How Python Changed My Life

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PyCon Indonesia 2019

About Me

- Coding since 2000

- Python user since 2010

- @femmerling on twitter

- Mobile Product Engineering Lead at Gojek

- An engineer by heart, I love building things

- Joined Python-ID in 2013

- Co-Founded Python-ID Jogja with Ismail Sunni and Meirza Arson

- Married, 3 kids

The Dark Ages

My pre-Python Journey

It all started with…

- Finding the internet back in 1999

- My first codes were HTML pages for Geocities

- Read some VB6 books, didn't get the hang of it

- Got into university in 2002, first real intro to programming in C

- Got limited resources to learn, this was 2002

- Got a lot of programming concepts, but didn't quite get how to apply them in real cases

THIS HAUNTED MY DREAMS

Then came life after C…

- First intro to visual programming with VB6, finally understood the books I read years earlier

- Of course, the one and only, Java

- This was the beginning of the web application

- Java became JSP and there I went

- C++ is of course there too

- But then, came the long-standing language of web programmers…

The mother language

I enjoyed it a lot because…

- It was hype back then!!! I felt like I'm part of something

- My first interpreted language, I loved it

- Finally found dynamic typing, so liberating, debate me on this

- Light on the PC, compared to JSP or .NET

- Plenty of reference on the web

- A lot of people were using it in the University so I can ask a lot of people

- Plenty of cheap hosting support compared to the other options back then

But…

- I still didn't understand much of the programming concepts taught

- The language did not inspire me to be better

- The IRC community back then was quite harsh regarding asked questions on the channel

- I didn't find any good coding philosophy to look up to

However…

- It worked! I delivered production codes sooner than the other languages

- I graduated using a thesis with PHP program

- I started making money with it by creating a service company focusing in making websites and web-based applications
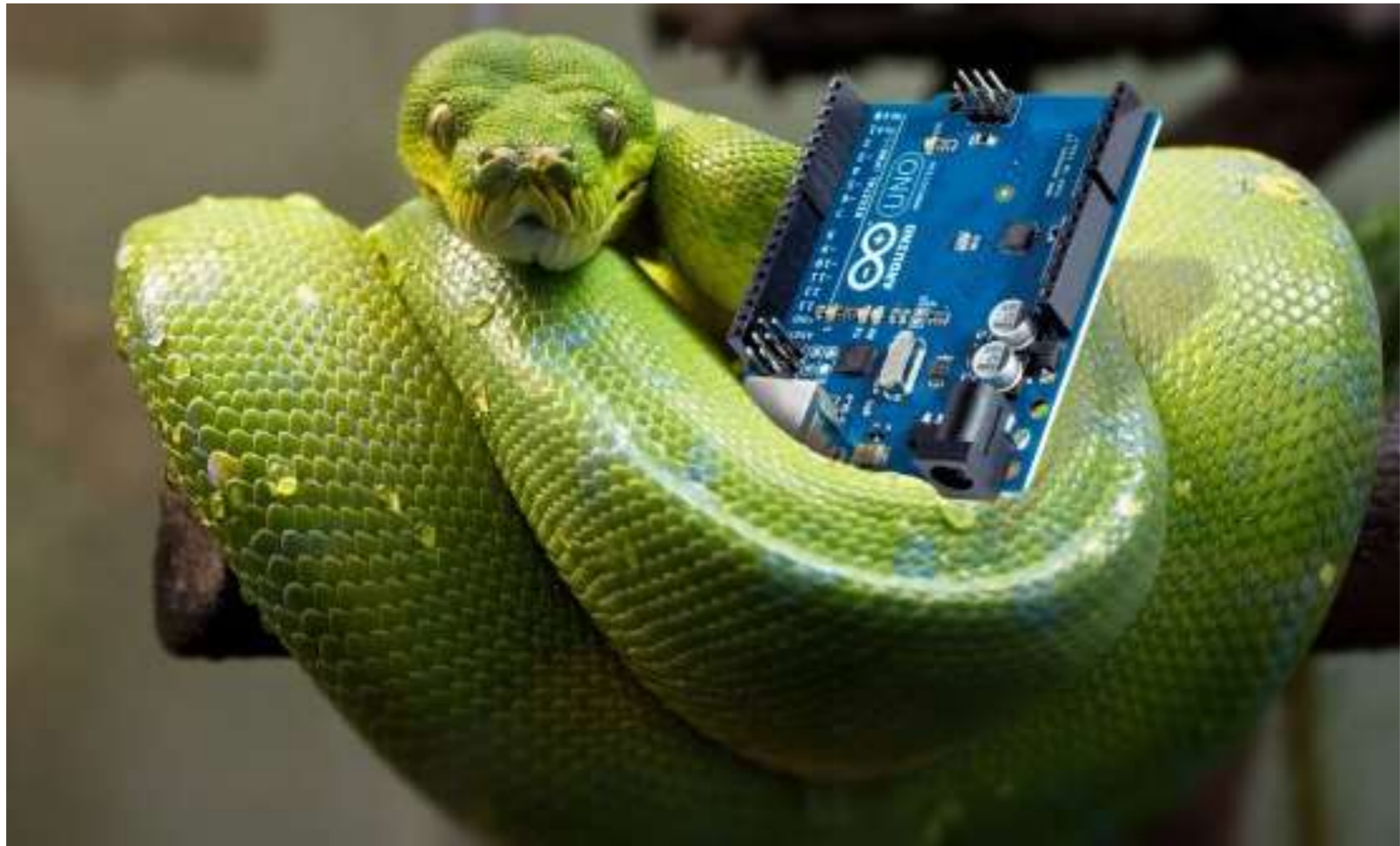
The Age of Enlightenment

My Python Discovery Years

So here's the story

- My service company got a contract with an Austrian Agency

- The initial test was in PHP using ZEND, and we passed with flying colours

- However, they're switching to Google App Engine (freshly released back then)

- And they want to use Python…

I'm supposed to use a snake?

no kidding!

But then…

- The simplicity got me well

- It was the easiest learning I did in years

- I got more products delivered, with half the lines of code

- I learned a lot about the programming concepts, and finally understood most of the concepts I learned during my C years

- I am inspired to learn even more things, like testing, security, etc.

It didn't stop there

- The community was very welcoming in IRC

- I am blessed with the rich and extensive standard library

- Docs and tutorials are everywhere

- The BDFL was very cool and inspiring

- I started using the way I approached the language simplicity in my life

Can I make it simpler?

A language inspired me in my life view

I was enlightened

So, what changed?

Career jump

- I was working as an IT Auditor before Python, with afterwork work on my service company

- Why? Non corporate IT jobs back then wasn't enough to support family

- After Python, I won a prize in a hackathon that exposes me to big startup companies

- I finally decided to take the leap in 2012 and never regretted the decision

- Been with Icehouse, Traveloka, Coral, Prism, Midtrans and Now

I discovered the Zen of Python

- It really changed how I approach my codes and affected my codes in other languages too

- I learned to write codes I can look back and be proud of

- It built my pragmatism and help me deliver things

- All other language learning became easier after I understand the meaning

The Zen of Python, by Tim Peters

- Beautiful is better than ugly.

- Explicit is better than implicit.

- Simple is better than complex.

- Complex is better than complicated.

- Flat is better than nested.

- Sparse is better than dense.

- Readability counts.

- Special cases aren't special enough to break the rules.

- Although practicality beats purity.

- Errors should never pass silently.

- Unless explicitly silenced.

- In the face of ambiguity, refuse the temptation to guess.

- There should be one-- and preferably only one --obvious way to do it.

```
$ python -c "import this"
```

Outside of coding, python taught me to…

- Work better within a team

- Manage people around me

- Manage expectations of stakeholders

- Create a safe engineering environment

- Have a work-life balance

- Have more time with my family

How is that possible?

- By trying to simplify things, you try to make things easier for people around you

- By being simple, you can do things faster and have more time to your self

- By exposing your views, you became more readable, people around you can collaborate easier

- By being explicit, you manage expectation better

- By making sure that errors are not considered a sin. It is a mistake that people should learn from

Since my learning improved…

- I learned mobile app development in 3 weeks total for both iOS and Android

- I dug deeper into building better backends

- I learned how to build adaptive codes

- I learned to see the beauty in other languages

- I learned more on DevOps

- I learned how to build a startup

- Learning became not just a habit, but a need

How does it relate to my current job?

- I am currently leading teams making mobile products, no Python involved

- Gojek's culture enables me to have enough freedom in building things and enabling other team members

- How's that related to today's talk?

- The habit to make simplified solution helps me in trying to give ease to users in using the products my team builds

- The habit of using Python's data structure helps in handling data structures in other languages better

- All the backend learning helps me in dealing with various backend systems and how to provide better inputs for the backend team from a

In reality, programming languages are how programmers express and communicate ideas — and the audience for those ideas is other programmers, not computers.

- Guido van Rossum -

from King's Day Speech

What else changed?

Community contribution

- I joined Python-ID in 2013

- I felt the need to give back to the community that already gave so much to me

- Founding Python-ID Jogja to grow the community

- I'm not too active in hosting meetups anymore but still contribute as speaker

- Python ID welcomes you in our community events in many cities, telegram channels, slack, etc.

- If you can, contribute to the python repo

Last but not least…

THANK YOU
PYTHON