


Re: (Score:2)
by [lucm \(889690 \)](#)
To me, it sure sounds like a list of the most problematic languages combined with the number of people who use them.
Exactly. That's like saying: GM cars are the most popular because you can find a lot of GM spare parts in junkyards.

Perl (Score:5, Insightful)
by [hattrable \(981637 \)](#) on Saturday July 22, 2017 @09:56PM ([#54860087](#)) [Homepage](#) [Journal](#)
How I miss thee.
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Re: (Score:2)
by [gweihir \(88907 \)](#)
AT least Python has PCRE. Even if the interface is not nearly as nice as in Perl. One of my few gripes with Python.

Re: (Score:2)
by [ArchieBunker \(132337 \)](#)
Perl was all the rage in the 90s. Then we had Ruby and now Python. In five years some other language is going to be hot.

Re: (Score:2)
by [CRC799 \(96526 \)](#)
I /really/ like Perl. It was the first scripting language I ever learned.
I still use perl on a daily basis. From web interfaces to batch data processing to realtime hardware data collection (using good old RS485 busses).
The RS485 control part even has multi-threading, as well as converting https Server Side Events to RS485 data streams.
One of the best programs I ever wrote :)

Understood (Score:4, Insightful)
by [Snotnose \(212196 \)](#) on Saturday July 22, 2017 @10:09PM ([#54860151](#))
Python rocks. I love it. I've written 2-3 major apps in it over the last 15 years. That said, using spaces for block definition is brain dead. Seriously. I know I'm gonna get flamed for this but, whatever.

tldr; Python is a great language with one huge fucking hole. When tabs vs spaces change the way a program runs, something is wrong. Yeah, I know you can tell your editor to change tabs to some random spaces, but still.

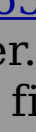
When I find code for SomethingIReallyWouldLike, and it Doesn'tFuckingWork, and I find out FuckwitUsed2CharacterTabs, then something is broken. Broken hard. Broken bad.
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Re: (Score:2)
by [lucm \(889690 \)](#)
using spaces for block definition is brain dead
it is. Just the fact that there's a keyword (pass) that does nothing except prevent the indentation from falling apart says it all.
However there's many things that are even more retarded in Python:
- package management
- text encoding
- the whole import thing which makes it impossible to use sibling modules without dirty hacks
- mutable default arguments
- the abuse of underscore, such as the lovely `_main`
- the "ternary operator", which is basically a drunk if statement
I think at this point PHP have got their

Re: Understood (Score:2)
by [Zero_Kelvyn \(151819 \)](#)
Yes The idiot who used tabs is broken. Python allows tabs, it doesn't encourage it. Competent programmers don't use tabs unless they are writing a makefile.

Re: (Score:2)
by [gweihir \(88907 \)](#)
Very much this. A competent coder understands that tabs are not defined the same everywhere and just cause problems, and hence just disables them in the editor used. It is also extremely easy to replace them with proper spaces if you know how wide they are supposed to be in a piece of code.
Anybody that really has a problem with this should not be let near program code as they are just incompetent.

Re: (Score:3)
by [serviscope minor \(664417 \)](#)
Yes *The idiot who used tabs is broken. Python allows tabs, it doesn't encourage it. Competent programmers don't use tabs unless they are writing a makefile.*
I disagree. If one action in a language is always idiomatic then it is not the idiot who is at fault, but the language. C lets you run over the end of an array which is awful, but the counterpoint is that it's faster to not do the checks so it ultimately allows a very skilled programmer to write more efficient code. There's a tradeoff .
What's the tra

MathWorks should be concerned (Score:3)
by [93 Escort Wagon \(326346 \)](#) on Saturday July 22, 2017 @10:26PM ([#54860193](#))
I know a few EE faculty who have moved from using Matlab to using Python. Some of the grad students think the department should take a more active role in encouraging students to do the same - or to eliminate Matlab from courses entirely.
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Re: (Score:3)
by [0100010001010011 \(652467 \)](#)
Simulink Embedded Coder. (There's a reason they won't put it on the cheap home use license).
Mathworks is going to be fine.

Re: (Score:2)
by [Chris Katko \(2923353 \)](#)
Octave replaces Matlab, and scilab/xcos is a simulink replacement.
<http://www.scilab.org/scilab/g...> [scilab.org]

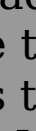
Re: (Score:2)
by [0100010001010011 \(652467 \)](#)
What hardware support does it have?
I have yet to see a job opening for model based design using scilab/xcos embedded design.

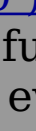
kind of a silly comparison (Score:2)
by [buddylgass \(925859 \)](#)
Does it make sense to compare Python to SQL to HTML? Completely different beasts. Seems more reasonable to zoom in on specific use cases and gauge popularity in those particular contexts. For instance, web applications. Results from Stack Overflow jobs:

node.js: 304
Spring: 180
Rails: 172
ASP.NET: 111
django: 80

In that particular context Python is more-or-less last place. Thing is, Python is used for plenty more than just web application back-ends. Much like Java. But there's a big difference is

Re: (Score:2)
by [Chris Katko \(2923353 \)](#)
Yeah, but then we wouldn't be having a clickbait discussion.

#1 in POPULARITY (Score:3)
by [cionslashdot \(904508 \)](#) on Sunday July 23, 2017 @07:40AM ([#54861551](#))
"Popular!" != "Best!"
Also, one should choose the right language for the task. The right language for a small office task is not usually the right language for a scalable microservice. E.g., Google discovered long ago that if an app written in Ruby or Python requires 100 servers to meet demand, but the same app written in C++ or Go requires only ten servers, then there is a substantial cost difference. (Although Go is quite terrible for maintainability - do a Google search for "Go gotchas".)
Ignore popularity. Make your own choices.
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Re:Ugh. (Score:4, Insightful)
by [0100010001010011 \(652467 \)](#) on Saturday July 22, 2017 @09:51PM ([#54860053](#))
* It's a scripting language.
And Michaelangelo just had a brush.
Lets compete to complete the average task in most offices. You do it in Assembly, I'll do it in Python and we'll see who is done first and gets the most work done in a year.
It's a massive leg up from VBA and just Excel equations while being as easy as BASIC to learn.
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Re: (Score:2)
by [lucm \(889690 \)](#)
It's a massive leg up from VBA
Not sure about that. VBA has switch statements (case). Python has "if".


Re: (Score:2)
by [K. S. Kyosuke \(729550 \)](#)
And it also has first class functions and callable objects which often nicely replace them in proper coding styles. Your VBA switches aren't even modular or extensible. And whenever you feel like such a low-level construct as a switch is appropriate, at least you get reminded that you have to weigh the perception of your need for a switch against its clunkiness in a non-machine-level language.

Re: (Score:2)
by [lucm \(889690 \)](#)
No. Just plain no.
The switch statement is a valid construct present in many languages that also have first class functions (such as JavaScript or PHP). And if you think that functions are a less clunky way of doing something that in other languages can be done with a switch, I can only hope I'll never have to maintain your code.

Re: (Score:2)
by [K. S. Kyosuke \(729550 \)](#)
They're a less clunky way of doing what you're more likely to do in the non-machine-oriented language in question. If the thing you're trying to do starts looking like a huge switch in Python, you're most likely writing the wrong thing and *it* hope I'll never have to maintain *your* code. In fact, whole successful languages were actually based on avoiding the conditional. And a *small* switch is perfectly replaceable with Python's ifs, that's what elif is essentially for. Just because you *can* do something

Static typing (Score:2)
by [aberglas \(991072 \)](#)
Visual Basic has (optional) static typing.
That alone makes it a much better language than Python for any significant code.

What does this do that Java does not? (Score:2)
by [Latent Heat \(558884 \)](#)
What does Python do for you that Java does not do better?
Java is the new COBOL? No, Java is the new Turbo Pascal. Yes, it is compiled, but it is incrementally compiled - C# and Eclipse or NetBeans so the compile step is near instantaneous. You say C++ IDEs point out your errors, but you have to run a time-consuming compile step to see all of your errors - not so with Java.
Java is the new statically-typed bondage-and-discipline language like Pascal? No, Java has Reflection. You can call any method

Re:What does this do that Java does not? (Score:4, Insightful)
by [Gojira Shipi-Taro \(465802 \)](#) on Saturday July 22, 2017 @11:32PM ([#54860427](#)) [Homepage](#)
Not be owned by Oracle.
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Re: (Score:2)
by [theweatherelectric \(2007596 \)](#)
Java is the new statically-typed bondage-and-discipline language like Pascal? No, Java has Reflection.
Pascal [has reflection](#) [embarcadero.com] as well.

Re: (Score:2)
by [pthisis \(27352 \)](#)
Beyond that, Java has proper Garbage Collection rather than reference-counted garbage
Neither the Python nor Java language defines a GC algorithm, ref-counting or otherwise, and different implementations of each use different GC methods. PyPy, for instance (which is the Python JIT implementation that most people who care about performance use) has no ref counting but uses an incremental hybrid mark-sweep GC. Even the CPython implementation, which does use ref-counting, combines it with a generational GC to d

Re: (Score:2)
by [aberglas \(991072 \)](#)
He is talking about junk languages like C++, which can only handle crude reference counting.

Re: (Score:3)
by [serviscope minor \(664417 \)](#)
He is talking about junk languages like C++, which can only handle crude reference counting.
Nope. There have been "proper" GC solutions for C++ for ages, like the Boehm collector which do work. You can also write GC in C++: I watch a talk (Herb Sutter?) on writing a GC smart pointer type. So if you really really need GC, you can have it.
OTHO it's rarely necessary because C++ produces very little garbage. About the only situation poorly handled by smart pointers is mutable general graphs. I've never actually

Re: (Score:3)
by [angelosphere \(80593 \)](#)
What does Python do for you that Java does not do better?
Obviously all the things Java does not have:
o dynamic typing
o modules/functions
o string template expansion with dictionaries
Should I go on?
statically-typed bondage-and-discipline language like Pascal? No, Java has Reflection
What is that supposed to mean? Reflection has nothing to do with static typed or not

Re: (Score:2)
by [phantomfive \(622387 \)](#)
Switch to VGA mode and write directly to video memory. Not to everyone's taste, but you know, give me complete control.

Re: (Score:2)
by [BarbaraHudson \(3785311 \)](#)
* It's a scripting language.
And Michaelangelo just had a brush.
Lets compete to complete the average task in most offices. You do it in Assembly, I'll do it in Python and we'll see who is done first and gets the most work done in a year.
It's a massive leg up from VBA and just Excel equations while being as easy as BASIC to learn.
Kind of off-topic. Most offices don't have a bullpen of programmers. Selection bias much?

Re: (Score:2)
by [Shanghaibill \(739463 \)](#)
Most offices don't have a bullpen of programmers.
Many offices have people writing Excel macros, Quickbooks plug-ins, VBA scripts, and web forms. That is programming, even if programming isn't their main job.
Python has a gentle learning curve. It is a good language for beginners.

Re: (Score:2)
by [BarbaraHudson \(3785311 \)](#)
Many is not most. And in this study, they're classifying HTML as a programming language. Seriously (yes, I read the article. Yes, I know it's bad form on slashdot). The study kind of sucks, same as all such studies. Have you ever seen a valid one?

Re: (Score:2)
by [Luke has no name \(1423139 \)](#)
Your post and your signature are classic gatekeeping.

Re: (Score:2)
by [0100010001010011 \(652467 \)](#)
I don't understand how so many Slashdotters don't see that there is 'programming' outside of doing programming full time. It's like claiming that casual phone gamers don't count as gamers.
My boss and his boss's boss don't care how I get a job done as long as it gets done. Sometimes it was as simple as removing duplicate lines from an excel file. I've worked with people that did it by hand. We had a set of VBA scripts to do 1 & 2D linear interpolation because we did it a lot.
Some of our engineering apps

Re: (Score:2)
by [0100010001010011 \(652467 \)](#)
Most offices don't have a bullpen of programmers.
Ding ding ding. You **get** it. We don't have a bullpen of programmers to throw at every problem and develop a program in C. We have Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial, Aerospace engineers that know engineering and maybe VBA, probably Matlab and now more often than not Python.
We have Marketing, HR, and PR majors that are given a task that they're doing over and over again and knocking out a script to automate some TPS reports that used to take them a day to generate. Aggregating data from some excel spreadsheet

Re: (Score:3)
by [phantomfive \(622387 \)](#)
If I can access the libraries from assembly, and am provided with a decent set of macros, I will beat you if you use Python.

It's not the language, it's the coder.

I am reminded that Wozniak used to hand-assemble his assembly code. And he would still have coded circles around you.

Re: (Score:2)
by [0100010001010011 \(652467 \)](#)
Current task from the boss: Classify these engineering plots using neural networks.
I bought myself a head start with TensorFlow. How portable is your code going to be?
Coding and programming is a means to an end for most professions. The farmer that fixes his tractor isn't a mechanic. Doesn't make his money being a mechanic and just knows how to fix tractors because it is a tool they use to get what they're really after.
No doubt Woz could code circles around me for what he was coding for. That's not why I or

Re: (Score:2)
by [phantomfive \(622387 \)](#)
No doubt Woz could code circles around me for what he was coding for. That's not why I or any of my peers write code. It's a tool to get a job done and move on to the next job.
Woz would get done and move on to the next job faster than you in any language.

Re: (Score:2)
by [phantomfive \(622387 \)](#)
So petulant. You must be a joy to work with.
I'm not. I'm a pain, but I get stuff done.

Re: (Score:2)
by [phantomfive \(622387 \)](#)
I bought myself a head start with TensorFlow. How portable is your code going to be?
btw of course assembly isn't portable. That is definitely an advantage of Python.

Re: Ugh. (Score:2)
by [K. S. Kyosuke \(729550 \)](#)
What is "most", really? There is a long tail of code that gets executed very infrequently. What you perceive as your needs is an outlier.


Re: (Score:2)
by [lucm \(889690 \)](#)
A misspelling on the LHS of an '=' operator goes unnoticed?
That's exactly why it's best to put values on the LHS when you do a compare in Python; it catches bad variables as well as using '=' instead of ==.
Of course if it's two variables then it's not as bullet proof but it's still a good approach.

Re: (Score:2)
by [K. S. Kyosuke \(729550 \)](#)
Python seems to have made a major mistake when it didn't adopt Scheme/Lua-style local variable bindings. That would have nicely solved the misspelling problem.


Re: Ugh. (Score:2)
by [K. S. Kyosuke \(729550 \)](#)
And it would make the scope immediately obvious. It's the most concise solution that is actually a solution and not a denial of the scoping problem.

Re: (Score:3)
by [pthisis \(27352 \)](#)
Scripting languages are:
1. *Interpreted*
"Interpreted" is not a language feature, it's an implementation detail. There are C interpreters like EiC (and even assembly interpreters used in things like Bochs) and Python JIT compilers like PyPy.
2. *Run directly from source*
Even CPython compiles to bytecode, which is a tad more efficient than running directly from source.

Re: (Score:3)
by [0100010001010011 \(652467 \)](#)
Why use what is essentially a giant abstraction layer for another language?
Eric Raymond's 17 Unix Rules covers this:
Rule of Generation
Developers should avoid writing code by hand and instead write abstract high-level programs that generate code. This rule aims to reduce human errors and save time.
Rule of Economy
Developers should value developer time over machine time, because machine cycles today are relatively inexpensive compared to prices in the 1970s. This rule aims to reduce development costs of projects.
Rule of Optimization
Developers should prototype software before po

Re:What is the interpreter written in? (Score:4, Informative)
by [steveha \(103154 \)](#) on Saturday July 22, 2017 @09:58PM ([#54860097](#)) [Homepage](#)
There are no Python to machine code compilers out there.
Interestingly, you are incorrect. There is one: PyPy. It's Python written in Python. And it's fast!
<http://pypy.org/> [pypy.org]
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Re: (Score:2)
by [K. S. Kyosuke \(729550 \)](#)
I keep seeing these articles that proudly proclaim some shiny language as being #1, and the interpreter (or a large amount of the support libraries) are inevitably written in C or C++
...unless the language is Common Lisp, Chez Scheme, Pharo/Squeak, or any other mature environment that is written in itself? Well of course CPython is a joke, but let's not generalize unfairly. Not everyone made the big C mistake.

Re:What is the interpreter written in? (Score:4, Informative)
by [steveha \(103154 \)](#) on Sunday July 23, 2017 @02:05AM ([#54860895](#)) [Homepage](#)
Even the Python folks tell you to write your high performance code in C or C++.
True, but one of the smartest things Guido van Rossum did early on was to make it easy to interface C and C++ code to Python. It's why SciPy is winning so big in the sciences; it's the convenience of Python with the performance of Fortran. The libraries that do the work for SciPy are old numerical libraries that are very well optimized, very well debugged, very well understood, and very very useful. So, you can work in Fortran... or you can work in Python, enjoying the much friendlier interpreted language, and barely give up any performance vs. the pure Fortran. The hard work is done in Fortran, and the overhead of using Python to set up your calculations is trivial compared to the work of the calculations themselves.
<https://www.scipy.org/> [scipy.org]
Python also provides a "lab notebook" environment through the Jupyter project. Nobody is going to try to use Fortran or C directly in the notebook.
<http://jupyter.org/> [jupyter.org]
<https://www.datacamp.com/community/tutorials/tutorial-jupyter-notebook> [datacamp.com]
And pretty much every library you might want to use has already been glued into Python by someone. Computer vision? Running code on a GPU? Signal processing? Solving equations? Whatever you need to do, you can do it conveniently in Python and it will be fast.
So yeah, if you write your own matrix multiply in pure Python it will be roughly 50x slower than compiled C. But nobody does that, and in the real world Python is fast enough to do real work.
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Re: (Score:3)
by [LightningBolt! \(664763 \)](#)
> the interpreter (or a large amount of the support libraries) are inevitably written in C or C++.
Whether a language bootstraps itself is super important when choosing a language for a project. /s

Well, gee boss. I realize you want us to build a web API for this internal data, and yeah we have this team of node developers, but JAVASCRIPT ISN'T SELF-BOOTSTRAPPING!!!! We must do it in C."

> essentially a giant abstraction layer for another language?

All computer languages are giant abstraction layers for

Re: (Score:2)
by Snotnose (212196)
Really? That's your response? Python is a great language with a major hole in the middle of it. Has nothing to do with retards, nor H1-Bs (many of whom I've worked with and they are not retards).

Python fails because it's bitch to import code from SomeUnknownD00d into yours, hoping SUD was kind enough to convert tabs to spaces. And to logical spaces. If my code has tabstops of 4, and SUD has tabstops of 2, all bets are off.

Re: (Score:2)
by pthisis (27352)
Python fails because it's bitch to import code from SomeUnknownD00d into yours, hoping SUD was kind enough to convert tabs to spaces. And to logical spaces. If my code has tabstops of 4, and SUD has tabstops of 2, all bets are off.

This is wrong. SomeUnknownD00d can use whatever tab stop and mix of spaces/tabs that he wants and you can import from your code no problem, even if your tab stop is different or you use all spaces or whatever. Spacing only has to be consistent within a single block, there's no i

Re: (Score:2)
by lucm (889690)
Sure, if you're writing printer drivers it's probably not for you, but for people who have to solve business problems, not technology problems, it's a good tool that allow them to do their job quickly. There's plenty of high quality math packages and it's one of the languages that is the easiest to use for database access.

Re: (Score:2)
by K. S. Kyosuke (729550)
1. It does not catch entire classes of problems that compile time checked languages do. 2. It is dynamically typed. What I've actually noticed is that different classes of languages catch different entire classes of problems, not that one class of languages avoids one or more classes of problems while not introducing no other problems relative to some other class of languages. So it's always a trade-off with respect to what problems you perceive as the most painful and for what other problems you're willing to trade them. There's no programming environment at the moment that is superior at absolutely everything. For some

Re: (Score:2)
by gweihir (88907)
That comment just shows you have no clue. Statically typed languages are not superior to dynamically typed ones. Statically typed is a bit better for beginners, but then it stands in your way. Static type safety is just an older hype from the "lets make a language that any moron can code in" crowd, and it basically never delivered on most of its promises.

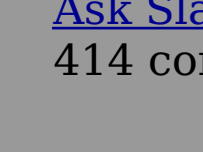
Re: (Score:2)
by gweihir (88907)
Kind of tells you whether you should use it now. And kind of makes checking all the fantastic statements made by the fanbois pretty hard. (Not that it is unclear that most are alternate facts....)

Re: (Score:2)
by gweihir (88907)
You probably have not looked right. There are basically no "C coder" jobs, but there are a lot of "expert in xyz and can also code c". Jobs that primarily ask for coding skills in one language are just for code-monkeys that will go unemployed in the not-too-distant future when the next hype comes along.

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