

A Deserter Returns: What the Java community helped me rediscover

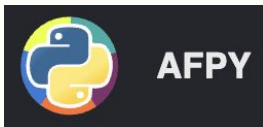


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Thanks!





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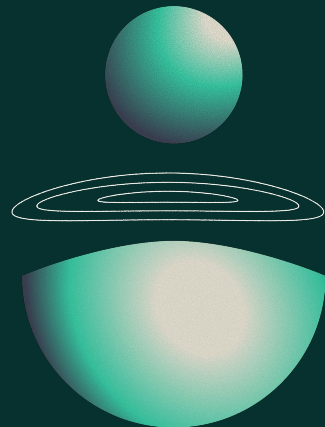
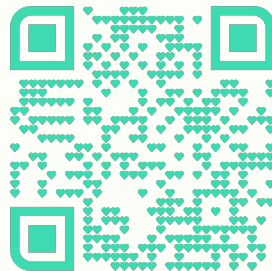
 TitiMoby

 <https://calm.show/talks/>



Thierry Chantier

Developer Advocate Engineer



Where it all started

October 1984: Sinclair ZX Spectrum+

I was 13

Yes... 42 years ago can't be a coincidence 😊



My first lines of code

Sinclair BASIC

Creating + playing

The world is mine

```
4000 REM Handle keypress
4020 IF INKEY$="i" THEN LET y=y-
1: GO TO 5000
4030 IF INKEY$="k" THEN LET y=y+
1: GO TO 5000
4040 IF INKEY$="j" THEN LET x=x-
1: GO TO 5000
4050 IF INKEY$="l" THEN LET x=x+
1: GO TO 5000
4060 IF INKEY$="q" THEN STOP
4100 GO TO 3000
5000 REM Display character
5020 PRINT AT oldy,oldx;" "
5030 LET oldx=x: LET oldy=y
5050 IF frame=0 THEN PRINT AT y,
x;"大": LET frame=1: GO TO 6000
5060 IF frame=1 THEN PRINT AT y,
x;"十": LET frame=0: GO TO 6000
6000 REM Return to beginning
6010 GO TO 3000
9999 PRINT "大": REM The A charac
ter typed in (G) graphics mode

0 OK, 0:1
```

Learning without the internet

No internet

Books, magazines

Friends with the same machine



Atari 520 STFM

GFA Basic

First GUIs

Structured & procedural programming

The Demo Scene

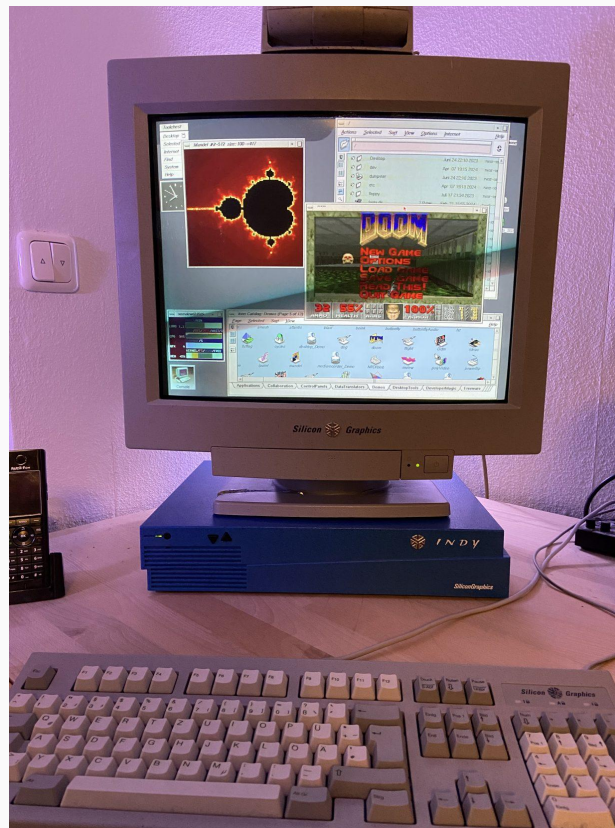


Studies

Forth, C, C++, SQL...

Workstations of the time

Discover Internet access... and Doom



Video games industry

First job: coding for the PS1 and N64

Silicon Graphics hardware

A C SDK written by workstation engineers



Hello, Python

1999: QA Engineer

Scripting & test automation

Community, again: online this time

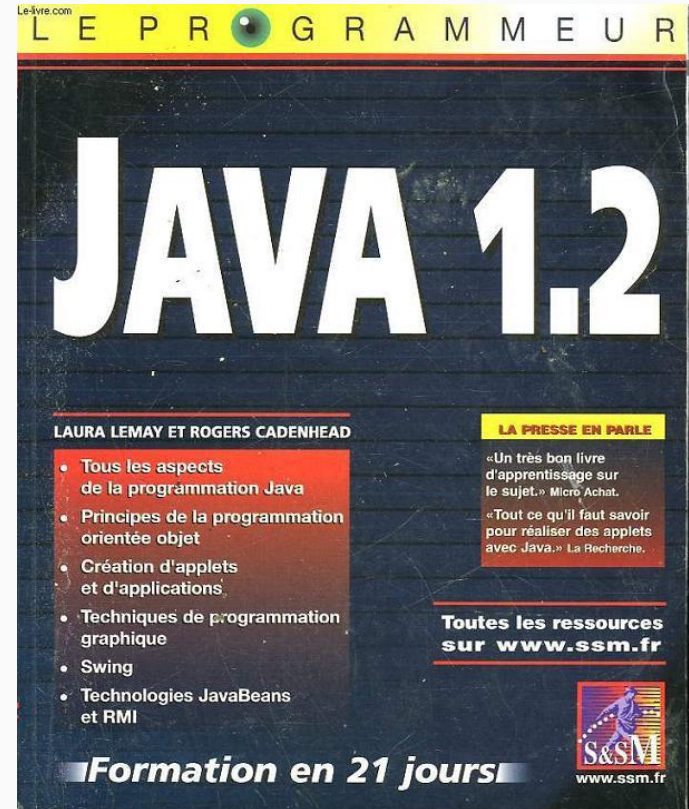


"What is this language called Java?"

The job ad: Java... and CORBA

My prep: 2 books

The reality: shell scripts, awk & SMS

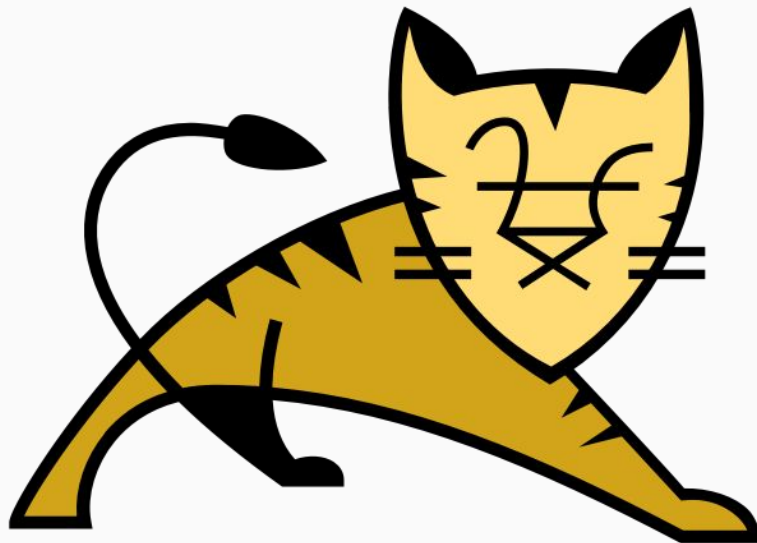


The engineer who went rogue

Asked for: ASP on Microsoft

Delivered: JSP on Tomcat

A few months later: Tomcat in production



There are no bad languages

Video conferencing prototype for a big telco

PHP core + an email server as a message bus

Use what you have at hand



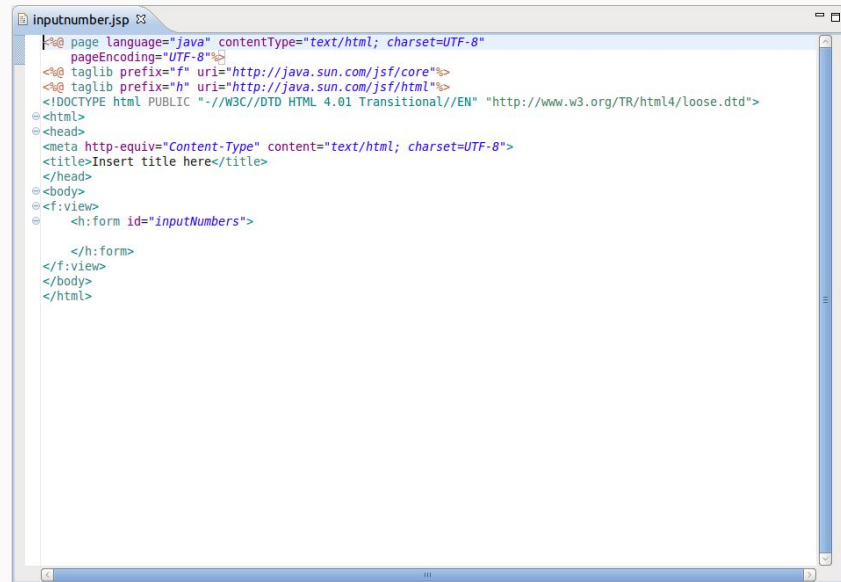
The Java years

JSP, Spring, J2ME

Eclipse (yes, I liked it)

Tomcat: my favorite toy

...and kilometers of XML 🤪



```
inputnumber.jsp
<%@ page language="java" contentType="text/html; charset=UTF-8"
    pageEncoding="UTF-8"%>
<@ taglib prefix="f" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/core"%>
<@ taglib prefix="h" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/html"%>
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
<html>
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8">
<title>Insert title here</title>
</head>
<body>
<f:view>
    <h:form id="inputNumbers">

    </h:form>
</f:view>
</body>
</html>
```

Toward data, and the Swiss Army knife

15 years of daily Java

Oracle ETL then Master Data Management

Infra, admin, CI/CD

Python creeps back in



Python is king

Infrastructure, Machine Learning, AI

From quick scripts to robust applications



Back to Java, through the community

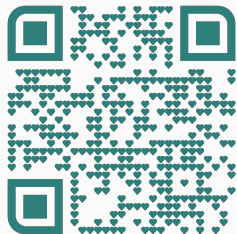
Developer Advocate

Talks about JBang & Picocli

Small CLIs... in Java?



<https://dub.sh/steph-picocli>



The TUI quest

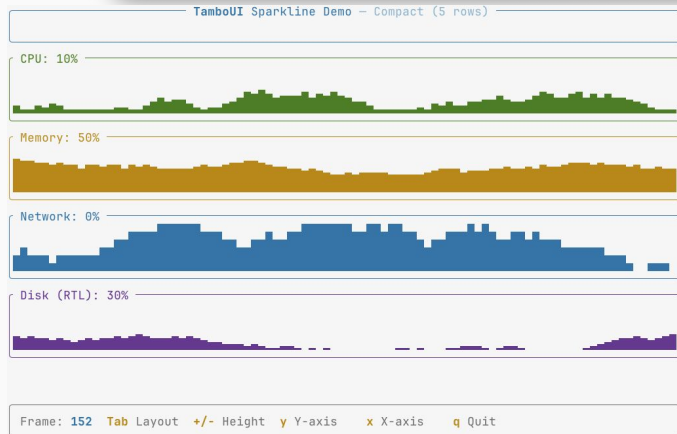
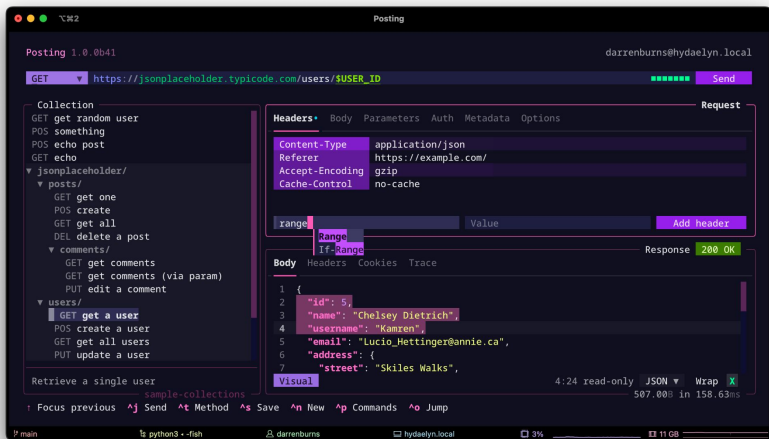
Python: Textual

Go: BubbleTea

Rust: Ratatouille

Java... ?

Then came TamboUI



The joy of Java, rediscovered

TamboUI + JBang + Picocli

Java, in a context that fits me

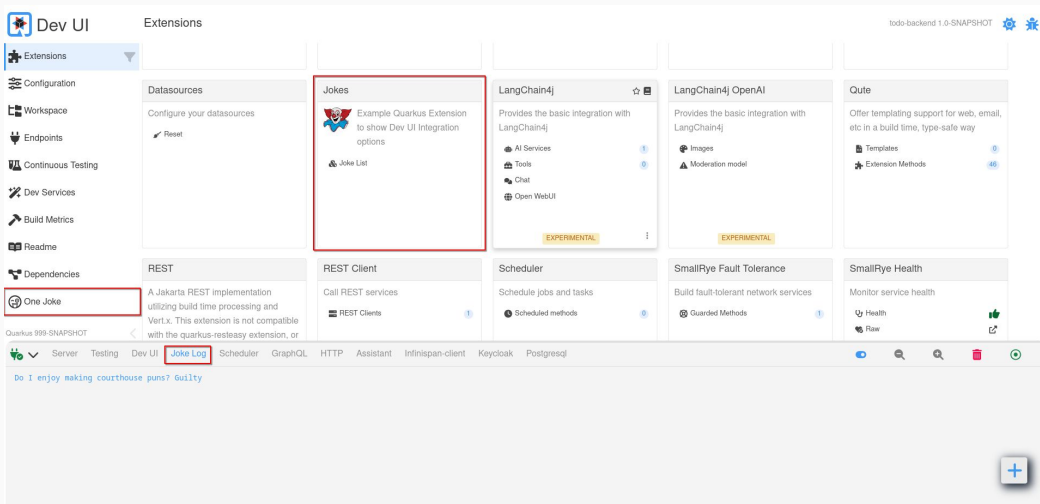


Quarkus and the fast feedback loop

Following Stéphane & Cédric's demos

Quarkus dev mode

Explore fast, iterate fast



An unexpected sidekick: the AI coding assistant

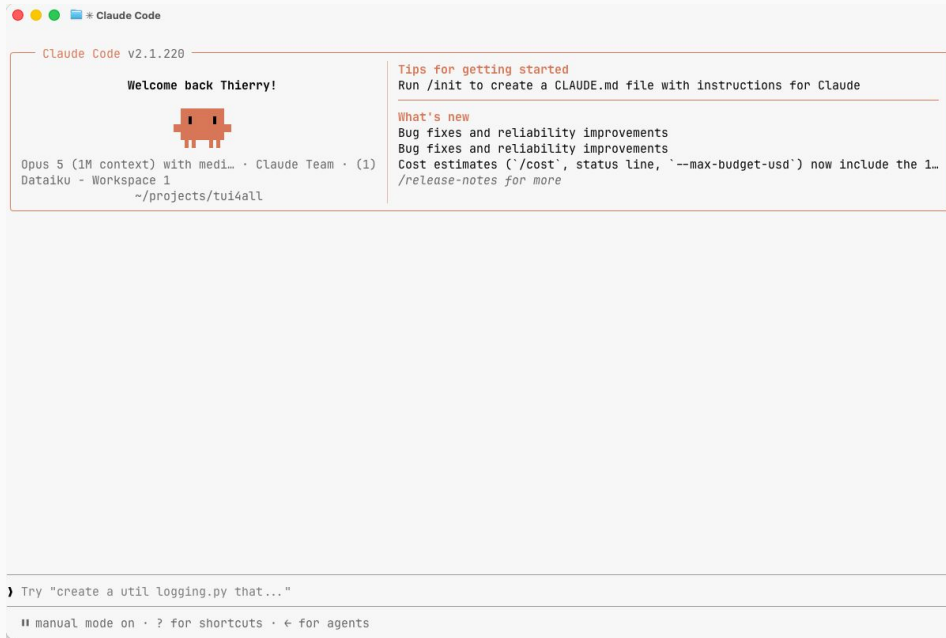
Motivated by the community...

...supported by an AI assistant

Solid architecture basics

+ Java background

= modern Java, much easier



Less verbosity, better practices

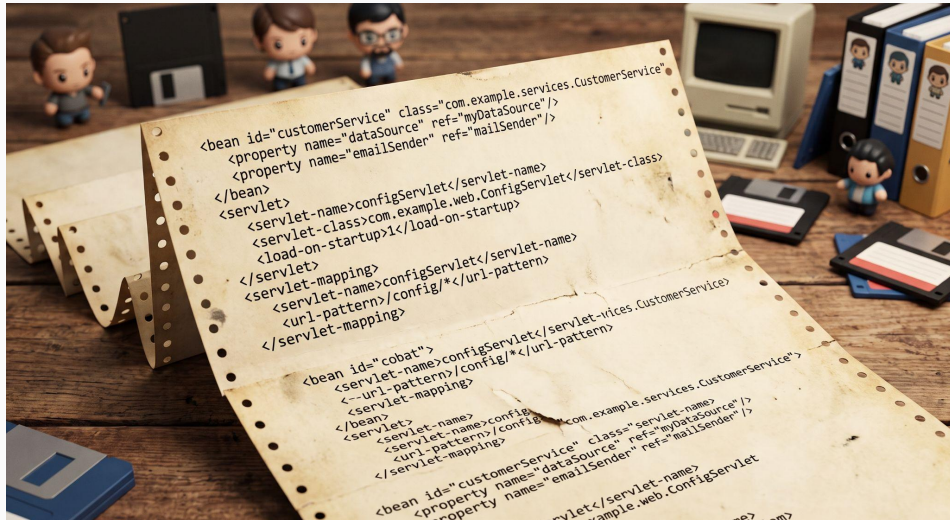
Verbosity: partly absorbed by AI

...but not only

Modern practices

Annotations

Compact source



```
void main() { IO.println("Hello, Devovx!"); }
```

Demo time: then & now

Each language has weak spots

Each one has been fixed... a bit

3 rounds of personal likes



Round 1: one file, run it, share it

Java: `public static void main(String[] args)`

 Java 25 compact source files, JEP 330, JBang

Python: "works on my machine" dependencies

 uv + inline script metadata

Round 2: catch the bug before production

Python: types checked... at runtime, by your users

 type hints + type checkers

Java: safe, but verbose data classes

 records, sealed types, pattern matching

Round 3: doing many things at once

Python: the GIL, threads, but one at a time

 free-threaded Python (3.14t)

Java: threads are expensive

 virtual threads

Python & Java in 2026: my small views

	Python	Java
Shines at	Data, ML & AI · scripting · prototyping	Long-running systems · large teams · performance
Improvements I like	Typing, uv, free-threading	JBang, compact source files, virtual threads, Quarkus dev mode
Still weaker	Raw speed · distribution · large-scale robustness	Startup & memory (without GraalVM/Leyden) · AI ecosystem · legacy image

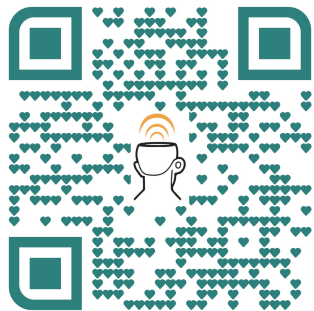
Use what fits

No bad languages: only contexts

Community brought me in, and brought me back

Curiosity + community + (a little) AI

Go try something you gave up on



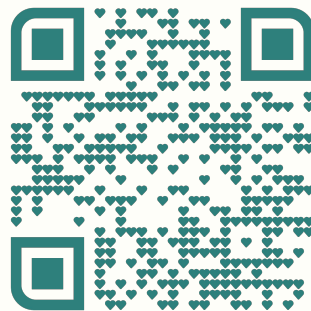
Feedback

<https://dub.sh/devoxxbe2026>



Thanks!

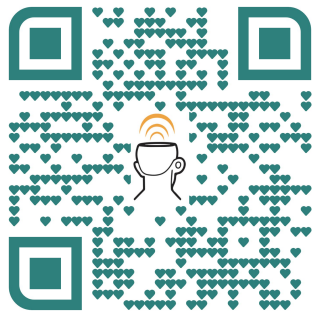
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Slides

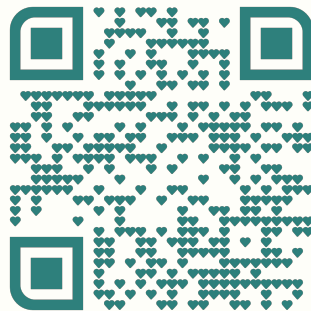
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Questions ?



Feedback

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