Ned Batchelder

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Summary

Development — Deep experience building software to solve real problems using diverse technologies.

Open source — Dedicated to Python and open source, maintaining widely used projects.

Community — Committed to skillfully bringing people together and building positive culture.

Personal — Self-motivated, diligent, resourceful, helpful, intelligent, persistent and independent.

Recent career

Anthropic   *2024 – current*

Leading AI research and development, focused on safety

- Member of technical staff.

edX / 2U   *2012 – 2024*

*Non-profit running **edx.org**, the world-wide MOOC provider. **Acquired** by 2U in 2021*

- **Early-stage** architect and developer, joining the LMS team in an engineering org of ~10.

- Developed test-based system for assessing student code responses.

- Designed XBlock **component architecture** for extending content delivery and assessments, enabling dozens of first- and third-party components.

- Built codejail **sandboxing** utility to safely run untrusted student code submissions.

- Consulted on Python development throughout engineering.

- Organized cross-organizational hackathons and study groups.

- Led establishment of the Open edX **open source** project spanning 150+ repositories and 300+ code authors. Developed governance and maintenance processes. Provided guidance on open source topics including code logistics and licensing.

- Primary developer advocate and community contact between edX/2U and the Open edX community. Organized nine **international conferences** and many local meetups.

- Built **developer efficiency** tooling including stats gathering, linters and contribution automation.

Stellated Software LLC   *2010 – 2013*

*Solo **freelance** software consulting, specializing in Python*

- Developer on a wide range of projects, from HTML5 e-book readers to Django web sites to medical cyclotron automation.

- Python training, teaching multi-day **Python courses** for all levels.

Hewlett-Packard / Tabblo   *2007 – 2010*

*HP **acquired** Tabblo*

- Extended the tabblo.com code to book-editing sites, social network applications, and printable web applications.

- Built **Tabblo Print Toolkit** to produce high-quality printed pages from web content.

- Built **Tabbloid**, an RSS-to-print application built on TPT including a print app running in the printer.

- Led development of **ePrintCenter**, HP's web site for consumers managing web-connected printers.

Tabblo   *2006–2007*

*10-person **startup** for a consumer photo-sharing story-telling site, **tabblo.com***

- Architected and led development of an early Django site for interactively creating photo-based stories and printed products including books, cards, posters, and print-at-home photo cubes.

- Built story representation with **multi-output rendering engine** capable of output to PDF, PNG, and both editable and read-only HTML.

- Built access control, database migration, back-office tools, page factory pipeline.

- Led usability testing, improved performance, established testing regimes.

- Contributed patches to the early development of Django.

Open Source / Volunteer

Coverage.py   *2004–current*

Solo maintainer of the test coverage measurement tool for Python

- Developer of the popular canonical test assessment tool, adopted by all serious Python projects.

- Used by **34k packages** on PyPI with 65M monthly downloads, and by **365k** GitHub repos.

- Reviewed and merged contributions from more than 200 contributors.

- Funded by Tidelift and GitHub sponsors.

- Testing nightly Python builds, often writing and debugging issues in Python alpha releases.

- Recommended in the official Python documentation.

Boston Python   *2009–current*

Large local user meetup group with 10k members

- Head organizer, overseeing a half-dozen co-organizers.

- Often two events a month, including presentations, unstructured collaboration spaces, study groups, book groups, and a weekly office hour.

Python Community   *2002–current*

Wide-ranging volunteering in the Python community

- Python Documentation Editorial Board *(2023–current):* Inaugural member of five-person council overseeing **documentation strategy** and direction.

- PyCon US **opening keynote** *(2023):* [People: The API User's Guide](#).

- Ten PyCon US talks *(2009–2018)*: Often-recommended presentations include [Python Names and Values](#), [Getting Started Testing](#), [Loop Like A Native](#), and [Pragmatic Unicode](#).

- Guest on eleven Python-related **podcast** episodes *(2015–2023)*.

- PSF **Community Service Award** *(2016)*. PSF **Fellow** (*2011*).

Brookline Sharks   *2004 – current*
Local Special Olympics swim team

- Coaching a wide array of disabled athletes for swim competition, including my son.

nedbatchelder.com   *2002 – current*
Personal site

- Writing on Python, technology, parenting and more.

Earlier timeline

2001–2006 **Kubi Software** — Architect of distributed collaboration product • Founding employee

2000–2001 **Blue Ripple** — Architect at content distribution web service startup

1997–2000 **Iris Associates** — Project lead for Domino Designer • Architect of Domino XML support

1993–1997 **Lotus Development** — Developer of Domino web server for Lotus Notes content

1986–1993 **Digital Equipment** — Developer of print system software • Corporate PostScript guru

1984–1986 **UPenn GRASP Lab** — System manager and developer for robotics research lab

1976–1984 **Bronx Science / UPenn** — Selective technical high school • Ivy League engineering degree