Guido, Some Guys, and a Mailing List:
How Python is Developed

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Glossary

- BDFL

  - Benevolent Dictator For Life

- stdlib

  - Standard Library

- committer

  - Someone who has commit privileges on CVS tree

- PEP

  - Python Enhancement Proposal

Tools Used

- Mailing lists

- SourceForge

- CVS

Communication

- python-dev

- comp.lang.python (python-list)

- Python-checkins

- Patches

- Python-bugs-list

SourceForge Usage

- Set fields properly

- Document any interactions with item in comments

Coding Standards

- C89 for C code

  - pyconfig.h

  - Include/pyport.h

- Style guidelines

  - PEP 7 for C

  - PEP 8 for Python

Changes to Python

- stdlib

  - adding functionality

  - changing functionality

  - adding a module

- Changing the language proper

stdlib: adding functionality

- Convince a committer that addition is good

  - Community support is good to have

- Have code ready

  - follow design guidelines

  - documentation

  - regression tests

stdlib: adding a module

- Be prepared to maintain code

- PEP possible

  - would require BDFL pronouncement or overwhelming python-dev/community support

stdlib: changing functionality

- Must prove breaking backwards-compatibility worth it

- Need python-dev/BDFL support

Changing Python Proper

- Write a PEP

- Convince python-dev/BDFL

Helping Out With...

- Bugs

    - write a patch

    - verify you have same problem on your system

    - run regression test and report any issues

- Patches

    - apply and run regression tests

    - comment on implementation

- Language Changes

  - state your opinion

- Community

  - help out on comp.lang.python

  - donate to the Python Software Foundation

If this interests you,
join python-dev!

Reading

- http://www.python.org/dev/

  - "Intro to Development" (dev_intro.html)

- http://mail.python.org/

Questions?