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Measuring Python Performance

Wednesday, 11 July 2007 12:00 (30 minutes)

"Make it work, … then make it fast". "If you can't measure it, it doesn't exist." Both useful adages, but how do you measure the performance of a Python program and identify bottlenecks?

In my talk I'll start with generating simple timing numbers and how to interpret the results. I'll show how to use Python's profiler and convert the results for kcachegrind, a KDE profile visualization tool. Sometimes function-call level information is too detailed or otherwise inappropriate so I'll show how to instrument and create higher level traces for kcachegrind.

I used all of these techniques while consulting for AstraZeneca's R&D group. I'll base many of my examples on that experience, and describe some of ways to improve overall performance.

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