An Introduction to wxPython

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Presentation Overview

- Your Instructor
- Introduction
- GUI Basics
- wxPython Fundamentals
- wxPython Widgets
- Event Handling
- Window Layout
- Device Contexts
 - Tools



Robin Dunn

- Creator and maintainer of wxPython
- Programming for 25+ years, started in Junior High
- Working on wxPython for about 9 years
 - More or less full-time for 3+ years
- Member of the wxWidgets core team
- Currently on contract with OSAF
- Coauthor of *wxPython in Action*



Why wxPython?

- wxPython is an **open source** GUI toolkit based on the wxWidgets (formerly wxWindows) library
- Designed to be cross-platform and supports most Unix/Linux platforms, MS Windows and Mac OS X
- Uses **native widgets** wherever possible to preserve native Look and Feel.
- Extensive sample programs, helpful and capable community

1996

- Mature, well established projects.
 - wxWidgets: 1992
 - wxPython:

Basic architecture



Partial class hierarchy



- Choose an installer
 - http://wxPython.org/downloads.php
 - Windows *.exe installers, Linux RPMs or OSX *.dmg
 - Can be built from source with a few prerequisites
- Which version of Python do you use?
 - 2.3, 2.4, 2.5
- Unicode or ANSI?
 - Unicode builds available on all platforms, but be careful with Win9x/ME
 - ANSI available for platforms, but may be phased out soon.

- Choose an editor or development environment:
 - Boa Constructor
 - WingIDE
 - SPE
 - SCiTE
 - Emacs, vi, etc.
- It's just plain text, so any ordinary editor and command line will do.



- Ready, set, go!
- The wxPython Demo is a great way to learn about the capabilities of the toolkit.







Frames and Dialogs	^	TextCtrl Overview	/ Demo Code Demo	
Common Dialogs More Dialogs More Dialogs Core Windows/Coni BittnapButton Button CheckBox CheckBox CheckListBox Choice ComboBox Gauge Grid Grid_MegaExam ListBox ListCtrl ListCtrl ListCtrl_virtual ListCtrl_edit Menu PopupMenu PopupMenu PopupWindow RadioBox RadioButton SashWindow Silder SpinButton	trols npie	wx.TextCtrl Password Multi-line Rich Text Test Positions	Test it out and see Here is a loooooooooooooong line of text set in the control. The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog If supported by the native control, this is ed, and this is a different form. If supported by the native control, form.	
SpinCtrl SpitterWindow StaticBitmap StaticBitmap StaticBitmap StaticBitmap StaticText StatusBar StockButtons ToggleButton ToggleBu	>	Running demo modu Loading demo Stodd Running demo modu Loading demo TextC Running demo modu OnActivate: False OnAppActivate: Tru OnActivate: True	ule KButtons.py ule Crl.py ule Ise ue	

wxPython: (A Demor	istration)	
e <u>D</u> emo <u>H</u> elp		
CheckBox	TextCtrl Overview Demo Code Demo	
CheckListBox	Active Version: O Original O Wedified Seve Changes Delate Medified	
Choice	Active version: O original O lobalited Save changes [Delete Modified]	
ComboBox	1 2 import our	
Gauge	3 import sys	
Grid	4	
Grid MegaExample	5 #	
ListBox	6	
ListCtrl	P = dof (DrSotForus(coll ort))	
ListCtrl virtual	9 print "OnSetFocus"	
	10 evt.Skip0	
Monu	11 def OnKillFocus(self, evt):	
BenunManu	12 print "OnKillFocus"	
PopupMenu	13 evt. skip0	
Popupwindow	15 print "On Window Destroy"	
RadioBox	16 evt. Skip()	
RadioButton	17	
SashWindow		
ScrolledWindow	19 definit_(self, parent, log):	
Slider	20 wx.ranetinitteen, parent, -17	
SpinButton	22	
SpinCtrl	23 = wx.StaticText (self, -1, "wx.TextCtrl")	
SplitterWindow	24 t1 = ww.TextCtrl(self, -1, "Test it out and see", size=(125, -1))	
StaticBitmap	25 wx.Callater(t1.SetInsertionPoint, 0)	
StaticBox	27	
StaticText	28 self.Bind(wx.EVT_TEXT, self.EvtText, t1)	
StatusBar	29 t1.Bind(wx.EVT_CHAR_self.EvtChar)	
StockButtons		
TextCtrl	OnActivate: True	
ToggleButton	OnAppActivate: True	
ToolBar	loading demo TextCtrl.pv	
TreeCtrl	Running demo module	
Validator	OnActivate: False	
"Pook" Controls	OnAppActivate: False	
Gustem Centrels	OnActivate: True	
Custom Controls	Unappactivate: inte	
	1	



Demo time...



- GUI's are composed of a collection of windows, or *widgets*
 - Some widgets are top-level windows that are managed by the OS
 - Some are contained in other widgets
- You can think of a window as a *tree of graphical components*
- Before you can display a window you must
 - Create the component tree, and (optionally) ...
 - Associate events with particular objects and actions



- GUI applications are *event driven*
 - The application spends most of its time waiting for something to happen, such as a keystroke, or mouse movement.
 - When that something (*the event*) happens, information about it is collected and sent to a handler.
 - Events are dispatched asynchronously
 - meaning they can happen in any order



- Many events are a direct result of user actions
 - Left-click on a button
 - Select a menu item
 - Drag an item from one panel to another
 - That would actually be a sequence of events
- Other events are raised by the system
 - Timer countdown expires
 - An obscured part of a window is exposed





Hello World!

```
# ex01.py
import wx
```

```
class App(wx.App):
    def OnInit(self):
        frame = wx.Frame(parent=None, title="Hello World! 1")
        frame.Show()
        return True
```

app = App()
app.MainLoop()



wxPython Fundamentals

- Every application needs an instance of the wx.App class
 - Some parts of the C++ library are not initialized until the app is created, so it must be done before most other things.
 - APIs for starting and stopping the application
 - Provides the central *event loop* and dispatches events to handlers
 - Other per-application functionality
- Traditionally, you subclass wx.App and override OnInit for creating the initial application widgets
 - Not strictly needed any longer
 - wx.App can be used without subclassing
 - But it often still makes sense for design purposes

Hello World!

```
# ex02.py
import wx
```

```
app = wx.App()
frame = wx.Frame(parent=None, title="Hello World! 2")
frame.Show()
app.MainLoop()
```



wxPython Fundamentals

- wx.App can redirect standard output
 - Sends print statements and writes to sys.stdout or sys.stderr to a window or a file
 - An easy way to view status messages or tracebacks
 - Controlled by parameters to wx.App.__init__



Hello World!

```
# ex03.py
import wx
class Frame(wx.Frame):
    def init (self):
        wx.Frame. init (self, parent=None, title="Hello World! 3")
        b1 = wx.Button(self, label="Hello", pos=(20,20))
        b2 = wx.Button(self, label="World", pos=(20,60))
        self.Bind(wx.EVT BUTTON, self.OnHelloWorld)
    def OnHelloWorld(self, evt):
        print "Hello World!"
app = wx.App(redirect=True)
Frame().Show()
app.MainLoop()
                  wxPython: Cross Platform GUI Toolkit
```

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Hello World!

```
# ex03.py
import wx
class Frame(wx.Frame):
    def init (self):
        wx.Frame. init (self, parent=None, title="Hello World! 3")
        b1 = wx.Button(self, label="Hello", pos=(20,20))
        b2 = wx.Button(self, label="World", pos=(20,60))
        self.Bind(wx.EVT BUTTON, self.OnHelloWorld)
    def OnHelloWorld(self, evt):
        print "Hello World!"
app = wx.App(redirect=True)
Frame().Show()
app.MainLoop()
                  wxPython: Cross Platform GUI Toolkit
```

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wxPython Fundamentals

- Every application needs a wx.App and one or more top level windows
- Window/Widget classes can be used directly, but you will often subclass them to add-in your application's functionality
- Events are signals from the user or the system that your application is interested in.
- Events are delivered to event handler functions (usually members of the derived widget classes)
 - Events can happen in any order

wxPython widgets: top level windows

- wx.Frame
 - A container for other windows.
 - Can automatically manage a MenuBar, ToolBar, and a StatusBar.
- wx.Dialog
 - For Modal or Modeless dialog boxes.
- wx.MiniFrame
 - Good for floating tool pallets, etc.
- wx.MDIParentFrame, wx.MDIChildFrame
 - Multiple Document Interface

wxPython widgets : common dialogs

- All standard Windows common dialogs:
 - Color, Directory, File,
 - Font, PageSetup, Print,
 - Message, Progress,
 - FindReplace, etc.
- For other platforms either native dialogs are used, or suitable recreations in wxWidgets are provided.



wxPython widgets : common dialogs





wxPython widgets : basic windows

- wx.Window
 - General purpose window.
- wx.Panel
 - Can do tab-traversal of controls.
 - Uses standard system color for the background.
- wx.ScrolledWindow
 - Manages its own scrollbars and scrolling of client area.
 - Transforms coordinates based on scrollbar positions.



- wx.SplitterWindow
 - Can be split vertically or horizontally.
 - Draggable sash for redistributing the space between sub-windows.

Panel One	Panel Two



- wx.grid.Grid
 - Table or spreadsheet-like capabilities.
 - Editors, Renderers, Tables (the data provider) can all be customized and "plugged in".



u Simpl	e Grid Demo					. 🗆
	Custom	column	labels	D	E	F
1	First cell				Limited text	Т
2		Another cell				
3			Yet another cell			
4				This cell is read-only		
5						
6	123					
7	123.34			You can veto editing this cell		
8						
9						
10		This default ce	II will overflow into	neighboring cells, but not if you turn ov	erflow off.	
11						
12						
13			This cell is set to	span 3 rows and 3 columns		
14						
15						Τ
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
•						

• wx.StatusBar

A Custom StatusBar	🗖 toggle clock	27-Sep-1999 12:23:19	
--------------------	----------------	----------------------	--

• wx.ToolBar





- wx.Notebook
 - Manages multiple windows with tabs.
 - Tabs can be on any side of the notebook that the platform supports.

		wx	Notebook	Overview	Demo (Code	Demo				_		
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		Blue	Red	ScrolledWi	ndow G	ireen	Grid	List	Cyan	White	Midnight Blue	Indian Red	
	$\sim$		w×P	ytho	on: (	Cros	ss Pla	utfor	m GL	JI To	olkit		

- wx.html.HtmlWindow
  - Capable of parsing and rendering most simple HTML tags.
  - Custom Tag Handlers can change or add to how HTML is rendered.

```
<wxp class="wx.Button">
     <param name="label" value="Okay">
     <param name="id" value="wxID_OK">
  </wxp>
```



• wx.html.HtmlWindow




- wx.Button, wx.BitmapButton
- wx.RadioBox, wx.RadioButton
- wx.CheckBox
- wx.Choice
- wx.ComboBox
- wx.SpinButton

Hello				
ples anges ars	⊂wxRadioE Ozero Othree Osix	3ox C one € four C seven	C two C five C eight	
zero 🔽	1	default v zero one two three four five	alue 🔽	

six seven eight



**wxPython:** Cross Platform GUI Toolkit

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Pe

- wx.ToggleButton
- wx.gizmos.EditableListBox
- wx.lib.masked.TextCtrl
- wx.calendar.CalendarCtrl
- wx.lib.masked.TimeCtrl

May		-	2	003		-
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

จ้า	12-hour format: 03:49:09 PM *   24-hour format: 15:49:09 *   No seconds or spin button: 03:49 PM	This is a nifty ListBox widget that is editable by the user. Use the buttons above to manipulate items in the list Or to add new ones.
	These are toggle buttons	

- wx.TextCtrl
  - Password masking, multi-line with or without word-wrap, simple attributes, etc.

Test it out and see	
*****	
Here is a loooooooooooooooong line of text set in the control.	
The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog	
	2
If supported by the native central, this	1
is red, and this is a <u>different font</u> .	
	<



- wx.ListBox
- wx.CheckListBox
- wx.Gauge
- wx.Slider
- wx.StaticBox









- wx.ListCtrl
  - Supports list, icon, small icon, report views.
  - Virtual mode, where data items are provided by overloaded methods.

Artist	Title	Genre 🔺
🙂 Bad English	The Price Of Love	Rock
🙂 DNA featuring Suzanne Vega	Tom's Diner	Rock
🙂 George Michael	Praying For Time	Rock
🙂 Gloria Estefan	Here We Are	Rock
🙂 Linda Ronstadt	Don't Know Much	Rock
🙂 Michael Bolton	How Am I Supposed To Live Without You	Blues
🙂 Paul Young	Oh Girl	Rock
🙂 Paula Abdul	Opposites Attract	Rock
🙂 Richard Marx	Should've Known Better	Rock
🙂 Rod Stewart	Forever Young	Rock
🙂 Roxette	Dangerous	Rock
🙂 Sheena Easton	The Lover In Me	Rock
Sinead O'Connor	Nothing Compares 2 U	Rock
🙂 Stevie B.	Because I Love You	Rock
🙂 Taylor Dayne	Love Will Lead You Back	Rock
🙂 The Bangles	Eternal Flame	Rock 📃



- wx.TreeCtrl
  - Supports images for various node states.
  - Can be virtualized by delaying the adding of child items until the parent is expanded.





• wx.gizmos.TreeListCtrl

Main column	Column 1	Column 2
🔁 🚅 The Root Item	col 1 root	col 2 root
·⊞- 🧰 Item O	Item 0(c1)	Item O(c2)
-⊞- 🧰 Item 1	Item 1(c1)	Item 1(c2)
-⊞- 🧰 Item 2	Item 2(c1)	Item 2(c2)
-⊞- 🧰 Item 3	Item 3(c1)	Item 3(c2)
🕞 😅 Item 4	Item 4(c1)	Item 4(c2)
🕀 🧰 item 4-a	item 4-a(c1)	item 4-a(c2)
😑 😅 item 4-b	item 4-b(c1)	item 4-b(c2)
	item 4-b-0(c1)	item 4-b-0(c2)
	item 4-b-1(c1)	item 4-b-1(c2)
	item 4-b-2(c1)	item 4-b-2(c2)
— 📰 item 4-b-3	item 4-b-3(c1)	item 4-b-3(c2)
🔚 🔚 item 4-b-4	item 4-b-4(c1)	item 4-b-4(c2)
⊕ 🧰 item 4-c	item 4-c(c1)	item 4-c(c2)
🕀 🧰 item 4-d	item 4-d(c1)	item 4-d(c2)
└⊕ 🧰 item 4-e	item 4-e(c1)	item 4-e(c2)
⊕ 🧰 Item 5	Item 5(c1)	Item 5(c2)
🕀 🧰 Item 6	ltem 6(c1)	Item 6(c2)



# wxPython widgets

- wx.stc.StyledTextCtrl
  - (wx port of Scintilla)



# wxPython widgets

• And many others...



- Most, if not all, GUI systems and toolkits are designed to be event driven, meaning that the main flow of your program is not sequential from beginning to end.
- When something happens that is of interest to you (an event), the system or toolkit calls a bit of your code that deals with that event (event handler).
- When your event handler finishes, control returns to the "main loop" and your program waits for the next event.
- While one event handler is running all others are blocked, so don't do things that take a "long time" to complete.



- Various event-handling models:
- **Callbacks**: Standalone functions associated with an event by calling a toolkit function. There are encapsulation problems.
- Message based: Messages sent to windows for controlling behavior, or for events.
- Virtual methods: One for each type of event. Solves encapsulation, but leads to clutter, inflexible classes, and many derived classes just to handle an event differently.
- Static event tables: Events are associated with classes and methods at compile time via a table. When the event occurs the tables are searched for a match and the method is invoked.

- wxPython uses **Dynamic Event Tables** 
  - Built at run-time.
  - Events can be "bound" to any callable object that will serve as the Event Handler:
    - any method of the class receiving the event, or other classes
    - standalone functions
    - any object with a __call__ method
  - Handlers are connected to events with a set of binder objects:
    - wx.EVT_MENU
    - wx.EVT_PAINT
    - wx.EVT_SIZE
    - etc.

• The connection, or *binding*, between event and handler is made with the Bind method

self.Bind(wx.EVT_BUTTON, self.OnButton, theBtn)

theBtn.Bind(wx.EVT_BUTTON, self.OnButton)



or

- Each handler is passed an event object when called.
  - Contains information about the event
- Two classifications of event objects:
  - Classes derived from wx.Event
    - Events that only make sense for the window where the event took place, such as wx.PaintEvent, wx.KeyEvent, wx.SizeEvent, etc.
  - Classes derived from wx.CommandEvent
    - Events that may be of interest for any object up the "containment hierarchy," such as wx.MenuEvent, wx.NotebookEvent, wx.ListEvent, etc.



### In search of Event Handlers...



### In search of Event Handlers...



### Code break...



# **Organizing your layout**

- There are various ways to do layout:
  - Brute force
    - All widgets are positioned and sized pixel by pixel.
    - Has to be redone in every EVT_SIZE event.
    - Painful, cross-platform issues.
  - Layout Constraints
    - Powerful, but complex and verbose.
    - Deals with the relationships between widgets.
    - See the docs and demo for more details.
  - Sizers
    - Not as flexible or complex, but powerful enough.
    - Worth the pain.

# **Organizing your layout**

- Sizers
  - Similar to LayoutManagers in Java.
  - Not as flexible as LayoutContraints, but much simpler, once you get over the hump.
  - Relationships defined by containment within sizers or nested sizers.
  - All items (widgets or nested sizers) added to a Sizer are laid out by a specific algorithm determined by the class of sizer.
  - An item's position within its allotted space is also controllable.
    - Empty space on borders
    - Alignment
  - You need to be able to think visually both *top-down* and *bottom-up* to capture your design

## wx.BoxSizer

🗆 He	🗖 Horizontal BoxSizer					
on	e	two	three		four	
	<b>v</b>	ertical				
	one					
	two			┥		
		four		┥		
		1001				
Đ,						
• /						

🗖 Proport 💶 🗖 🔀
one
two
three
four
gets 1/3 of the free space
gets 2/3 of the free space

### wx.StaticBoxSizer

🗆 StaticBoxSizer Test 📃 💷 🖸				
Box 1	- Box 2	Box 3		
one	four	seven		
two	five	eight		
three	six	nine		
	L			



### wx.BoxSizer





📲 Flexible Gr	id	_ 🗆 ×	
one	two	three	
four		six	
seven	eight	nine	
Resize this frame to see how the sizers respond			

Simple Grie	e Grid 📃 🗆 🗙		
one	two	three	
four	fi∨e	six	
seven	eight nine		
Resize this frame to see how the sizers respond. //			



**wxPython:** Cross Platform GUI Toolkit

### wx.GridSizer

### wx.GridBagSizer

GridBagS	izer Test				
one	two	three			
four	five	six	span 3 rows		
seven	eight	nine			
	span all columns				



• Can you see how to get here from there?

🗆 Real World Test 📃 🗆 🔀		
Account Information		
Name:		
Name.		
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Phone:		
Email:		
	Save Cancel	



Vertical Box Sizer

🗆 Real World Test 📃 🗖 🔀		
Account Information		
Name:		
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Phone:		
Email:		
	Save Cancel	









### Code break...



## Drawing

- A wx.DC is a *device context* onto which graphics and text can be drawn.
- Represents a number of output devices in a generic way:
  - windows
  - printers
  - bitmaps
  - the whole screen
- The same code may be used to draw on different devices.



# Drawing

- DC's have many drawing primitives:
  - DrawArc, DrawBitmap, DrawElipse, DrawLine, DrawLines, DrawPoint, DrawPolygon, DrawRectangle, DrawRoundedRectangle, DrawSpline, DrawText
- And work with GDI objects:
  - wx.Font, wx.Bitmap, wx.Brush, wx.Pen, wx.Mask, wx.Icon, etc.



### Code break...



# **Tools: PyCrust**

- Interactive Python Shell
- 100% Python
- Part of wxPython
- Standalone App
- Embeddable Components




```
<u>File Edit Options Help</u>
   1 PyCrust 0.9.4 - The Flakiest Python Shell
   2 Sponsored by Orbtech - Your source for Python programming expertise.
   3 Python 2.3 (#2, Aug 31 2003, 17:27:29)
   4 [GCC 3.3.1 (Mandrake Linux 9.2 3.3.1-1mdk)] on linux2
   5 Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
   6 >>> import wx
   7 >>> f = wx.Frame(None, -1, "Hello World")
   8 >>> p = wx.Panel(f)
   9 >>> b = wx.Button(p, -1, "Click me", (10,10))
  10 >>> f. Show(
           Show(bool show=True) -> bool
           Shows or hides the window. You may need to call Raise for a top level
           window if you want to bring it to top, although this is not needed if
           Show is called immediately after the frame creation. Returns True if
           the window has been shown or hidden or False if nothing was done
           because it already was in the requested state.
Namespace Display Calltip Session Dispatcher
                           wx.CallAfter
       -BusyInfoPtr
       -Button
                           Type: <type 'function'>
       -Button GetDefaultS
       -ButtonNameStr
                           Value: <function CallAfter at 0x413bc48c>
       -ButtonPtr
                           Docstring:
       -CalculateLayoutEve
       -CalculateLayoutEve
                           """Call the specified function after the current and pending event
        CallAfter
                           handlers have been completed. This is also good for making GUI
                           method calls from non-GUI threads."""
        CANCEL
•
PyCrust 0.9.4 - The Flakiest Python Shell, Sponsored by Orbtech - Your source for Python programming expertise.
```

## **Tools: Embedding PyCrust components**

```
# ex04.py
import wx
import wx.py
...
class MyApp(wx.App):
    def OnInit(self):
        frame = MyFrame()
        frame.Show()
        shell = wx.py.shell.ShellFrame(
            frame, locals={ 'wx': wx, 'frame': frame})
        shell.Show()
        frame.Raise()
        return True
```

### PyCrust demo...



# **Tools: XRCed**

- XRC is an XML based resource format
  - Used for specifying the content and layout of
    - Panels
    - Frames
    - Dialogs
    - Menus
    - Toolbars
  - Can be dynamically loaded at runtime, creating all the specified widgets



				on
			Address	
O XRCed: realv	world2.xrc			
ile <u>E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew <u>H</u> elp				
] 🖻 🗎 👟 1	🔌 🤞 🗅 💼 🚱 😔 🌖 🔇			
Windows	E XML tree	sizeritem		
	wxPanel "PANEL1"	🔤 🔲 🗖 option:		
1enus		✓ flag: wxALL wxEXPA	ND Edit	Cancel
••• • •		🗸 🗹 border: 10		
	wxFlexGridSizer	minsize:		
	💷 wxStaticText	ratio:		
nizers	→ → wxTextCtrl "name"	wxElexGridSizer		
	→ J wxStaticText	cols: 2		
		rows:		
ontrols	→ J wxTextCtrl "addr2"	🗸 vgap: 5 🖨		
Аbc 🦻 —	→ → wxStaticText	🖌 🔽 hgap: 5		
ок 👂 🗛	wxBoxSizer	growablecols: [1]	Edit	
	wxTextCtrl "city"	growablerows:	Edit	
	ww.textCtrl "state"			
	→ J wxStaticText			
1 7 7 17 17	→ → wxTextCtrl "phone"			
	→ → wxStaticText			
	↓ wxTextCtrl "email"			
A B , <b>[7</b> ]				
	→ J wxButton "SaveBtn"			
	⊐ spacer			
	💷 wxButton "CancelBtn"	<ul> <li>Properties</li> </ul>		

# **Other tools**

- wxDesigner
- wxGlade
- Boa Constructor
- DialogBlocks
- SPE
- WingIDE
- Dabo
- And many others...



### **Questions?**



## **Other resources**

- wxPython website:
- wxPyWiki:
- Mailists:
- wxWidgets website:
- wxPython in Action

http://wxPython.org http://wiki.wxPython.org wxPython-users, wx-users http://wxWidgets.org



