

The History of PyCon

or

How I Came for the Language and Stayed for the Community

Steve Holden
CTO, Global Stress Index Limited

PyCon UK, Cardiff, 2017

Introductions

- Started programming in 1968
- Computational scientist by training
- Engineer at heart, electronics hobbyist
- In user groups since about 1975
- Python user since 1.4

Python Conferences

SOME (NON-PYCON) HISTORY

The Early 1990s

- Development began in 1989/90
- Guido was employed by CWI
 - Part of Stichting Mathematisch Centrum, Amsterdam

1994

- The first International Python Conference (IPC)
- Talks included
 - *A Standard GUI API*
 - *Persistent Objects*
 - *Python and the World Wide Web*

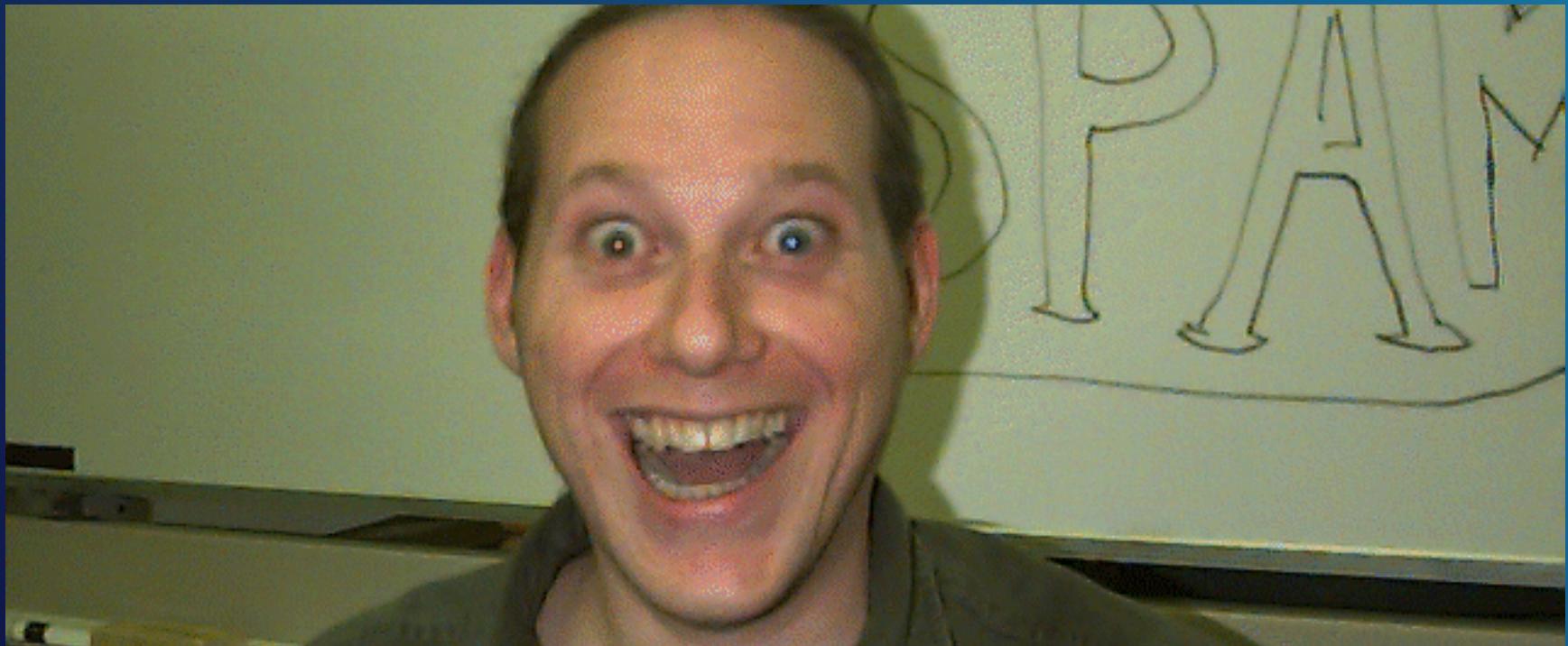
IPC – The Complete Series

- 1. November 1994
- 2. May 1995
- 3. December 1995
- 4. June 1996
- 5. November 1996
- 6. October 1997
- 7. November 1998
- 8. January 2000
- 9. March 2001
- 10. February 2002
- 11. OSCON July 2003
- 12. OSCON July 2004

Guido circa 1995



Barry Warsaw: 1994



Jeremy Hylton (*definitely* pre-1994)



Tim Peters



Fred Drake



PythonLabs

Ka Ping Yee, not
Barry Warsaw



And so on to

PYCON ITSELF

IPC 10 - February 2002



conferences-discuss

- List announced at IPC 10 (February 2002)
- Opening post (673 words):

[Conferences-discuss] Crackle, crackle, "hello"...

Steve Holden sholden@holdenweb.com

Wed, 13 Feb 2002 08:28:10 -0500

- Next message: [\[Conferences-discuss\] Crackle, crackle, "hello"...](#)
- Messages sorted by: [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#)

<https://mail.python.org/pipermail/conferences-discuss/2002-February/000000.html>

Closing Words

“I shudder when I remember the time it takes to organize an even half-way professional conference.”



2003 – Washington DC

- Marvin Center, GWU – 250 people attended



Only Somewhat Organised

Assigned duties for PyCon 2003

(Keep this for historical purposes.)

1. Email paper acceptance w/comments, and email rejection - Steve Holden **Done SH**
2. Email "show us the code" paper authors -- Itamar Shtull-Trauring
3. Web page in www.python.org showing the titles and authorships of the accepted papers, to be done after (1) is done. -- Aahz, David Ascher
4. Scheduling - Neal
5. Getting sponsors - David Ascher, Laura, Aron Trauring
6. PR - Aron Trauring, ...
7. Registration - Aahz
8. Keynote finder - Laura
9. T-Shirt design - Michael Bernstein
10. Make sure papers get on website - VOLUNTEER NEEDED
11. Look at improving software for OS use by others.
12. Establish Cafe Press store - for PSF?
13. Gopher handlers: Itamar
14. Registration desk: Bob Payne and Tripp Lilley

PyCon 2003 Financials

- Looking back, it seems laughable now

Costs	\$28,000
Receipts	\$45,000
PROFIT	\$17,000

- I was elected to the PSF

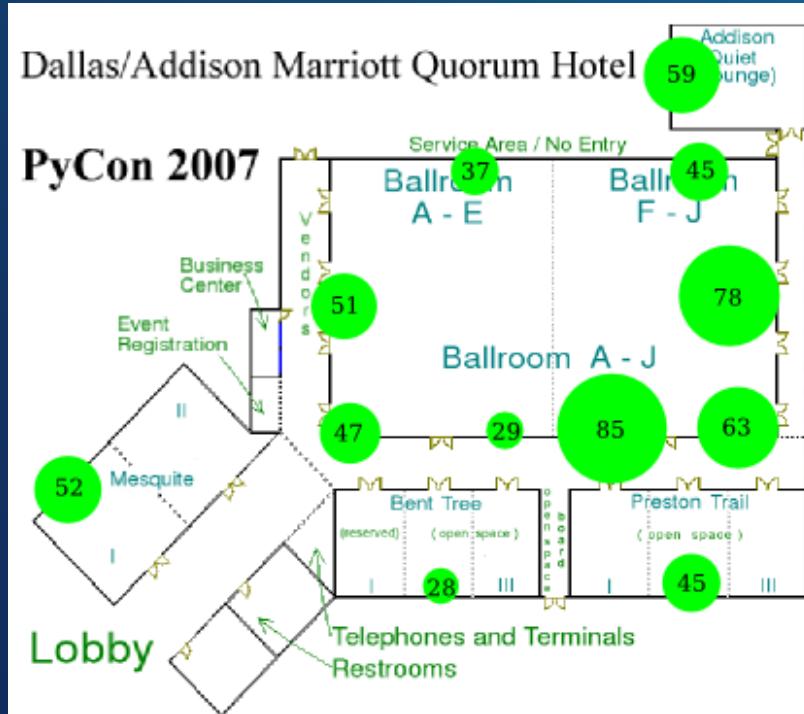
2004, 2005 – Washington DC



2006, 2007 – Dallas, TX



2007 Network Connections



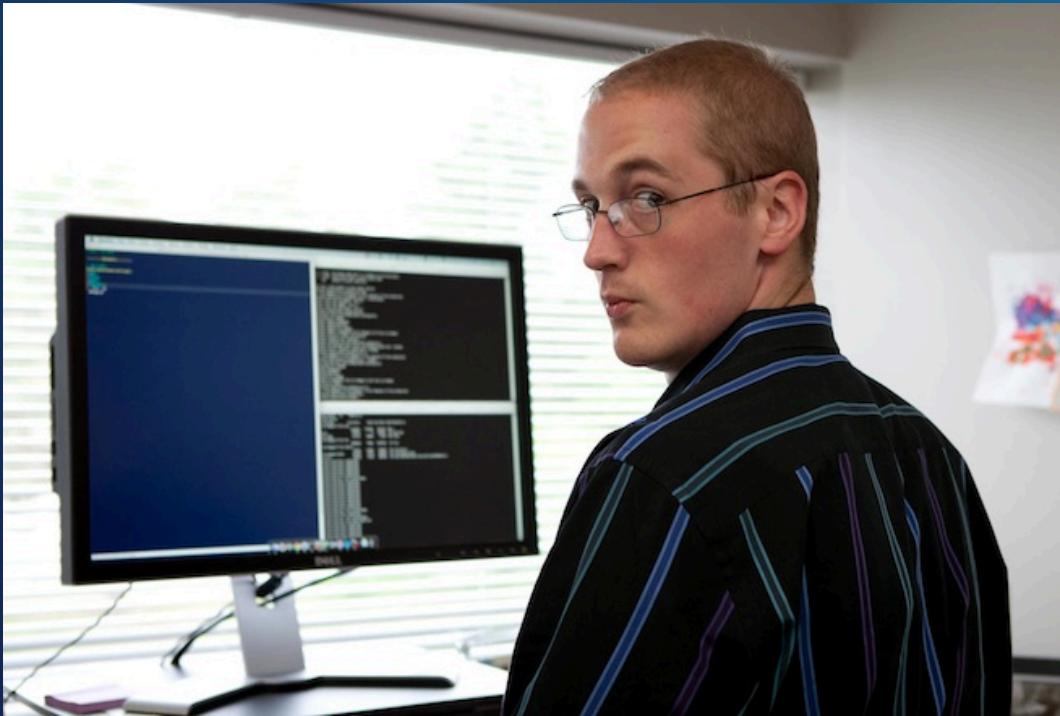
2008, 2009 – Chicago, IL



2010, 2011 - Atlanta, GA



2012, 2103 – Santa Clara, CA



2013 – Donglegate!

A Dongle Joke That Spiraled Way Out Of Control



KIM-MAI CUTLER ▾

Thursday, March 21st, 2013

1589 Comments

In an age of blogs, tweets, Hacker News, Reddit and Anonymous, an off-the-cuff joke can spin wildly out of control.

At least it appears that's what happened with PyCon this week when a sexual joke led to some very public firings, a **virulent debate about women in technology**, another **virulent debate about public shaming**, and now, a DDOS attack.

2014, 2015– Montreal, Canada



2016, 2017- Portland, OR



PyCon Across the World

- United States of America - Started in 2003 in Washington, D.C
- Europe (EuroPython) - Started in 2002 in Charleroi, Belgium
- New Zealand (Kiwi PyCon)
- Singapore (PyCon Asia Pacific 2010, 11, and 12; PyCon Singapore)
- Argentina (Pycon AR)
- Australia (Pycon AU) - Started in 2010 in Sydney, Australia
- Bangladesh (PyCon Dhaka)
- Belarus (PyCon Belarus) - Started in 2015 in Minsk, Belarus
- Brazil (PythonBrasil)
- Canada (PyCon Canada)
- China (Pycon China)
- Czech Republic (PyCon CZ)
- Germany (PyCon DE)
- Finland (PyCon Finland)
- France (PyCon FR)
- Hong Kong (PyCon HK)
- India (PyCon India)
- Iran (PyIran)
- Ireland (PyCon Ireland)
- Israel (PyCon Israel)
- Italy (PyCon Italia)
- Japan (PyCon Japan, PyCon Asia Pacific 2013)
- Malaysia (PyCon MY)
- Namibia (PyCon Namibia)
- Russia (PyCon Russia)
- Philippines (PyCon Philippines)
- Poland (PyCon PL)
- Slovakia (Pycon SK) – Started in 2016 in Bratislava^Y
- South Africa (PyCon ZA)
- South Korea (PyCon KR)
- Sweden (PyCon Sweden)
- Taiwan (PyCon Taiwan, PyCon Asia Pacific 2014 and 15)
- United Kingdom (PyCon UK)
- Ukraine (PyCon Ukraine)
- Venezuela (PyConVe)

An Historical Note

Q: Which was the first Python *community* conference?

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A: EuroPython: June 2002 , Charleroi, Belgium
– Eight months before the inaugural Python

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Barry Warsaw: 2017



Fred Drake: 2017



Jeremy Hylton: 2017



Tim Peters: 2017 (?)

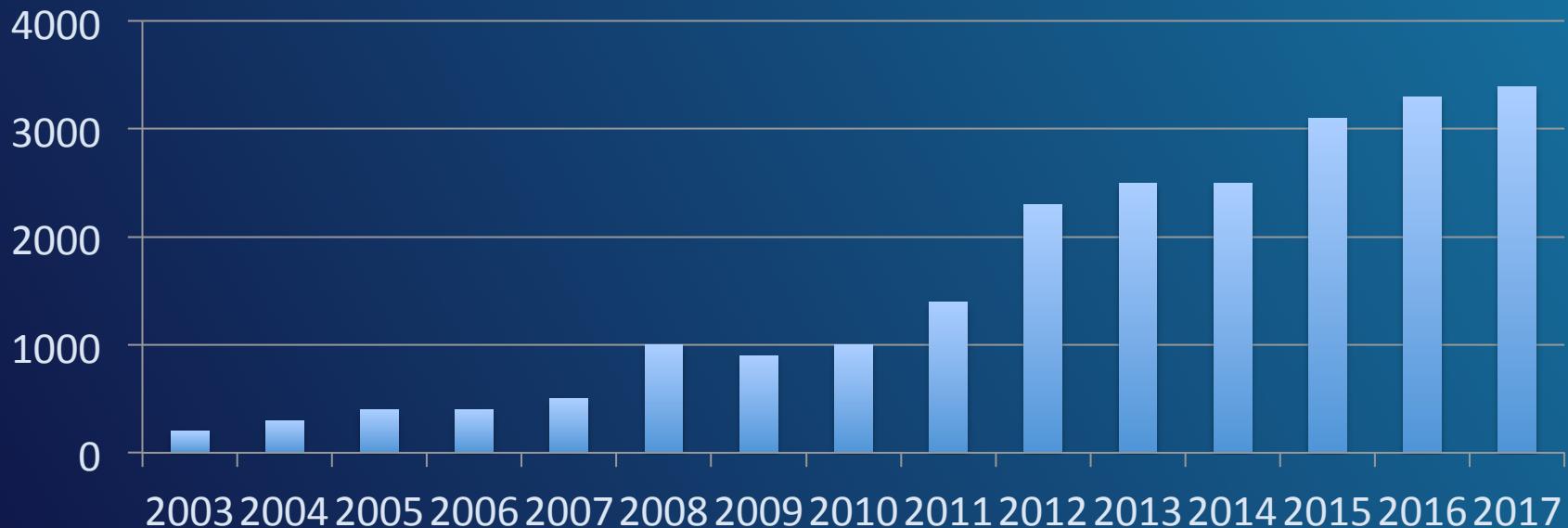


Guido van Rossum



PyCon US: Growth in Numbers

Number of Attendees



Summary

- Many accidental circumstances led to this
- Empowered community members are a force to be reckoned with
- Organising an event brings people together
- For organisers, the event goes by at 125 mph
- From little oak trees, mighty acorns grow

Questions?

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Slides and code available soon at
<http://github.com/holdenweb/PyConUK2017>