

Álvaro Fernandes de Abreu Justen

(also known as Turicas, or just Álvaro Justen)

Brazilian senior software developer and data scientist, free software and open data activist
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1 Contact & Social Media

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2 Introduction



Born in a small town in Rio de Janeiro, Álvaro Justen started programming at 14 and studied Telecommunications Engineering at Fluminense Federal University in the Rio metropolitan area, where his love for teaching was born during a volunteering as Math teacher to a needy community.

Since 2004 he has been involved in the Brazilian free/*libre* software movement and software development communities, going to and organizing conferences such as Python Brasil, the biggest Python conference in Latin America; in 2019 won the Prêmio Dorneles Treméa, an award for his contributions to the Brazilian Python community. As a recurrent speaker about free/*libre* software, open data and Python, was keynote speaker in many conferences, such as

PyCon Latam, Python Brasil and Python Nordeste.

In 2015 started working with journalists, creating data-driven stories and apps and giving courses on programming and data analysis. Founder and maintainer of **Brasil.IO**, helps open data be more accessible to everyone, creating software to collect, clean, convert and host many public interest datasets such as elections and national company registry.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, he created and is running a data project with 40+ volunteers to collect and check daily data from the 27 State Health Agencies, since the data blackout from Federal Government. This dataset is being used by many newsrooms (in Brazil and outside), by researchers and also by government organizations.

Once a digital nomad, now settled in Curitiba (working remotely), Álvaro manages a small software development company – Pythonic Café – and works with a team focused in open data-related projects. When not working, loves to make things, roast his own coffee, grow food and to travel.

3 Professional Experience

3.1 Current

- ◇ **Pythonic Café**: software development company specialized in open-data and free software projects (for social control and automation) - **Founder and lead developer** — since 2017
- ◇ **Brasil.IO**: open data platform developed collaboratively, providing easy-to-access Brazilian public data - **Founder and lead developer** — since 2018
- ◇ **CruzaGrafos**: graph data platform for journalists, developed in partnership with Abraji (Brazilian Investigative Journalism Association). This project won the Google News Initiative Challenge in 2019. With an easy-to-use interface, journalists can quickly find relationships between people, politicians and companies - **Lead developer** — since Nov 2019
- ◇ **Escola de Dados**: School of Data chapter in Brazil - **Teacher and conference organizer** (Beer & Data) — since 2015

3.2 Past

- ◇ Data scientist and Web developer (for news apps) in many data-driven journalism projects for independent newsrooms, such as:
 - **Aos Fatos** (fact-checking agency) – 2020
 - **The Intercept Brasil** – 2018
 - **Poder360** (newsroom specialized in politics) – 2018
 - **Agência Pública** (non-profit investigative journalism agency) – 2018
 - **Gênero e Número** (data-driven newsroom specialized in gender-related stories) – 2016
- ◇ **Impacto.Jor**: measuring the impact of journalism - Lead developer — 2017
- ◇ **Onyo**: startup on food industry - Senior backend developer — Sep 2014 – Apr 2016
- ◇ **Curso de Arduino**: electronics/programming course for makers - Founder — since 2011
- ◇ **EMAp - Fundação Getúlio Vargas**: Applied Math School of major Brazilian university - Mid-level Python developer — Nov 2011 – Sep 2014
- ◇ **Intelie**: Datacenter monitoring tool - Python developer and systems administrator — Jan 2010 – May 2011
- ◇ **Peta5**: Brazilian Digital TV startup - Co-founder, scrum master, Python developer and systems administrator — Jun 2008 – Jan 2010
- ◇ **Freelancing** - Web developer — 2003 – 2008

4 Academic Education

- ◇ Graduation (incomplete): Telecommunications Engineering at Fluminense Federal University — 2005 – 2010
- ◇ High School: Colégio Ruy Barbosa, Três Rios/RJ
- ◇ Elementary School: Escola Nossa Senhora de Fátima, Três Rios/RJ

4.1 Academic Highlights – Fluminense Federal University

- ◇ Scholarship/Scientific Research on Network Monitoring for Power Transmission Lines using Wi-Fi mesh networks, MídiaCom Laboratory — Dec 2008 – Jan 2010
- ◇ **Meta Consultoria**: Junior Company at Engineering School, Fluminense Federal University - Trainee — 2008
- ◇ Scholarship on Scientific Research on Complex Systems and Statistical Physics Group (many projects), Physics Institute, guided by Professor Thadeu Penna — Apr 2007 – Nov 2008
- ◇ Volunteer Math Teacher to a needy community, Engineering School — Mar 2007 – Dec 2007
- ◇ Scholarship on PET-Tele, developing activities to enhance the Telecommunications Engineering course, guided by Professor Alexandre de la Vega — Sep 2006 – Mar 2008
- ◇ Guide at Casa da Descoberta Science Dissemination Center — Jul 2005 – Sep 2006

5 🍄 Skills

- ◇ Languages: Portuguese (native), English (good), Spanish (intermediate)
- ◇ Programming: Python (15+ years), Bash (16+ years), HTML, CSS, JavaScript, C/C++, PHP
- ◇ Tools/software: Git, GitHub, vim, Django, Flask, markdown, L^AT_EX , SQLite, PostgreSQL, nginx, uwsgi, SSH, docker, AWS, Debian GNU/Linux
- ◇ Other skills: Scrum, eXtreme Programming, test-driven development, Web development, Web scraping, screencasts, remote working, conference organizing

6 🏆 Remarkable Achievements

- ◇ Created and runs Brasil.IO COVID-19, a group of 40+ volunteers collecting and checking COVID-19 status directly from State Health Agencies, with daily per-city updates — Mar 2020
- ◇ Won the Dorneles Treméa Award from the Python Brasil Association for his great contributions to the Brazilian Python community — Nov 2019
- ◇ Liberated the Brazilian Company Registry dataset by creating a data request, developing the ETL software (convert to an open format) and publishing clean, up-to-date data — Aug 2018
- ◇ PythonQuito Organizer (*Charlas Pythónicas* and *Django Girls*) — Quito, Mar 2016
- ◇ Created and maintains rows, a Python library and command-line interface (free/libre software) to easily deal with tabular data extraction/cleaning/conversion
- ◇ PythonBrasil[8] Organizer, the biggest Python conference in Latin America (approx. 450 attendees from many countries, 4 days) — Rio de Janeiro, Nov 2012
- ◇ Created the Coding Dojo de Niterói group, organizing meetings to train software development best practices — Niterói, Oct 2009
- ◇ SeTel ("Telecommunications Week") Organizer, Fluminense Federal University (approx. 180 attendees) — Niterói, Oct 2007