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Why You Should Consider Getting a Python Pet Project

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Christian Burger

- **Head of Development - Austria @ Trayport**

- **Started as C/C++ Developer in 1997**

- **Working with teams since 2006**

- **Love the Agile Mindset and self empowered teams**

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A <u>project</u>, activity or goal pursued as a <u>personal favorite</u>, rather than because it is generally accepted as necessary or important.

Problem statement

- **Promoted to a leadership position**

- **Entered the company in a development managerial position**

- **Dev Background**

- **Urge to be actively involved**
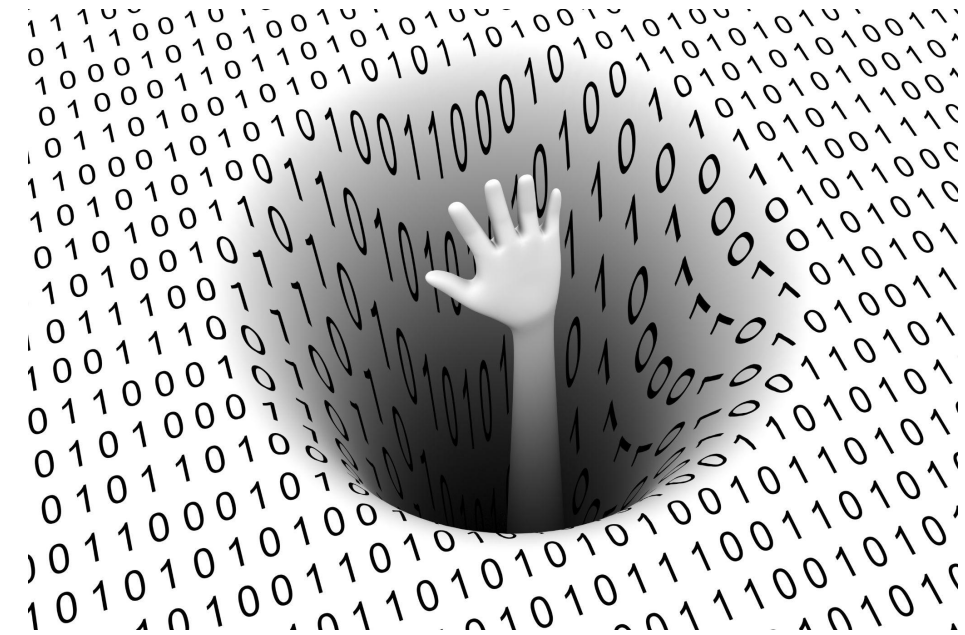
If you start coding in the product code

- **Strong urge to work w/o rules and processes**

- **Less time to work on strategic level => high stress**

- **Developers/Testers will be faster at developing/testing**

- **Loss of focus likely**

A pet project may allow you to ...

- **Experiment with new ideas**

- **Feel the processes yourself**

- **Retain knowledge**

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But be careful

- **Project should have a benefit**

- **Be a role model**

- **Set the right priorities**

- **Don't drop it on your engineers desk**

How did I end up with a pet(project)?

1. My kids wanted to have a cat to play and cuddle
2. After 1 year of bickering my wife and me gave in
3. Wild promises were made: We will always clean up, feed them, …
4. Vet says we should have 2
5. We buy the cats
6. After half a year my wife and me take care of them

How did I end up with a pet project?

1. Introduce a new ticketing system
2. Grand expectations
3. Need lots of plug ins and integrations
4. I write integrations and automations in Python

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My situation when getting started

- **New to Energy Trading**

- **Fairly new to Python**

- **Somewhat knowledgeable in the ticket system in question**

- **Aware how much automation can help a small team succeed by offloading repetitive tasks**

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Constraints

- **Same tools and tech stack**

- **Same processes**

- **make the ticket tool introduction successful,**

- **create automations that make our live easier**

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Lessons learned and Results

- **Appreciation of Python**

- **Writing meaningful Unit and Integration test can be lots of work**

- **Use project as test bed for new tools and processes**

- **Automatic deployments really pay off**

- **Appreciate good documentation**

- ***Flask* and *requests* really help**

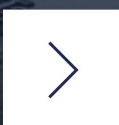- **Stay humble and learn to trust your team**

THANK YOU

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