

Why was Bill Clinton's Saxophone in the Smithsonian (before being sold for \$180,000)?



Photo Credit: wallyg

[flickr.com/photos/wallyg/3686493319/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wallyg/3686493319/)

...and what does this have to do with Python?!

Being Well Rounded

Recoset, Python, Culture and Value

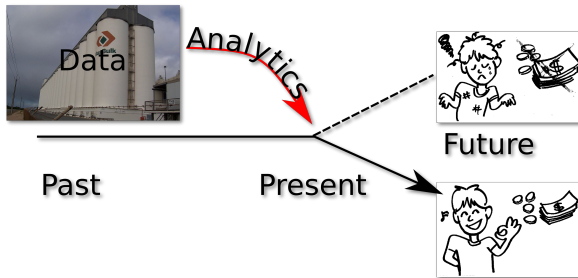
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Recoset



- ▶ Predictive analytics for e-commerce
- ▶ Mine historical data to optimize the future
- ▶ Big data backend: Data mining, maths, stats, machine learning
- ▶ SaaS frontend: Web-facing APIs, real-time, large data storage

Recoset and Python

We use Python in our back-end for:

- ▶ Rapid prototyping of mathematical algorithms
- ▶ Analytical infrastructure (glue that holds algorithms together)
- ▶ Data munging

*We're hiring **well rounded** people who can deal with data.*

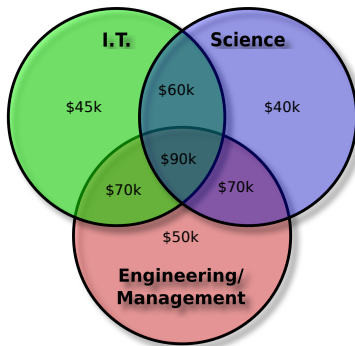
The Well-Rounded Startup Employee

In order of importance:

Attribute		Provides	Value =
Creativity		ideas	×
Culture		choices	×
Personality		teamwork	×
Knowledge	Programming/IT	tools	×
	Science	techniques	×
	Engineering/Management	scaling	×
Experience		risk	

Multiplicative!

It's Worth Real Money: Knowledge vs Salary



- ▶ To optimize your value, find your personal intersection points.
- ▶ Calculus?

Knowledge, Culture and Python

You can get a lot of knowledge and culture with Python:

Knowledge

- ▶ Broad: many ways of doing the same thing (eg, web frameworks)
- ▶ Deep: develop a speciality
- ▶ Python is excellent for **integrating science into programs**

Culture

- ▶ Know **how** your tools work
- ▶ Know the **weaknesses** as well as the strengths
- ▶ Know what **good taste** is
- ▶ Know when to break the rules!

But don't stop there!

Well-Rounded William



- ▶ Bill Clinton played “Heartbreak Hotel” in June, 1992 on national TV.
- ▶ Important moment in his political career
- ▶ Defined his **personality** and **culture**
- ▶ 8 months later, he was president

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