Python is a high-level, general-purpose programming language created by Guido van Rossum in 1991. It was developed as a successor to the ABC language at CWI in the Netherlands, with a focus on simplicity, readability, and versatility. Python introduced features like exception handling and interfacing with the Amoeba operating system.

Over the years, Python has grown significantly in popularity due to its ease of use, extensive libraries, and adaptability across domains like web development, data science, artificial intelligence, and more. It is maintained by the Python Software Foundation and continues to be a cornerstone of modern programming.