

# The Tryton Project

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*B<sub>2</sub>CK*

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- 1 History of Tryton
- 2 Some technical principles behind Tryton
- 3 Protecting the users from wrongdoers
- 4 Community

# Outline

- 1 History of Tryton
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# Tiny ERP

Just like in every silicon valley fairy tales it all started in a student room.

- An embryo of an ERP created by Fabien Pinckaers and Antony Lesuisse at the turn of the century while at the university.
- Written in a dynamic and extremely easy language to use: **Python**.
- Licensed under the **GPLv2 or later**.
- Mainly used by auction houses.

# Tiny ERP grows

The braid is very nice but has some hidden boils.

- Tiny - the company - is created around 2004
- It sells service on TinyERP - the software - to auction houses and the first one that dares to use it.
- The code was kept on a **private** subversion instance
- Later the subversion instance would be opened to partners of the company
- During this time TinyERP gains its first big technical feature: Model inheritance (developed by G. de Menten, F. Pinckaers and myself)

# The fox is in the henhouse

Comes in Robin Hood.

- G. de Menten, E. Delescolle and myself leave Tiny.
  - Technical disagreements
  - Business disagreements
- Fabien hires Bertrand Chenal and Cédric Krier to compensate this loss of workforce (from 5 to 2 developers).
- Cédric quickly proves his capacity by fixing bugs in the entangled, unmaintainable and stinky code that manage SQL queries of TinyERP.

# Cédric & Bertrand @ Tiny

The more things change, the more they remain the same

- The whole code deployed could change overnight
- MySQL AB business model (Dual Licensing)
- The migration script is not publish (and still isn't)
- NIH syndrome

# O A.D. in the Tryton world

- It all started on the **10th of December 2007**
- 1.0 release on the 17th of November 2008 (a release every six month since then)
- Multiple database support
- Complete review of the business modules
- 18 modules (account, sale, purchase, stock, ...)

And more importantly: The principle that  $B_2CK$  should be one company amongst all the other companies working on the project.



# The inception of the Foundation

On the **20th of November 2012** the « Fondation Privée Tryton » was born.

## The foundation goals

- develop and support conferences, meetings and community activities
- hold and administer the tryton.org infrastructure
- organize the community of supporters
- manage and promote the Tryton trademark

# The first (and current) foundation board

- Bertrand Chenal (president)
- Cédric Krier
- Nicolas Évrard
- Udo Spallek
- Albert Cervera Areny
- Sebastian Marro
- Sharoon Thomas

# To stand on one's own two feet

- The code has been almost completely rewritten
  - Removal of the workflow (slow and inefficient beasts)
  - Switch to an active record pattern
  - Use of python-sql
- Some newcomers have never heard of Odoo
- We are more and more hearing people talking about big implementations
- Governments are interested in deploying Tryton (under its primary form or its GNU Health avatar).

# Verticalizations are popular

Filling in the niches.

- GNU Health - Hospital Management, Electronic Medical Record, ...
- Coog - Life Insurance
- Miscellaneous webshops (nereid aka fulfil, people re-branding it (I don't know if I can say their name))

# Life is a bed of roses

Where we have learned to love the tranquility of a stable environment.

- **No** license change
  - Odoo still has some part of the code under its copyright
  - Some authors would not allow it
- Predictability (in the release process, in the migration, etc).
- The community is not teared apart by the conflicting business models of its stakeholders.

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# The zen of Python

import this

- Beautiful is better than ugly.
- Explicit is better than implicit.
- Simple is better than complex.
- Complex is better than complicated.
- Flat is better than nested.
- Sparse is better than dense.
- Readability counts.
- Special cases aren't special enough to break the rules.
- Although practicality beats purity.
- Errors should never pass silently.
- Unless explicitly silenced.
- ...

## ... applied to Tryton

- Be right (decimals, date and datetime)
- Use simple and flat designs
- Use existing libraries (e.g.: relatorio, simpleeval, ...)
- Create libraries when they are missing (e.g.: python-sql, GooCalendar, ...)
- Follow Python (python2.7 and soon python3)
- Provide migration path from one version to another (Hey Luis: **No vendor Lock-in**)

The processes to ensure the quality:

- code review (not enough of them !)
- unit testing
- bots to automatically run the tests and check the coding guidelines
- Blueprint and discussion on the design



# Reusable components

We are trying to ensure that modules are extensible by

- Working as much as possible on the line level
- Splitting the computation in small logical components

e.g.: the way the `sale` module creates the shipment and the way it can be overridden by `sale_shipment_grouping`.

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# The GPLv3 (or later)

## The four freedoms

- The freedom to run the program for any purpose
- The freedom to study the program
- The freedom to redistribute copies
- The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others.

But it is also a **copyleft** license which means (very simply), that you can not add restrictions to deny other people the four freedoms.

The question of the license of module using is often raised. My opinion is that it's a legal question that is difficult and depends on the concept of **derivative work**. Some must be GPL, other can be anything (even proprietary).

# No CLA

## Definition

A Contributor License Agreement, defines the terms under which intellectual property has been contributed to a company/project. – Wikipedia

Contributing to Tryton **do not** require a person to sign a CLA.

We do not believe in CLA because:

- We do not want to give too much power to a company / governing body even if it shows a lot of good will
- They make the contributing process way too heavy
- People can contribute anonymously

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# The Tryton Foundation

## The problem

*B<sub>2</sub>CK* could turn evil.

Amongst the community there was growing concern (from former OpenERP partners) that we would behave like Tiny.

Our opinion is that the GPL coupled with the shared ownership of the code is a protection against a coup of *B<sub>2</sub>CK*.

But there was still the issue of the trademark (property at that time of *B<sub>2</sub>CK*) and thus of the `tryton.org` domain.

They were both transferred to the foundation.

# Why a foundation

Under the **Belgian law** the private foundations

- must have a selfless purpose
- must not provide a material gain to its founder, its administrators or anybody else

**Anybody** can sue the board if they believe it is not following the goals that has been defined by the foundation status.

# The foundation supporters

- It is the democratic body of the foundation.
- It recognizes the involvement in Tryton
- It represents the Tryton community
- The supporter assembly can remove a director by a vote
- Any company or any individual can become a supporter



# Tryton Unconferences

## Definition

Unconferences typically feature open discussions rather than having a single speaker at the front of the room giving a talk, although any format is permitted.  
– Wikipedia

- There has been four unconferences for now (Liège twice, Barcelona and Leipzig).
- They are usually followed by a code sprint
- Putting a face on the nicknames
- Enjoying local beverages and foods

The next one will happen in **Buenos Aires** during the **13th-17th of November**.  
<http://tuba2015.tryton.org/>