Why You Should Consider Getting a Python Pet Project
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- 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
A project, activity or goal pursued as a personal favorite, 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
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
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
Constraints

- Same tools and tech stack
- Same processes
- make the ticket tool introduction successful,
- create automations that make our live easier
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