Cross-Platform Apps Dev in Python

2013: Back to the desktop



Guillaume Aubert: Creator of Gmvault



http://www.gmvault.org

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屆: gaubert

Future of Python?

- Have to seriously think on the future of Python
- Strong in the scientific community
- Web Backend: Was and still strong but
 - HTML5/javascript will soon everwhere
- Server Side, New comer: go lang, ...
- Python doesn't want to be the next Fortran

Find new areas of growth for Python

Develop Desktop Cross Platform Apps

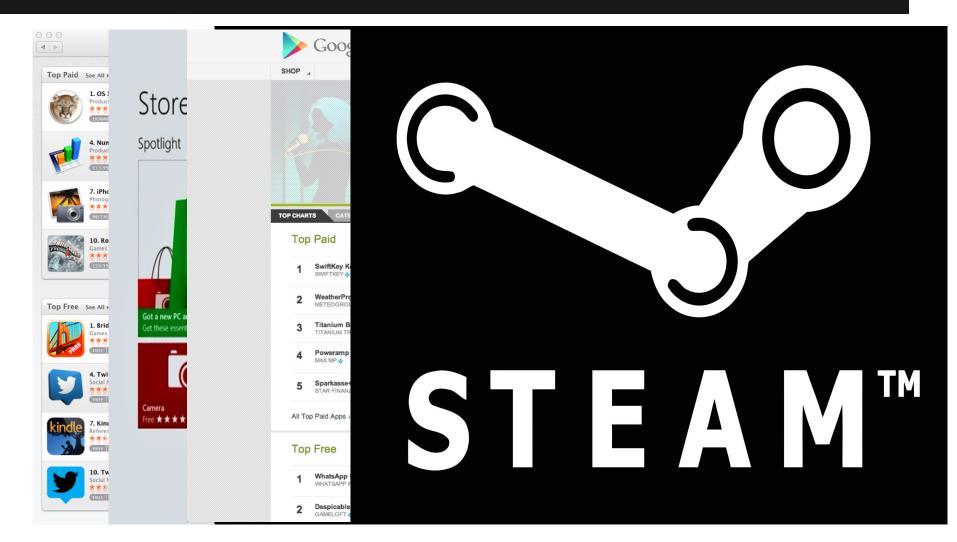
Many distribution platforms



Many distribution platforms



Many distribution platforms



Why is Python a valid candidate?

Python fulfilling 90's Promise

Interpreter identically running on the main platforms

Win 32, Windows 8, Mac OSX and Linux

Develop once run everywhere

Hmm reminds me of something!

Can access OS functions

- Support for Posix API on all systems
- Filesystem API is the C one: simplest abstraction to a file system
 - os module for operations on files and dirs
 - os.path to do path resolution
- System Environment variables supported
 - important for easily configuring your app
 - os.env("HOME")

Posix Included

- Support for Processes
 - fork, execv, spawn

Support for IPC

- Pipes, shared memory
- Support for Threads
 - ok to run a GUI loop and associated treament in parallel

But not always sufficient!

- Underlying file systems differ and Windows Filesystem is ... troublesome
- Stupidly slow when it comes to read directory contents

- On Linux: 2 sec to list 250K emails over 50 Dirs while more than 30 sec on Win
 - Gmvault has a lazy read function and caching strategy for the emails

Extend it if needed

- Can access the C/C++ libs on Win and Lin
 - call up DLLs and C libs
- ctypes is excellent for prototyping
- Can access objC libs with pyobjc
- Means that you will not be cross-plateform

What is missing?

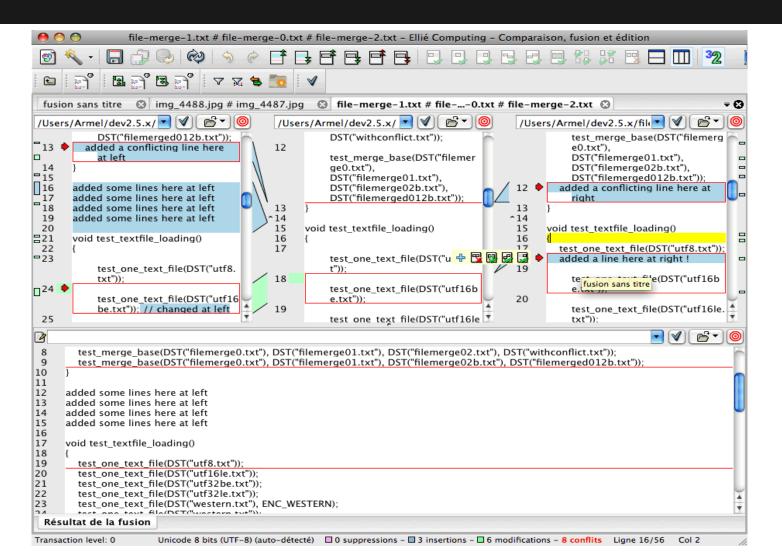
Graphical Interfaces





- Cross plateform
- Native UI
- Powerful (multiple widgets)
- lively community around these frameworks

But ...



The Obvious



- Build UI with what you know
- Don't want to learn a new framework
- Easier to transform your App in a SaaS

Python - HTML5 Bridge



http://www.tidesdk.org



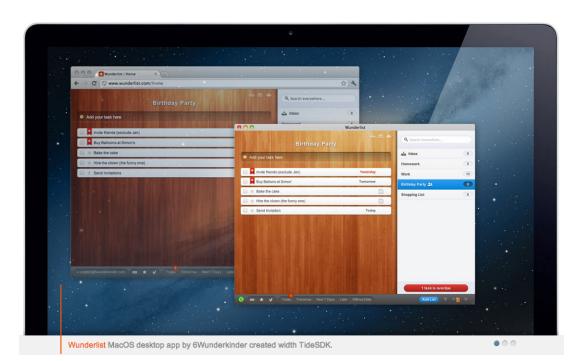
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nodewebkit: My Choice



- use chromium for rendering
- use nodejs for the UI backend
- Python for the business part



+

more DIY but more freedom

Packaging Tools

- Packaging is critical to provide an easy install
- PyPi with pip + virtualenv is fantastic
 - Why do I have to install setuptools (ez_setup.py) to install pip
- This is for Nerds and Geeks

- Can offer that kind of packaging for Linux

Packaging Tools (ctd.)

- For Windows, you need a self-contained package
- You can package python.exe in your distribution but it is tedious
- Build an executable including all Python assets (interpreter, modules)
- This is done with py2exe (http://www.py2exe.org/)

Packaging Tools (ctd.)

- py2exe is dying
- Not been updated since 2008
- You need to be a Google search guru to find the documentation

Packaging Tools

Need somebody in this room to start working on it!!

The Python community needs you!



Open Source Dev Experience

Gmvault Gmail Backup





Billions of emails saved with Gmvault since its creation.

Backup and restore your gmail account at will.

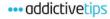
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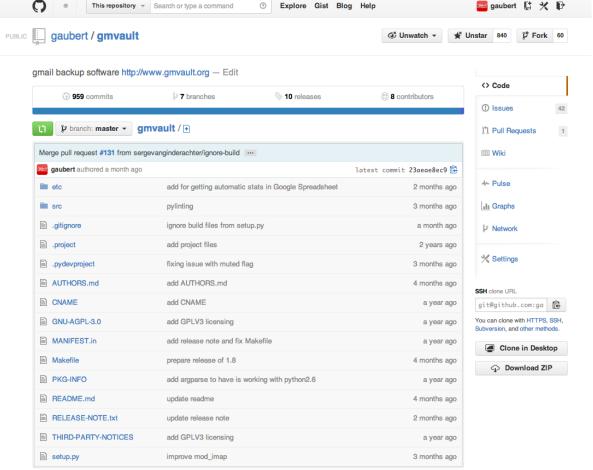




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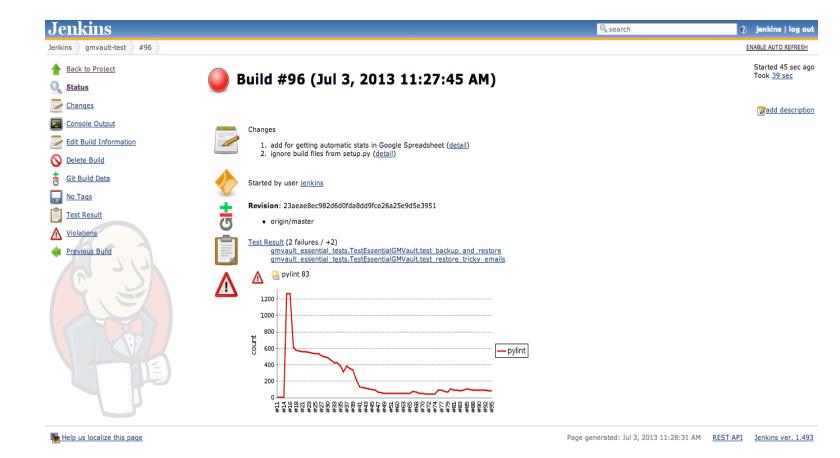




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Jenkins





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Questions?

No libs for Notification

No cross-platform python lib for that



nodewebkit apps example

