Functional Programming 101

- **Speaker**: Dyuti De
- **Room**: 250
- **Time**: Friday, Oct 23rd 16:30 – 16:50

- **Format**: Talk (20 min)
- **Difficulty**: Moderate
- **Track**: Technical
- **Additional Tags**: Functional Programming, Haskell, Python, Java, Software Architecture, Programming Paradigms
- **Experience**: Software Engineer at Mercury specializing in fintech infrastructure and backend systems with a background in Java and Python.

Description:

Functional programming is often seen as difficult or only relevant to niche languages like Haskell, but its core ideas can make any developer a better programmer. This beginner-friendly session answers why so many experienced developers recommend learning functional programming, even if it isn't used in their daily professional work.

The talk introduces core principles—such as pure functions, immutability, function composition, higher-order functions, and type-driven design—in a practical, approachable way. Rather than focusing purely on theory, the speaker will use familiar examples from Python and Java to demonstrate how these concepts solve common development problems before showing how Haskell ties these ideas together. By the end of the session, attendees will understand how adopting a functional mindset leads to simpler, more reliable, and more maintainable software regardless of the language they use.

Target Audience:

- Developers new to functional programming concepts
- Python and Java programmers looking to improve their code quality
- Anyone interested in using strong type systems to reduce bugs and improve software design

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