Building an International Python Community

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Introductions

- ► Python user since 1996
  - Chaired PyCon US 2003-2005
- ► Joined the PSF in 2003
  - Director since 2004
  - Chairman since 2009
- ► History of user group service since 1977
- ► Twitter: @holdenweb

Some Poetry

I keep six honest serving-men
    (They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.

Rudyard Kipling – *I Keep Six Honest Serving Men (Just So Stories)*

► These are six good assistants
  ▪ I will change the order somewhat

Why?

► Why do we need "a community"?

- Can't we just let things happen organically?

► Why "International"?

► Why should the PSF be involved?

- Can't we leave it to the users?

What?

► What is "The Python Community"?

► What is the role of the Python Software Foundation?

- Promote, protect and advance Python
- Support a diverse and international *community*

► What *should* it be?

- More diversity welcomed – working on that

► What *could* it be?

Who?

► Who is the current community?

- PSF members (a tiny majority)
- Python developers
- Python users

► Who should we invite to join?

- We need a *broader* and *more diverse* community

When?

- ► When should we start building?
  - Some time ago!
- ► When should we get people involved?
  - As they start to use Python?
  - As they become accomplished Python users?
- ► When can we expect results?

How?

► How to encourage support for the PSF?
  - "The PSF" is not "the community"
  - Associate PSF members (HAMs)

► How best to fulfill the PSF mission?
  - Protect and advance the language
  - Support and facilitate … a diverse and international community of Python users

► How to persuade people of Python's benefits?

Where?

► Where are current community members?

- Do they know about each other?
- If not, can we put them in touch?
- Can they talk to each other?

► Where are the potential members?

- What do we need to do to reach out to them?

Encouraging International Participation

► Each jurisdiction has its own unique needs
  - Different non-profit requirements
  - Different languages

► Federated organization makes most sense
  - Need to investigate appropriate relationships

► Broader input on internationalization and localization would be helpful
  - Basic approach is good, but somewhat limited

Conclusions

► The PSF can lead, but cannot compel
- We need help and cooperation

► Important to reign in complacency
- Lots to do
- Help to broaden the community

► Need effective ways to work together towards common goals
- Despite our differences

Questions?

► Please feel free to contact me (or my successors):

`chairman@python.org`

► Also contact the PSF Board for assistance:

`psf@python.org`