

PyPy and the future of the Python ecosystem

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Intro

- ▶ @rguillebert
- ▶ PyPy contributor for 4 years
- ▶ Library compatibility is one of my main interests
 - ▶ Cython backend for PyPy
 - ▶ NumPyPy
 - ▶ PyMetabiosis
- ▶ Hire me
- ▶ How can we get better implementations ?
- ▶ Without throwing away our language features and libraries

Current situation (1/3)

- ▶ CPython is by far the most popular implementations
 - ▶ *Poor performance*
 - ▶ *No way to use multiple cores in a single process*
- ▶ PyPy has a fairly small marketshare
 - ▶ *Better performance*
 - ▶ *PyPy-STM is a work in progress*
- ▶ According to PyPI stats, other implementations are virtually unused

Current situation (2/3)

- ▶ Go is pretty fast and is great at concurrency
- ▶ Javascript is pretty fast
- ▶ PHP is fast...

Current situation (3/3)

- ▶ It's pretty hard to switch between implementations because of C extensions ()
- ▶ C extensions are very useful but CPython can't evolve because of them
- ▶ PyPy can evolve but has partial support of C extensions
- ▶ CPython keeps its users captive with C extensions
- ▶ More competition between implementations would benefit us

Current situation (3/3)

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Why can't other implementations implement the C API

- ▶ Libraries use more than the official API (Cython)
- ▶ The official API makes assumptions on how the virtual machine is written
 - ▶ *For example, the C API assumes that the virtual machine uses naive reference counting as its garbage collector*
 - ▶ *Naive reference counting is known for being inefficient and makes removing the GIL really hard (Python 1.4)*
- ▶ The C API itself is against performance and concurrency

C APIs in other languages

- ▶ JNI / V8
- ▶ Lua / Julia

Can we implement a similar API ?

- ▶ Yes !
- ▶ Not that many changes to the C API are required
- ▶ It's even possible to have a C API written in pure Python with CFFI
- ▶ Designing it to make everyone happy is harder than to actually implement it
- ▶ Making people port their extensions is hard
- ▶ CPython would need to keep both APIs, at least for a while

Where does PyPy fit in this ?

- ▶ The most flexible implementation
- ▶ RPython

The Jit

- ▶ speed.pypy.org
- ▶ 6.9 times faster than CPython on our benchmarks
- ▶

CFFI

- ▶ Interacting with C code is very important to the Python community
- ▶ CFFI allows you

STM

- ▶ Removing the GIL
- ▶ Without having to deal with threads and locks
- ▶ Still allows you to share memory between threads

Py3K

- ▶ Stable support of Python 3.2
- ▶ Python 3.3 support is on the way

Short term C extension support

- ▶ We can bridge PyPy and CPython and let CPython deal with C extensions
- ▶ PyMetabiosis demo
- ▶ This will allow us to bring the entire scientific stack in a very short amount of time

Thank you

Questions ?