

Python Academy

Teaching Python in Germany

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Overview

- What is Python Academy?
- Courses
- Additional Activities
- Experiences
- Future directions

What is Python Academy?

- Teaching company dedicated to Python
- Located in Leipzig, Germany
- Offers different Python courses
- Does Python marketing

Mission

- Promote Python
- Programming as basic skill
- Center for Python teaching
- Provide high quality courses for business customers
- At the same time support community activities

Teaching Center

- Computer room for 8 – 12 people
- Leipzig, Germany in the center of Europe
- Very good infrastructure (airport, rail way, hotels, large business fair ground nearby)
- Can be reached conveniently from most parts of Germany and Europe

Activities

- Regular Python courses
- Physical hosting of LPUG
- Workshops, first on September 8, 2006
- Talks at public places (tech book store)
- Contributions to a translation of an English open source book into German
- Publications
- Partner in “Informatikjahr”

Course Structure

- Programmers and non-programmers (in offer)
- SW-Engineering (planned)
- Python for scientists (planned)
- Frameworks and applications (planned)

Current Courses – Non-Programmers

- Two-day course
- Gentle introduction
- Stress on general concepts
- Main Python features covered
- Exercises
- Programmers course as next step

Current Courses — Programmers

- Two-day course
- Complex example to start with
- Code reading important part
- Exercises for each concept
- Own teaching material
- Book
- Core language covered
- Stress on pythonic concepts

Leipzig Python User Group

- Monthly meetings since February 2006
- Presentations
- Long discussions
- Great experience
- Exchange of ideas

Workshop

- “Python in the German-speaking area”
- Meeting in German
- Addition to EuroPython, PyCon (both English), but a lot smaller
- One-day
- September 8, 2006
- In Leipzig, at University

Book Translation

- “How to Think Like a Computer Scientist“
- “Wie ein Informatiker denken lernen mit Python”
- Translation started by Gregor Lingl
- Contributing to translation since January 2006
- Book will be mirror-hosted at PyA's site

Python Talks

- Organizing of talks about Python
- Lehmann's (Tech book store chain)
- Contact with Biocity (bioinformatics)
- Regional business fairs
- Other places?

Trainers Welcome

- PyA offers trainers infrastructure for courses
- Room, organization, promotion
- One time or regular courses
- All topics related to Python welcome (web frameworks, svn with Python, Python scripting of applications)
- If you are interested, contact:
mmueller@python-academy.de

Experiences

- Python is not well known in many areas
- Course applications often have a long incubation time
- Programming is still considered very complicated, something for CS majors
- But: once taken participants like the course

Future Directions

- Continue regular courses
- More depth and breadth of courses
- PyA becomes established center of Python Teaching
- Open for new ideas