The road to PyCon India 2010

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Who am I / What is this talk?

- Freelance Software developer.

- Mainly Python, C, elisp and a few others.

- Active member of Bangpypers

- Organiser of PyCon India 2009, 2010

- This talk is about the behind the scenes work for PyCon India 2010.

- What we did, when we did it, who did it and what we learnt.

Dramatis Personae

- Anand Pillai – Talks, Sessions

- Anand C. And Abhishek – Website

- Vijay – Sponsors

- Arvind – A/V

- Kenneth – Society

- Santhosh – Records, treasurer

- Sree – Swag, Infrastructure, food.

- Kunal – Banners, id cards, coupons

- Anil and other volunteers – Ground support

- Session chairs

- Speakers

- And all of you!

What did I do?

- Facilitate stuff

- Make sure people do what they signed up for

- Make sure that things happen (find others sometimes)

- Put my foot down at times

- Make decisions

What did I really do?

The work

- Feb 2010 : Mostly Society related work

- March 2010 : Nothing

- April 2010

    - Decided on venue (Bangalore)

    - Started looking out for volunteers (sponsorships)

    - Website software

- May 2010

    - Hunting for venue locations (RV vs. MSRIT).

    - Start hunting for sponsors (FOSSEE and ZeOmega approached)

The work

- June 2010
  - Booked the venue
  - http://in.pycon.org Original design
  - PSF sponsoring one delegate from abroad

- July 2010
  - David agreed to come
  - Registrations open
  - Logo decided
  - Gained sufficient momentum
  - Ticket sales started (early bird till Aug end)

The work

- August 2010
  - Wingware offered licenses
  - Vodex engaged
  - CFP announced

- September 2010
  - Talks decided and scheduled
  - David arrived
  - T-shirts, swag ordered
  - ***Conference!***

Road bumps

- Infogami vs. Fossconf

- Doattend vs. Custom gateway

- Buzz was limited

  - Talk proposals came in late

  - Volunteer shortage

- No proper branding upfront (Too many logos and things)

- No contact information of speakers

- Wifi is still a problem

- Logistic isues.

Ayodhya verdict

General philosophy

Over last time

- Significant more turnout (around 700 people vs. Last years 400).

- More talks. Better talks (this is from the buzz)

- Reappy nice T-shirt

- More community involvement

- Society - our own bank account

- More firmly established

- Semi-regular bangpypers meetings

The road ahead

- Conduct this every year (next year in Chennai)

- Make it grow. Fix mistakes. Don't crib. Contribute!

- No one is a delegate. Every person here is a part of the conference. That's community.

- The Indian Python Software Society is established

  - Annual General Meeting today evening

  - Become a member for special privileges and to help

  - http://ipss.org.in

The wrong road

- Don't volunteer and then disappear.

- Don't throw wrenches into the works.

- We don't need "consultants".

- Don't shave yaks.

- This is not a pure democracy.

Ending note

- We did it again

- Start planning for 2011 in a few months

- Join the inpycon list and contribute in any way you can at any time

- Apologies for the screw ups

- **"Always look on the bright side of life".**