

No More Spreadsheets! Building PyLadiesCon Infrastructure with Python and Django

- **Speaker:** Mariatta Wijaya
- **Room:** CC 235
- **Time:** Sun 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
- **Format:** Lecture (30 Min + Q&A)
- **Difficulty:** Introductory
- **Track:** Development & Dev Tools
- **Additional Tags:** DevOps, Sustainability & Funding, Self-Hosting
- **Presenter Location:** In-person
- **Experience:** umpteenth time speaking
- **At:** anywhere

Description:

PyLadiesCon is a global, 24-hour online conference run entirely by volunteers — and for years, nearly every part of it was managed through spreadsheets. Volunteer sign-ups, scheduling, sponsorships, logistics... if you needed information, there was a spreadsheet for it. While spreadsheets are great for capturing data, they quickly became a source of confusion, version drift, and collaboration headaches across a distributed volunteer team.

In 2025, the PyLadiesCon organizers decided it was time for a change. This talk shares how the team began building an **open-source conference infrastructure** using **Python and Django**, replacing a maze of spreadsheets with a unified, maintainable web application.

Mariatta will discuss:

- The unique challenges of running a multilingual, 24-hour global conference
- Why spreadsheets became a bottleneck for collaboration
- How the team designed and built a Django-based system to manage volunteers, scheduling, sponsorships, and more
- Lessons learned from building infrastructure as a volunteer-run open-source project
- How you can contribute and support the PyLadies community

Attendees will gain insight into the realities of running a global online conference and how open-source tools can transform volunteer workflows.

Target Audience:

- Community organizers
- Python and Django developers
- Open-source contributors
- Anyone interested in building infrastructure for large volunteer-run events

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