Building my own infrastructure when free is costing more than you think

- **Speaker**: Mariatta
  * **Room**: Room 250
  * **Time**: Fri Oct 23, 09:40 am – 10:10 am
- **Format**: Talk (30 min)
  * **Difficulty**: Intermediate
  * **Track**: Cloud and Infrastructure
  * **Additional Tags**: Python, Django, Self-Hosting, Privacy, SaaS
  * **Experience**: Python Core Developer and community leader with 15+ years experience; PSF Community Service award recipient and Microsoft MVP 2026.

Description:

Why build your own infrastructure when there are existing SaaS products out there? While many “free” tools exist, they often come with hidden costs: accepting third-party cookies, having your data used for training, or paying for essential powerful features.

In this talk, Mariatta walks through the creation of her “secret codes”—a suite of open-source Python web apps built on Django, including a QR code generator, scheduling calendar, community feedback surveys, and an expense tracker. This session explores why building custom tools can be a superior alternative to SaaS, focusing on how ownership of data and code provides a level of convenience, privacy, and trust that is worth the initial effort.

Project URL: https://secretcodes.dev

Target Audience:

- Python developers
  * Privacy and data sovereignty advocates
  * Community organizers
  * Those interested in self-hosting alternatives to SaaS

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