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Python was invented by Guido van Rossum in 1989 and first released in 1991 as a successor to the ABC programming language. Guido van Rossum is a Dutch programmer who worked for CWI (Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica) in the Netherlands at the time. He chose the name "Python" because he was a fan of the Monty Python's Flying Circus comedy group. Python is now maintained by the Python Software Foundation as an open-source programming language.