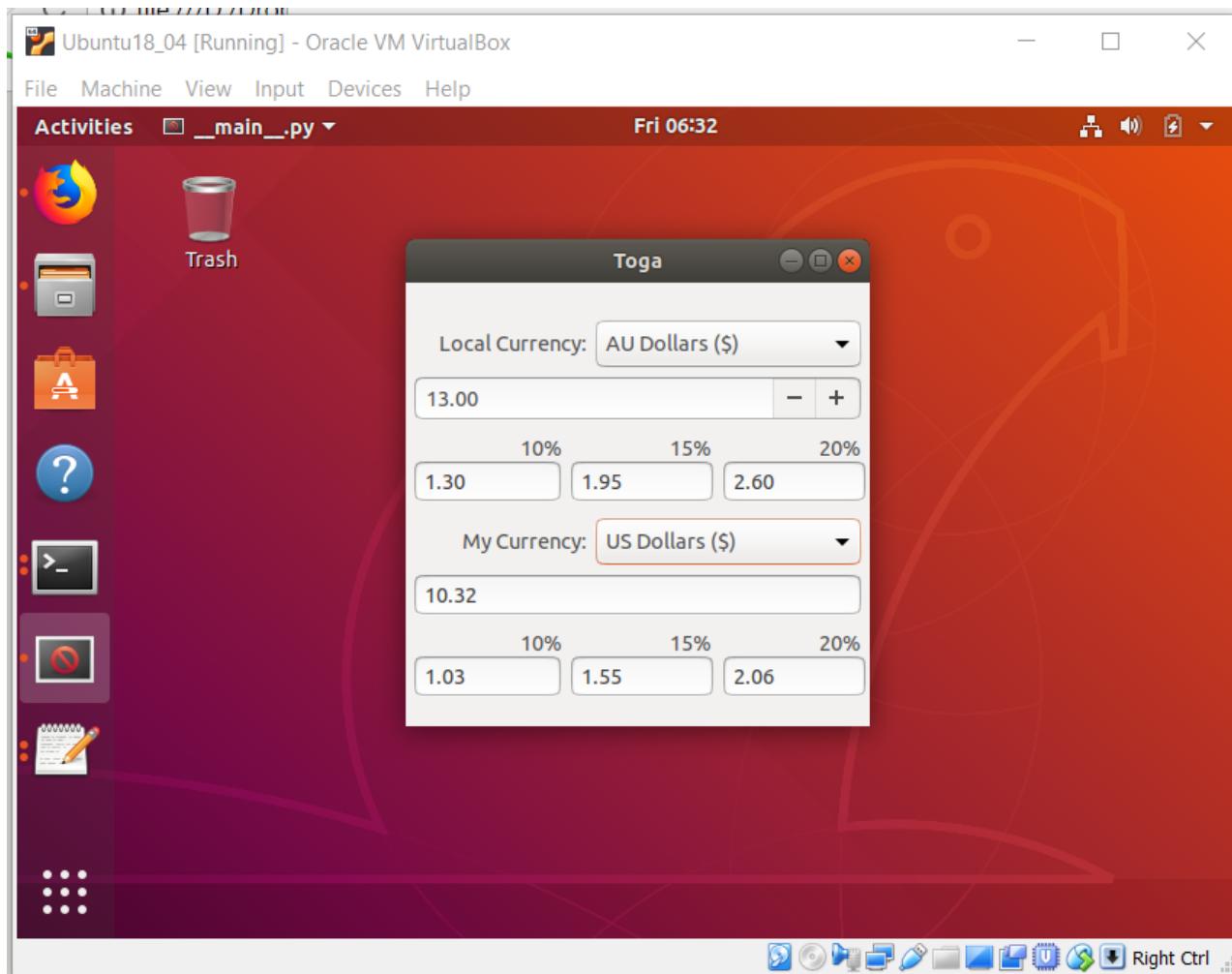
Clone the git repo and run the app for yourself!

<https://github.com/freakboy3742/traveltips>

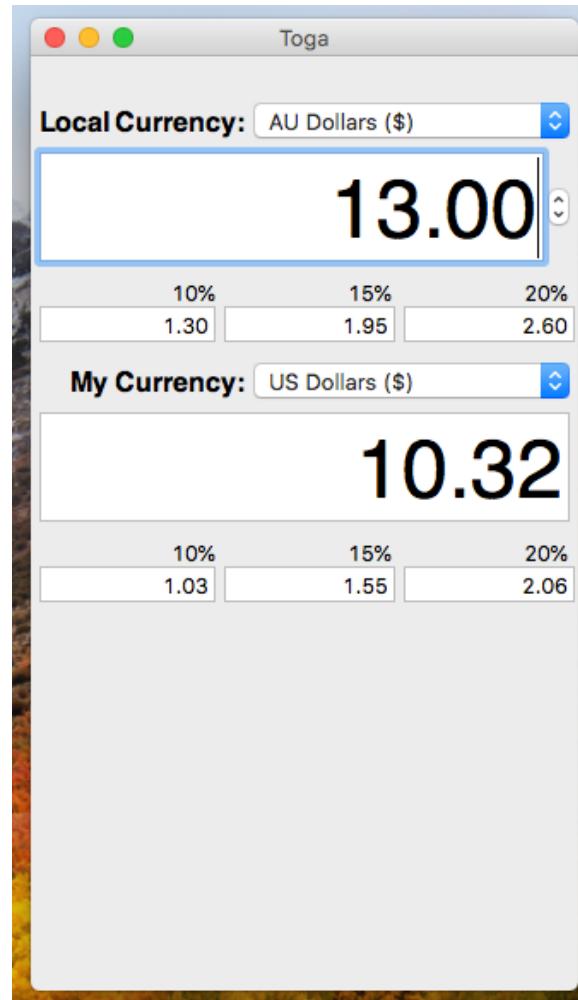
Travel Tips on Windows



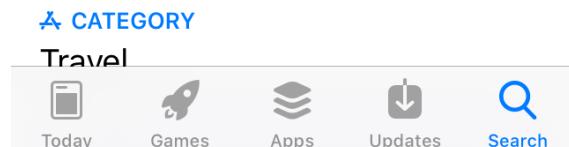
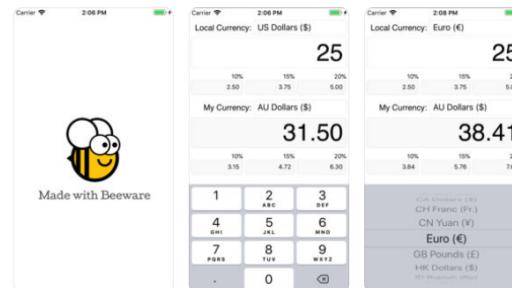
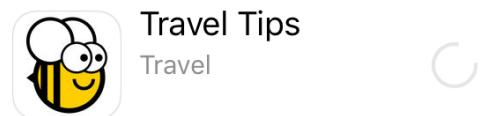
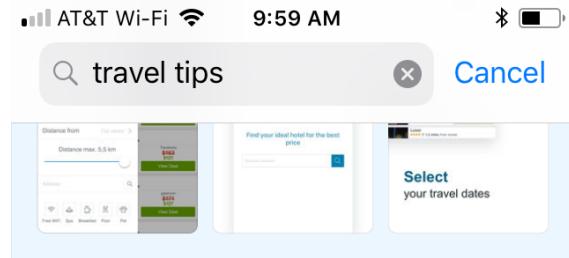
The same application on Linux



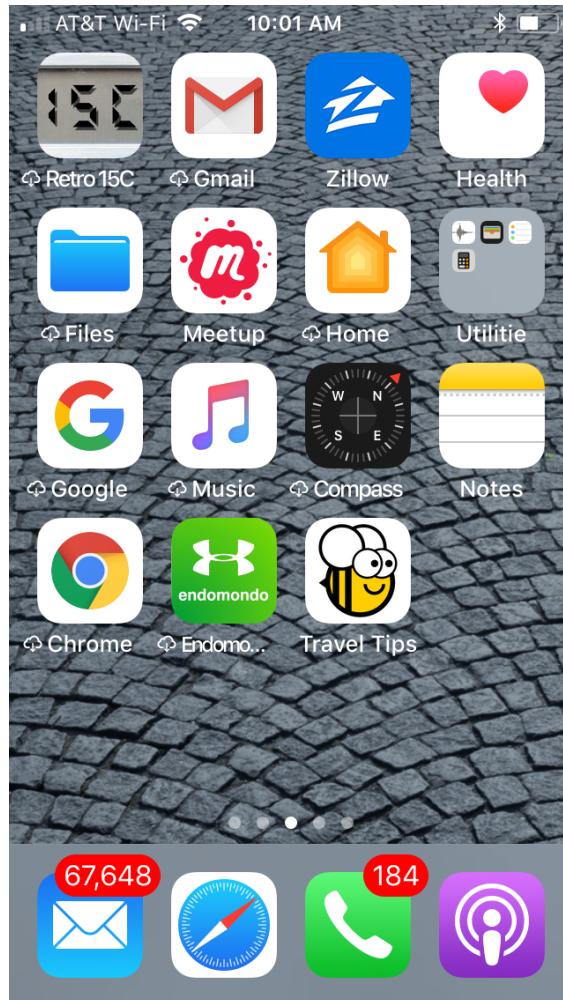
Traveltips on Mac



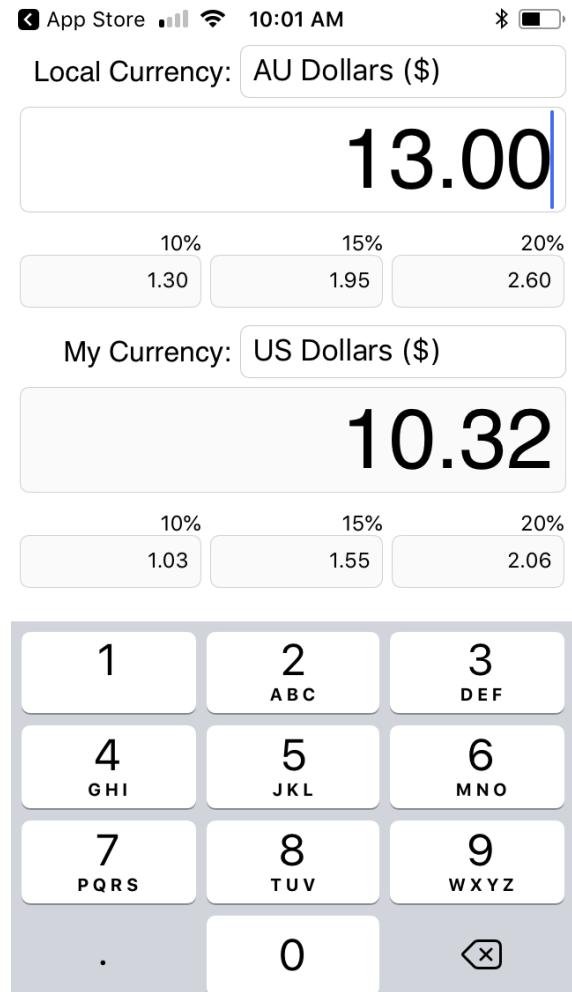
Travel Tips in the Apple App Store



Travel Tips on my iPhone screen



Travel Tips running on my iPhone



How did it do that?

Windows and Linux provide good Python bindings to their respective APIs.

But some systems do not. BeeWare provides 3 bridging libraries for them.

Rubicon

- for Apple (iOS, macOS) that use Objective C

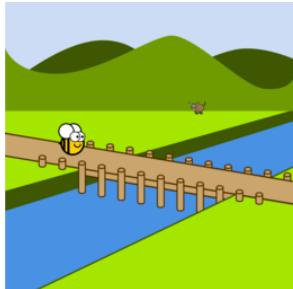
VOC

- A traspiler for Python to Java Byte code needed for Andoid

Batavia

- A Javascript implementation of the CPython virtual machine
- Could move to transpiler model with advent of WebAssembly (<https://webassembly.org/>)

Rubicon for Apple Ecosystems



macOS and iOS native APIs are accessed from Objective C.

- Rubicon Provides a bridging library
- Objective C is a statically typed language
- Python is a dynamically typed language
 - Rubicon uses Python3 type annotations

Details on the Rubicon project page:

<https://rubicon-objc.readthedocs.io>

VOC for Python to Java



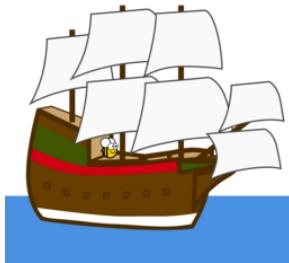
Android does not have an easy way to run CPython, the Python virtual machine. It does let you run Java. VOC is a transpiler that uses the output of the Python compiler to produce byte codes for the JVM.

- In theory, this could be done by translating Python bytecodes to Java bytecodes
- In practice, this is difficult because of compiler optimizations
- Another approach is to use the Python Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) output.

More info in Dr. Keith-Magee's talk at PyCon 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9c4DEYIXYCM>

Python in the Browser



JavaScript is the language of the Web.

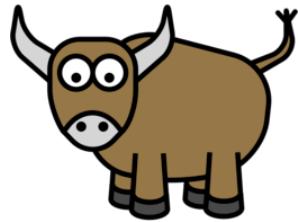
Batavia uses it to implement a Python virtual machine.

- Executes python byte code in the Browser
- Lets Python code access objects and classes defined in JavaScript

See the project page on GitHub.org for more details

<https://github.com/pybee/batavia>

Creating your own Application



Let's make that Demo application a little more interesting with some Widgets

- Toga is the component that lets you create cross platform GUI apps
- Provides an abstraction layer between Python and the Native APIs

Creating your own Application

That starter app doesn't even say "Hello World!", let's change that!

```
def startup(self):
    # Create a main window with a name matching the app
    self.main_window = toga.MainWindow(title=self.name)

    # Create a main content box
    main_box = toga.Box()

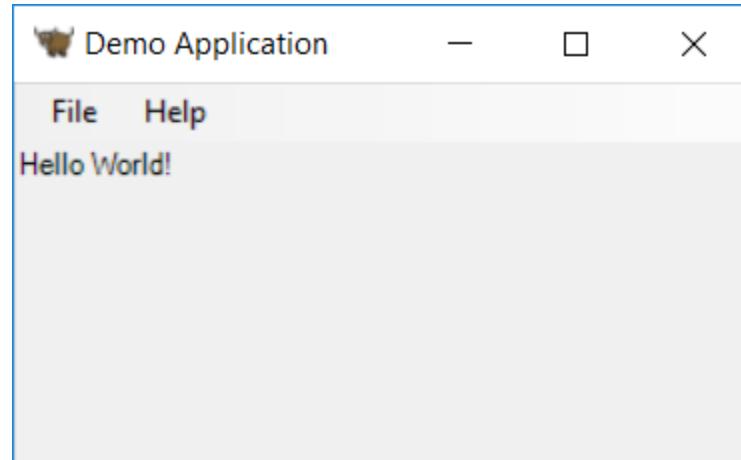
    # Add something to the main box
    main_box.add(toga.Label('Hello World!'))

    # Add the content on the main window
    self.main_window.content = main_box

    # Show the main window
    self.main_window.show()
```

Creating your own Application

Now some static text appears in the main box



Boxes inside boxes

Toga uses something similar to the DOM model for window layout

Includes a module called Pack that can apply CSS3-like styles

- I think of Toga's boxes as an abstract widget type where:
 - Boxes can nest inside of other boxes
 - Boxes can contain other widgets
 - Contents of boxes can stack by rows or columns

Layout Example

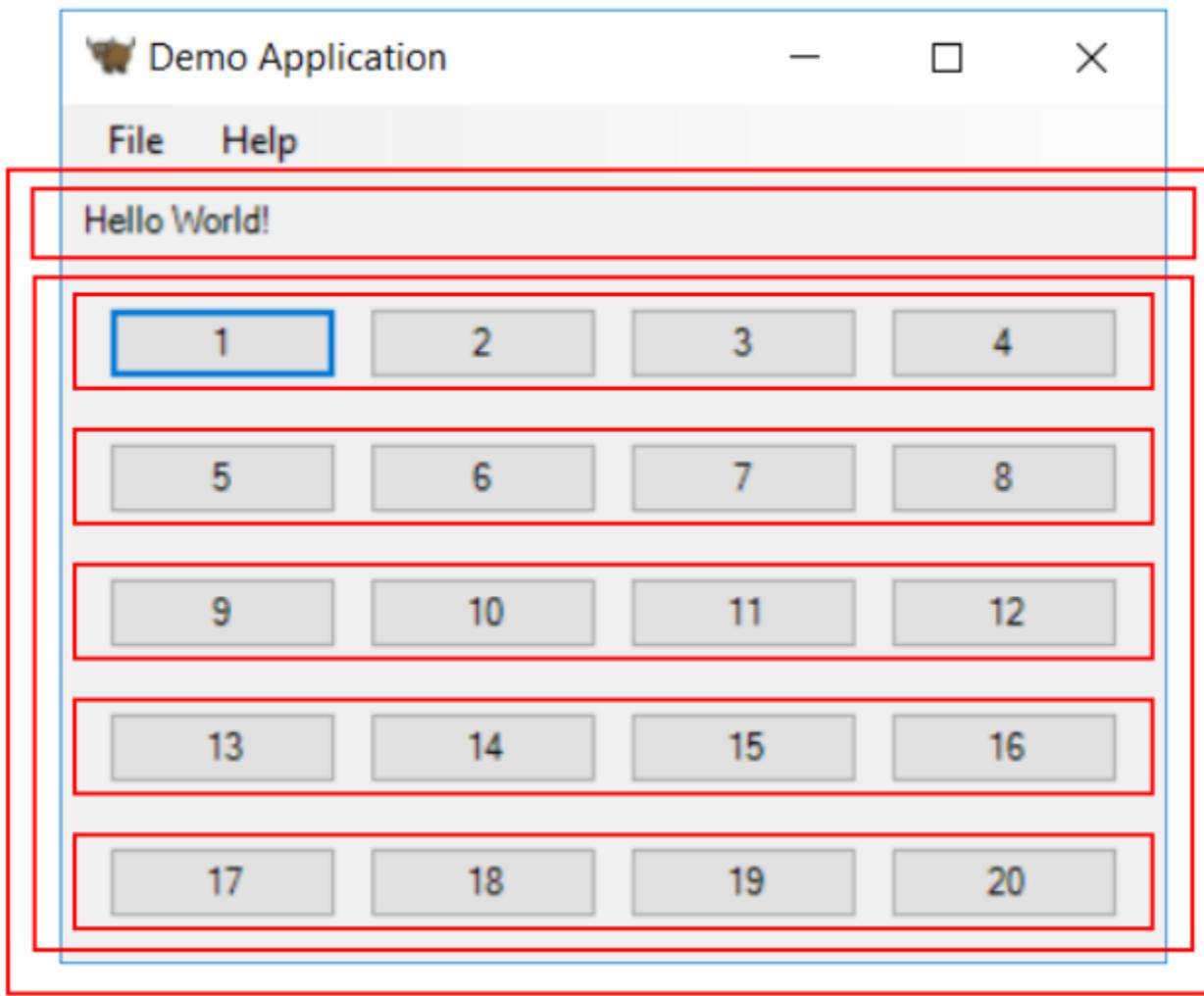
Put some nested content in the Demo application's main window

```
# Create another box and add it to main_box
grid_box = toga.Box(style=Pack(direction=COLUMN,
                                padding=5))
main_box.add(grid_box)

# Add 4 x 5 array of Buttons to the grid box
count = 1
for row in range(5):
    row_box = toga.Box(style=Pack(padding=5))
    for col in range(4):
        row_box.add(toga.Button(f'{count}',
                               style=Pack(padding=5)))
        count += 1
    grid_box.add(row_box)

# Add the content on the main window
self.main_window.content = main_box
```

Layout Example



Code Examples

Toga includes several examples to get you started.

- Most focus on a specific widget
- Also has few simple applications
- Clone the Toga repository or view them on-line:
<https://github.com/pybee/toga/examples>

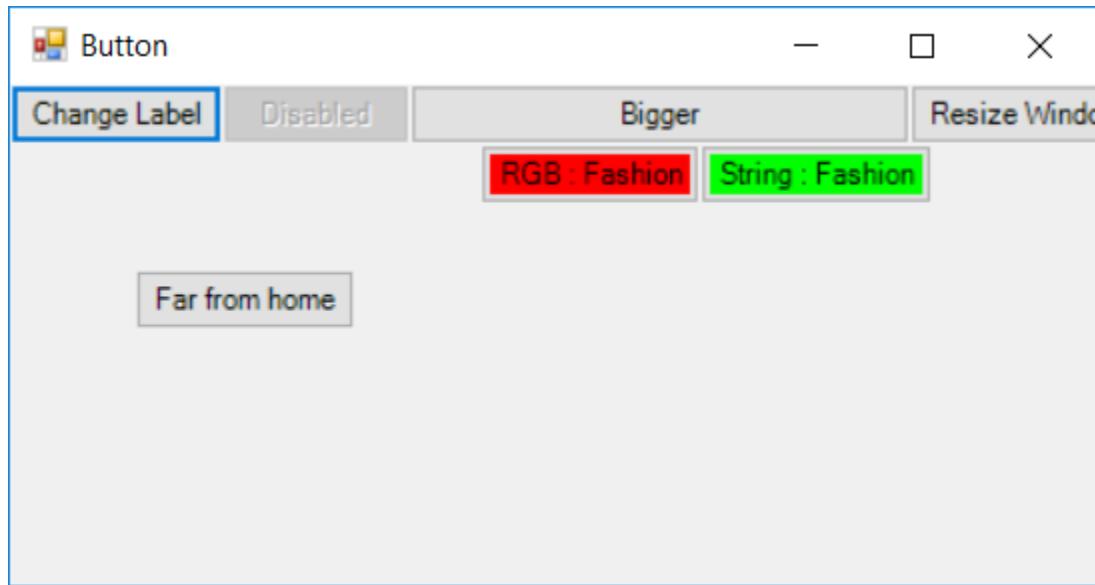
Running the Examples

- Clone the git repository
 - Note, this installs another source copy of Toga.
 - It is a separate copy of the library from the installed with pip earlier.

```
(beeware-env) D:\staging>git clone https://github.com/pybee/toga.git  
(beeware-env) D:\staging>cd toga\examples\button  
(beeware-env) D:\staging\toga\examples\button>python -m button
```

Running the Examples - Buttons

The Buttons Demo should appear

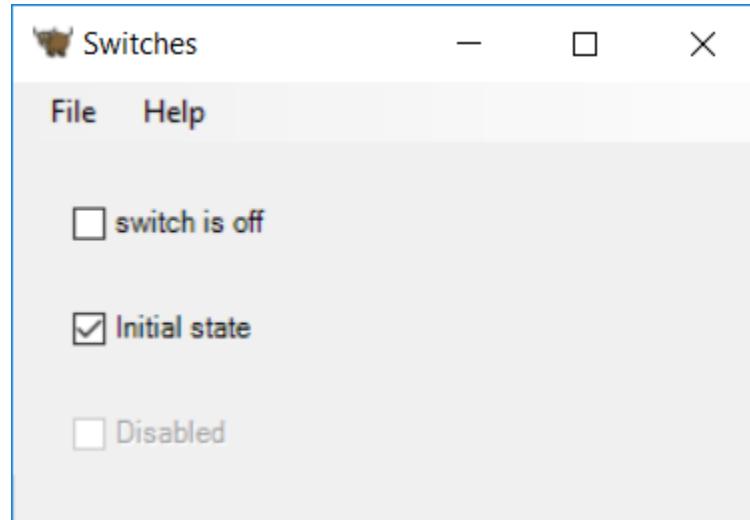


Running the Examples - Switches

Toggle Switch Widgets

```
(pybee) D:\demo\toga\examples>cd switch
```

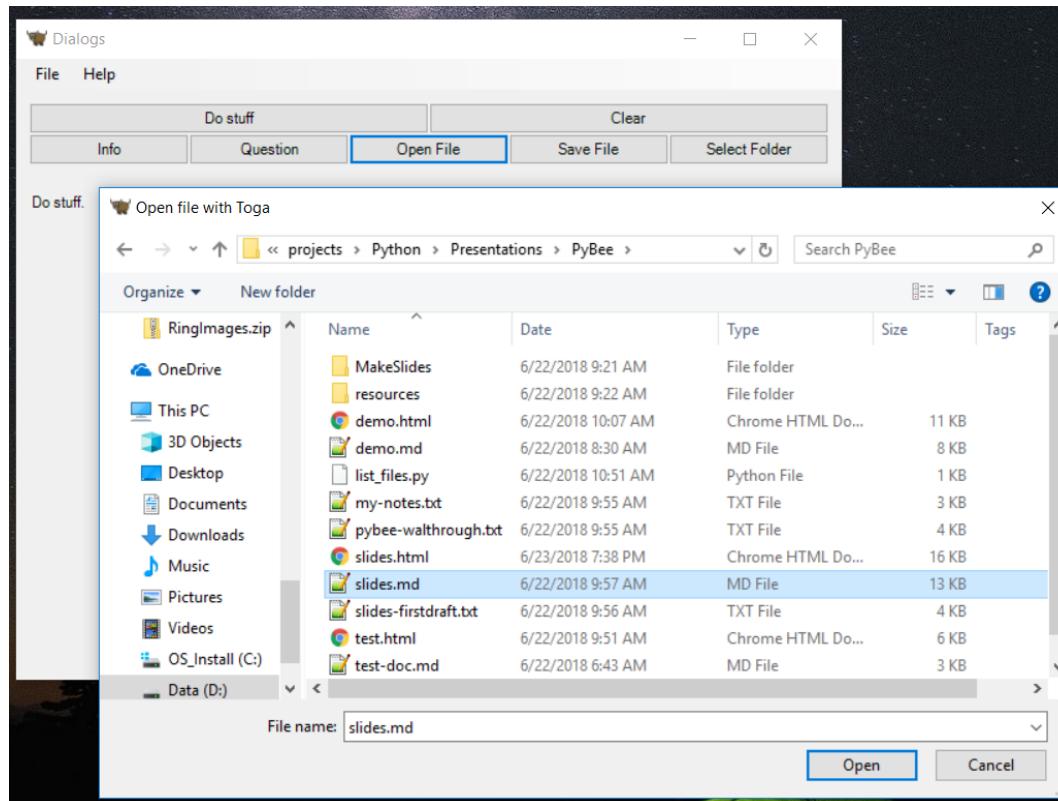
```
(pybee) D:\demo\toga\examples\switch>python -m switch
```



Running the Examples - Dialogs

Main window with several buttons that bring up various modal dialogs

- User defined dialogs
- System dialogs (file open, save and folder select)



The Bad News

The BeeWare project is still in its infancy. It's not even version 0.3 yet.

- Some examples will not run on every platforms.
- Still much work to do writing abstractions for the target APIs
 - Canvas widget still under development for Windows
- Windows integration with event loop is limited
 - yield from a widget handler doesn't work

```
>>> import beeware
>>> beeware.__version__
'0.1.1'
>>>
```

You Can Help

- Actively seeking corporate sponsorship
- If you've ever wanted to contribute to an open source project, BeeWare might be the place to start!
- Website includes instructions for making your first commit



For More Info

Project links

- The main project site: <https://pybee.org/>
- The project on GitHub: <https://github.com/pybee>
- Traveltips on GitHub: <https://github.com/freakboy3742/traveltips>
- The Briefcase Docs: <https://briefcase.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>
- The Toga Docs: <https://toga.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>
- My GitHub repository: <https://github.com/bobm123>

For More Info

Videos

Pycon 2018 - RKM - The "Beeliza" code example

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaPzIJ57dk>

Pycon 2017 - RKM - Writing a Trasnpiler

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9c4DEYIXYCM>

WebAssembly and the Death of JavaScript

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBYqen3B2gc>

Credits

Graphics taken from the BeeWare project, <https://pybee.org/>

Special thanks to Dr. Russell Keith-Magee and the BeeWare team for making this project available.

Thanks for watching!

questions?