

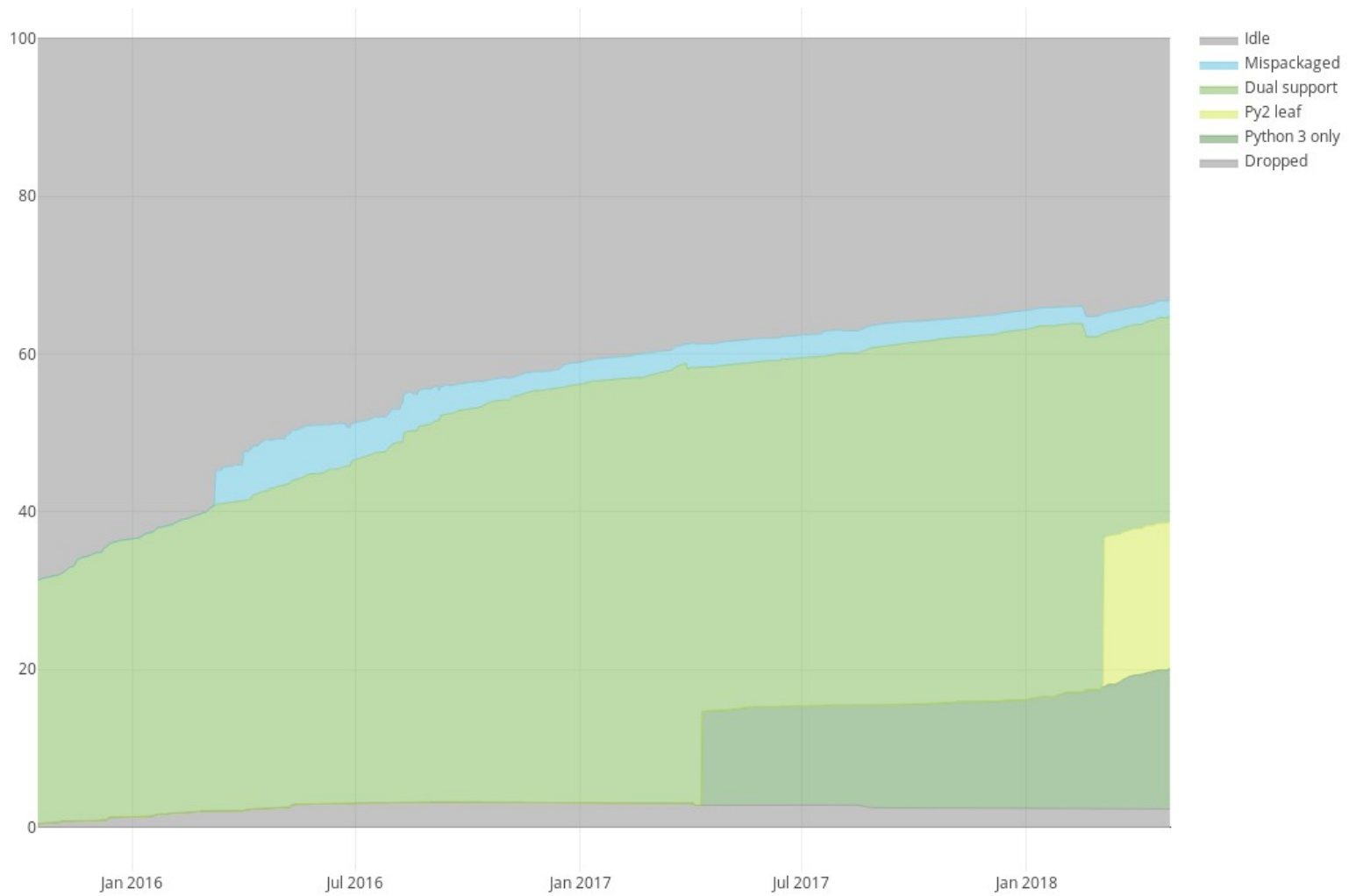
Dropping Python 2

How to help downstreams with converting fully to Python 3, so we can discontinue Python 2 with clean conscience.

What is our quest?

Make sure everyone switches to Python 3?

Deprecate Python 2 and wash our hands?



Major unported open-source SW

- Mercurial/Bazaar
- Plugins: Gimp, Inkscape, QGis
- Bindings: databases, Samba
- OpenStack
 - first release tested by upstream will be Rocky later this year.
- build systems (e.g. for node.js, autotools)
- Sugar (“One laptop per child”)
- system tooling

Community distros

- Lack of interested maintainers
 - worked round by improving PyPI/pip/pipenv
 - but distro packages have their benefits
 - see missing/bad licences in pipenv
- Lack of authority to direct volunteers
 - we can't say “Fedora is dropping Python 2”

Commercial companies

- Allocating funds for rectoring is hard
 - py3 is usually pushed from “below”
 - using Python 3 works as an HR trick

Those who switched to py3

- Mostly passionate Pythonistas
- Should not be hindered

The task (in Fedora)

- Move “leaf packages” to Python 3
- Remove Python 2 support
- Help with problematic cases
- Support 2.7 as long as needed

On gradual transition paths

- Give people a deadline, and they will switch at the last possible time
 - e.g. VFX ref. platform, OpenStack
- Need to actively push for change
 - e.g. Samba, system tools

Little annoyances

- Break something that is documented as deprecated/wrong, but always worked
- Add a very easy but visible workaround
- Encourage people to get help

PEP 394 (python command)

- python should launch Python 2
 - Not guaranteed (e.g. Arch)
 - Makes it look like py2 is still default
- python for 2/3 compatible scripts
 - assumes py2 is always installed
 - will force us to ship py2 for a long time

PEP 394 (python command)

- Desired future: `python == latest stable version`
 - When will the world be ready?
 - How do we get there?
 - Is a py launcher the way?
- Current recommendations are for 3-10 years
- Every environment is different