

Ned Batchelder

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Distinguished engineer

Development

Decades of experience building solid software to solve real problems using diverse technologies. Have led development in a variety of fields, from complex solo projects to open source with hundreds of developers. Recognized expert in Python. External contributor to many open source projects.

Open Source

Established processes for bridging internal and external development on Open edX, a large open source project. Advised on approaches to mix for-profit and open source work. Active maintainer of widely used side projects.

Community

Committed to bringing people together and building positive culture. Created and led Open edX working groups, helped organize international conferences and ran local meetups. Created Boston Python office hours during the pandemic. Organized internal edX study groups and hackathons. Taught Python both formally and informally.

Innovation

Co-designed the edX content modularity architecture and built sandboxing component for running student-submitted code. Side projects include unique content templating, GitHub digest, and changelog management tools.

Personal

Self-motivated, diligent, creative, helpful, persistent and independent. Clear communicator, resourceful problem solver, dedicated organizer, natural leader, fast learner, patient teacher.

Recent career

edX / 2U

2012–2024

*Non-profit running **edx.org**, the world-wide MOOC provider; **acquired** by 2U in 2021*

Early architect and developer. Designed XBlock **component architecture** for extending content delivery and assessments, enabling dozens of first- and third-party components. Built codejail **sandboxing** utility. Consulted on Python development. Organized hackathons and study groups.

Led establishment of the Open edX **open source** project spanning 150+ repositories and 300+ code authors. Developed governance and maintenance processes. Primary developer advocate and community contact between edX/2U and the Open edX community. Organized nine **international conferences** and many local meetups. Built developer process tooling including stats gathering, linters and contribution automation. Provided guidance on open source topics including code logistics and licensing.

Python Community

2002–now

Wide-ranging volunteering in the Python community

Python Documentation Editorial Board (2023–now): Inaugural member of five-person council overseeing **documentation strategy** and direction.

PyCon **opening keynote** (2023): [People: The API User's Guide](#). Ten PyCon talks (2009–2018): often-recommended presentations include [Python Names and Values](#), [Getting Started Testing](#), [Loop Like A Native](#), and [Pragmatic Unicode](#). Guest on eleven **podcast** episodes (2015–2023).

Boston Python (2009–now): Lead **organizer** of user group with 10k members and 5 co-organizers. Presentation nights, project nights, weekly office hours, social events, study groups.

Coverage.py (2004–now): Solo maintainer of the test coverage measurement tool for Python. Used by **34k packages** on PyPI with 65M monthly downloads. Testing nightly Python builds, regularly writing issues against Python alpha releases.

Recognition: PSF **Community Service Award** (2016), PSF Fellow (2011).

nedbatchelder.com (2002–now): Personal site with **popular writing** on Python and more.

Stellated Software LLC

2010–2013

Solo **freelance** software consulting, specializing in Python

Architect and developer on a wide range of projects, from HTML5 e-book readers to Django web sites to medical cyclotron automation. Consulting on software leadership. Python training, teaching multi-day **Python courses** for all levels.

Hewlett-Packard / Tabblo

2007–2010

HP acquired Tabblo

Continued tabblo.com. Extended the code to book-editing sites, social network applications, and printable web applications. Managed five engineers, coordinated releases, built new features.

Built **Tabblo Print Toolkit** to produce high-quality printed pages from web content. Built **Tabbloid**, an RSS-to-print application built on TPT including a print app running in the printer.

Led development of **ePrintCenter**, HP's web site for consumers managing web-connected printers.

Tabblo

2006–2007

10-person **startup** for a consumer photo-sharing story-telling site, **tabblo.com**

Architected and led development. Tabblo featured printed products including books, cards, posters, and print-at-home photo cubes. Built story representation with **multi-output rendering engine** capable of output to PDF, PNG, and both editable and read-only HTML.

Built access control, database migration, back-office tools, page factory pipeline. Led usability testing, improved performance. Established testing regimes. Contributed patches to Django.

Earlier timeline

2001–2006 **Kubi Software** — Architect of distributed collaboration product • Founding employee

2000–2001 **Blue Ripple** — Architect at content distribution web service startup

1997–2000 **Iris Associates** — Project lead for Domino Designer • Architect of Domino XML support

1993–1997 **Lotus Development** — Developer of Domino web server for Lotus Notes content

1986–1993 **Digital Equipment** — Developer of print system software • Corporate PostScript guru

1984–1986 **UPenn GRASP Lab** — System manager and developer for robotics research lab

1976–1984 **Bronx Science / UPenn** — Selective technical high school • Ivy League engineering degree