Happiness in Open Source

Armin Ronacher

Me
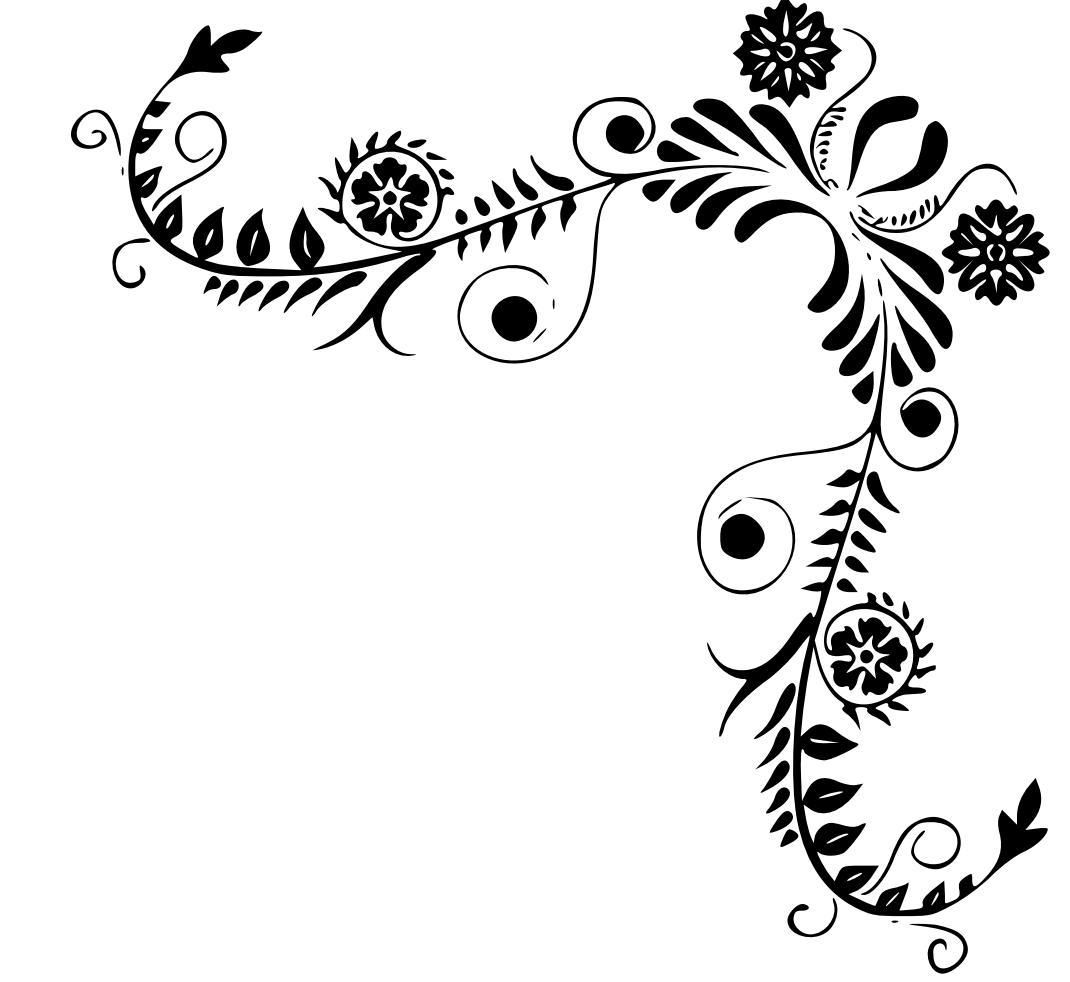
- Armin Ronacher (*@mitsuhiko*)

- Open Source Person

- Flask, Werkzeug, Jinja, Lektor etc.

- Now working on Sentry

Interrupt Me
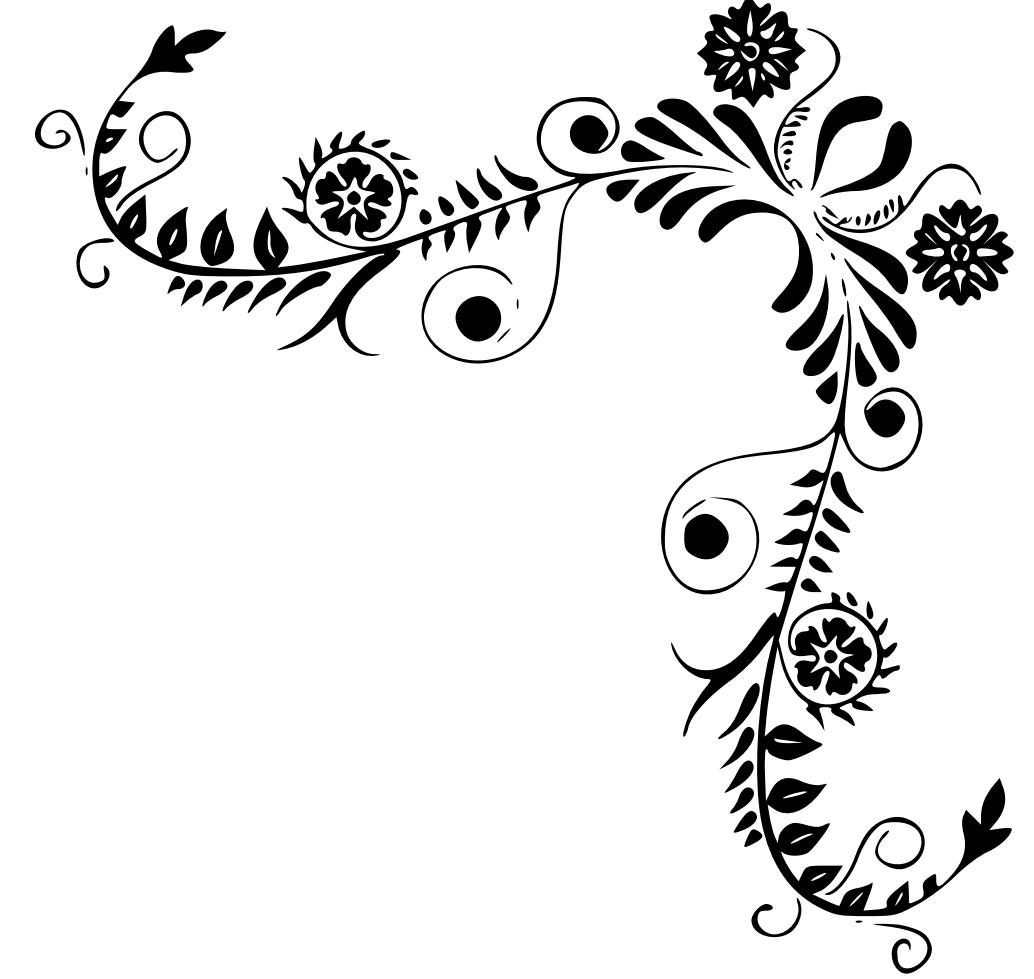
Getting There

The Trigger

- Bought a book by Gregor Lingl: "Python für Kids"

- Stumbled upon the German Python Forum

- The former administrator recommends Linux and with it Ubuntu
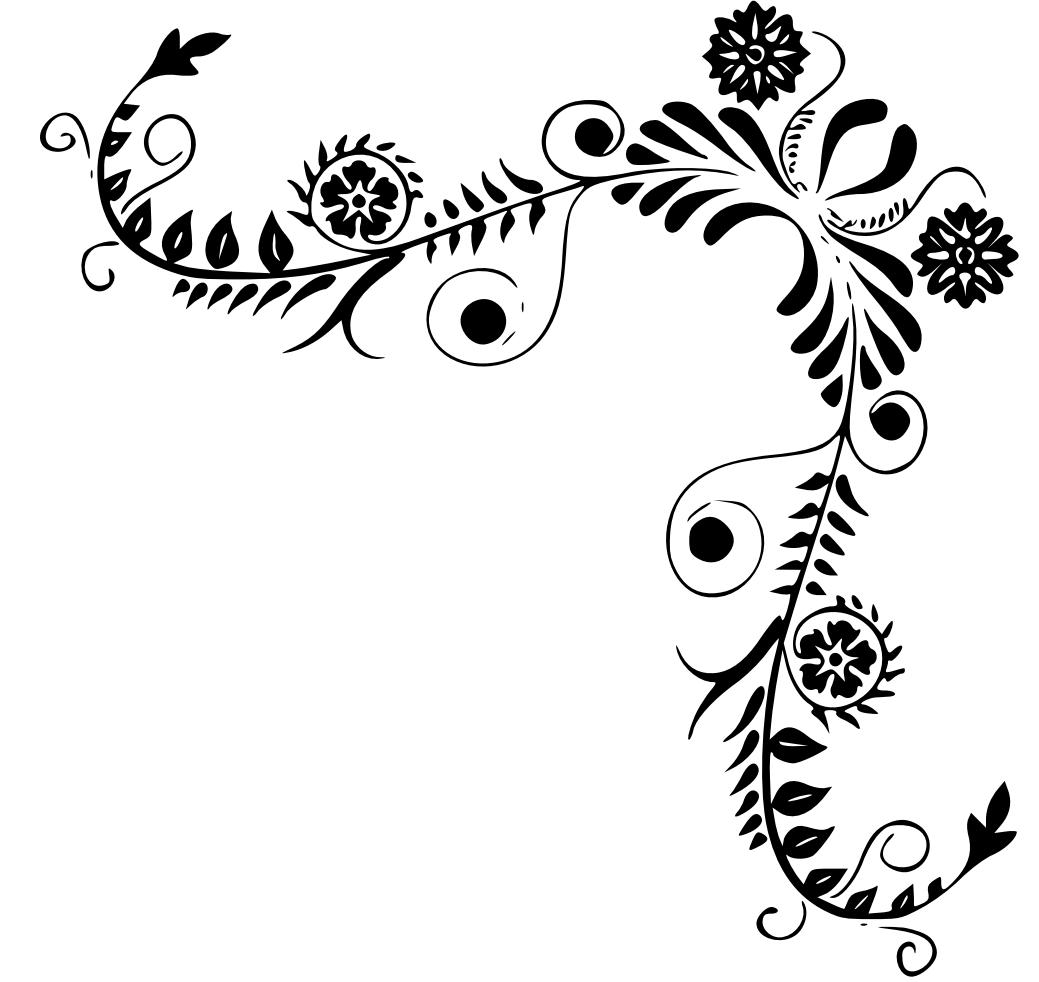
Back in Time

- 2004: Ubuntu was released

  - the first version of Linux I could actually run on my desktop.

  - Little bit of PHP Hacking

    - --> ubuntuusers.de
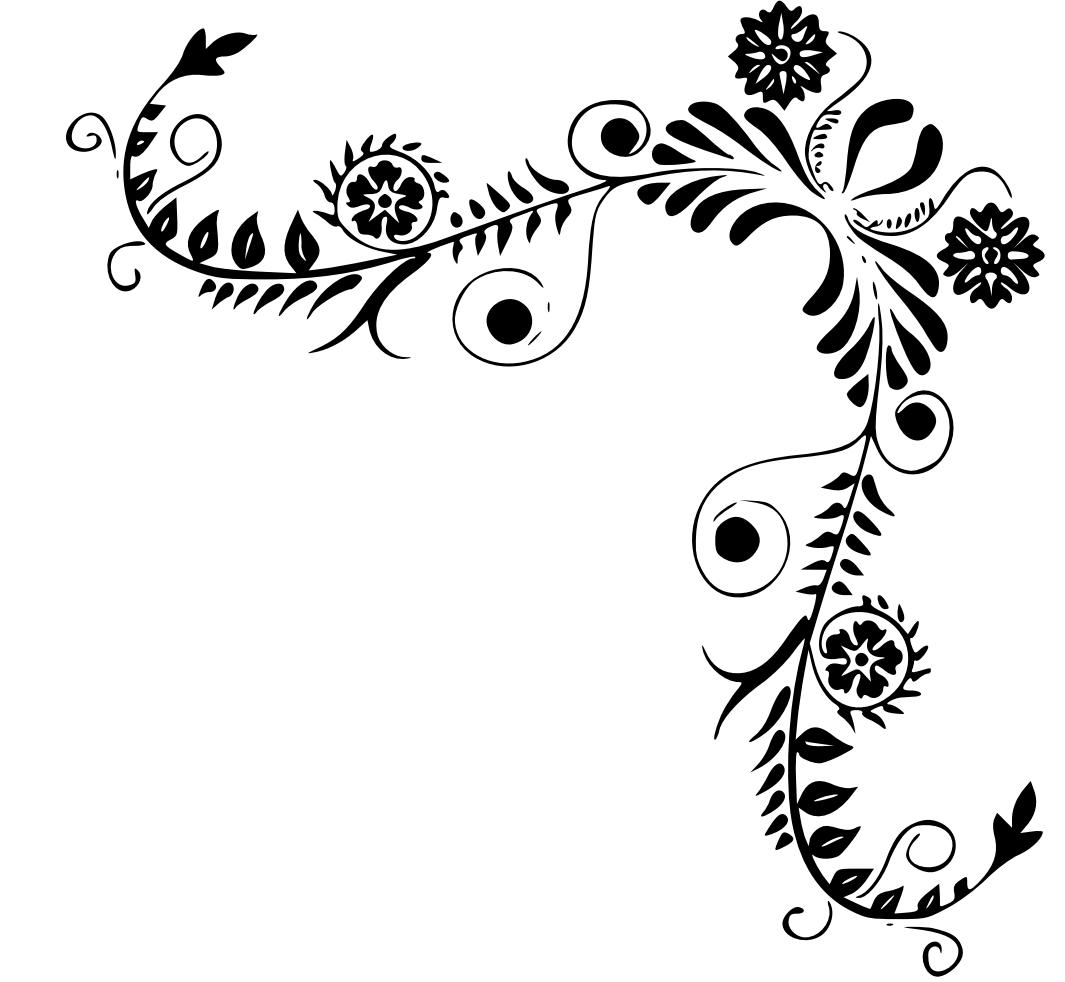
Going with the Flow

- Ubuntu exploded. You could actually see yourself making a "difference"

- got a contribution into ubuntu directly: a simple wallpaper and some translations

Growing Big
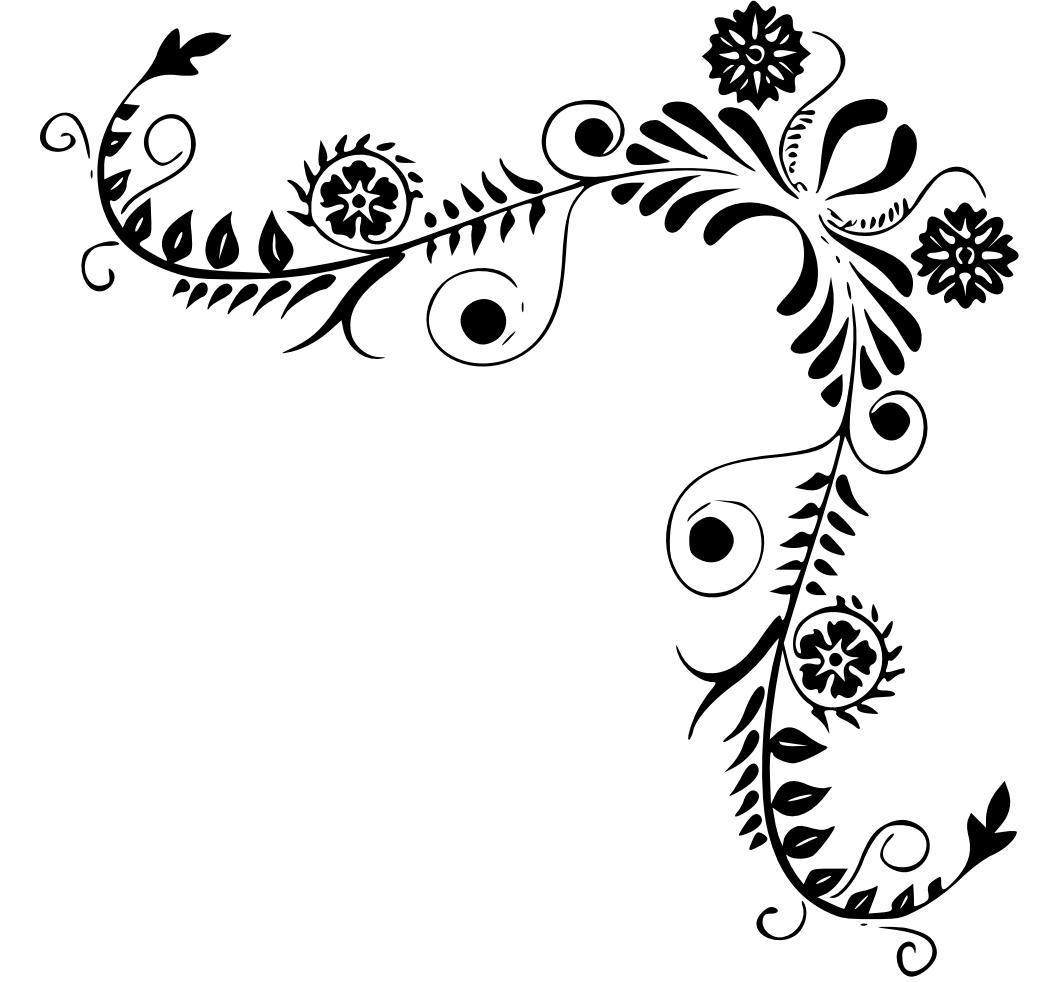
- Founding of the German ubuntu society

- Scaling website to multiple servers

- The politics start

Why did it happen?
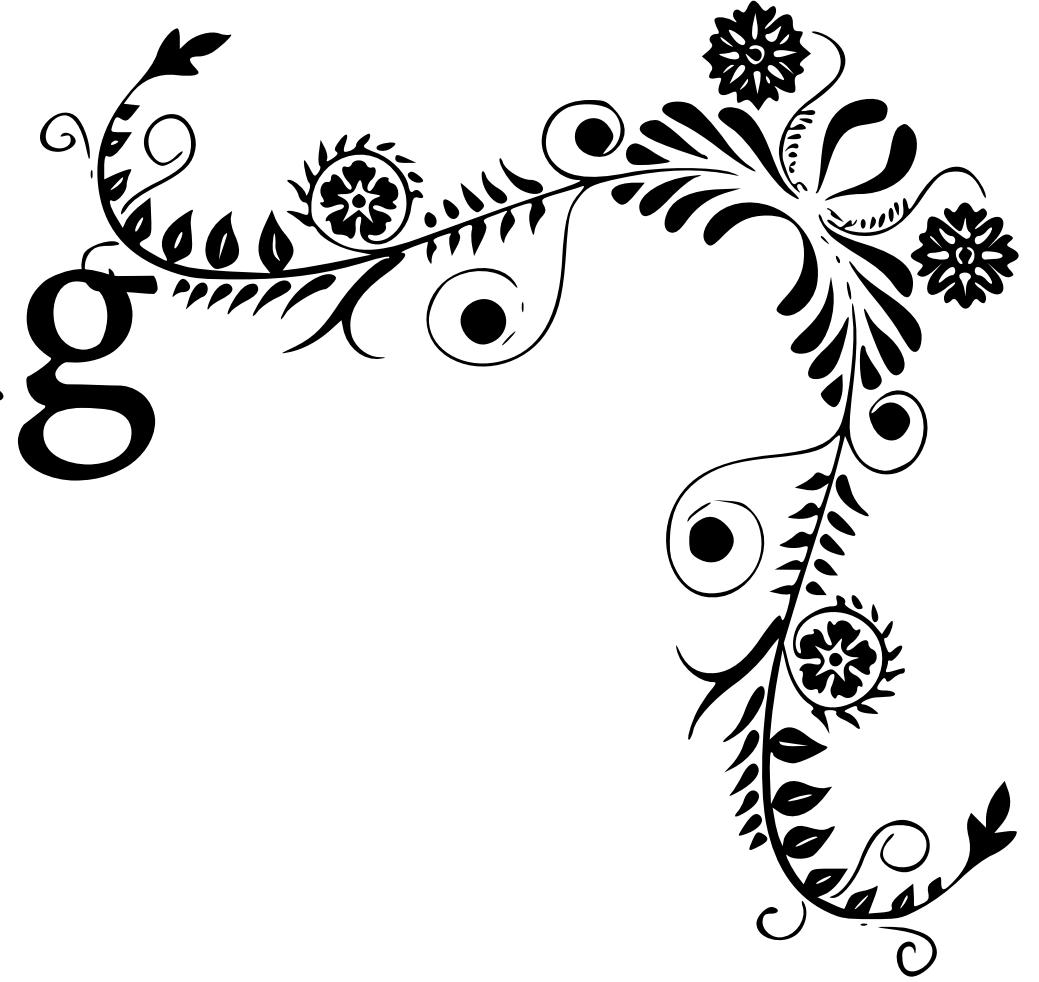
# Hermagor

- My Hometown

- Population: 1.500

- People with an interest in technology: few

- Enter the internet
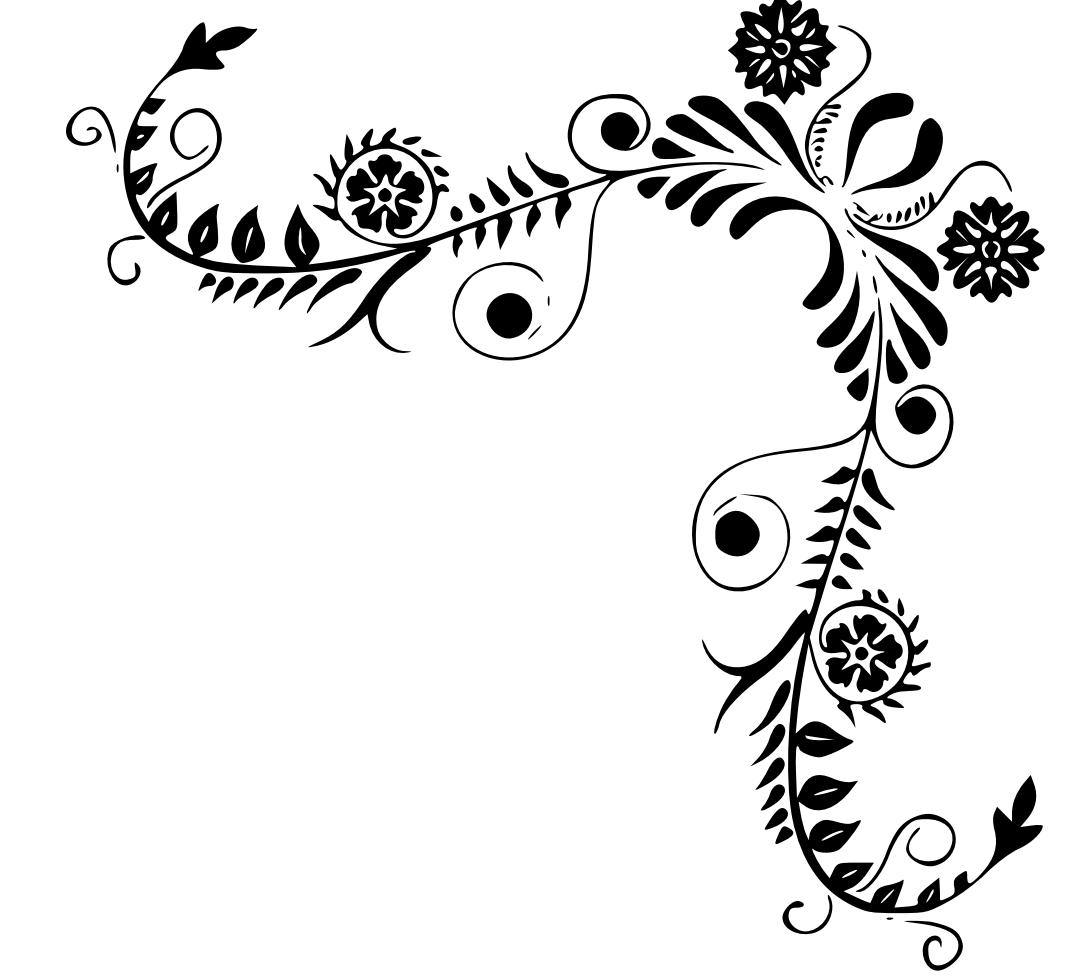
Next Step: Programming

- Diving into Python development

- learning real programming

- Getting in contact with other Python developers (Georg Brandl)
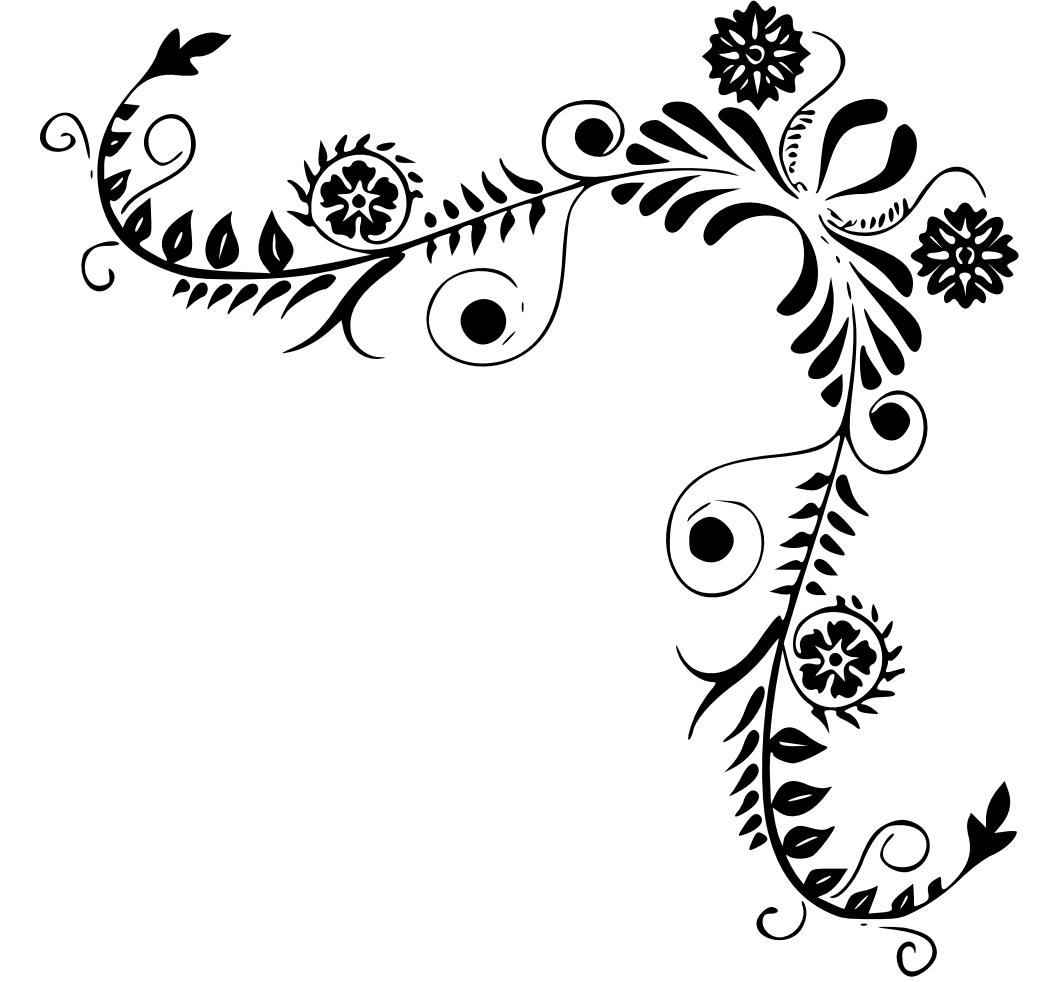
Learning

- Jinja -> Templates without Django

- Copy pasting code over, trying to improve it

- Learning on IRC from a guy who actually knows parsers.
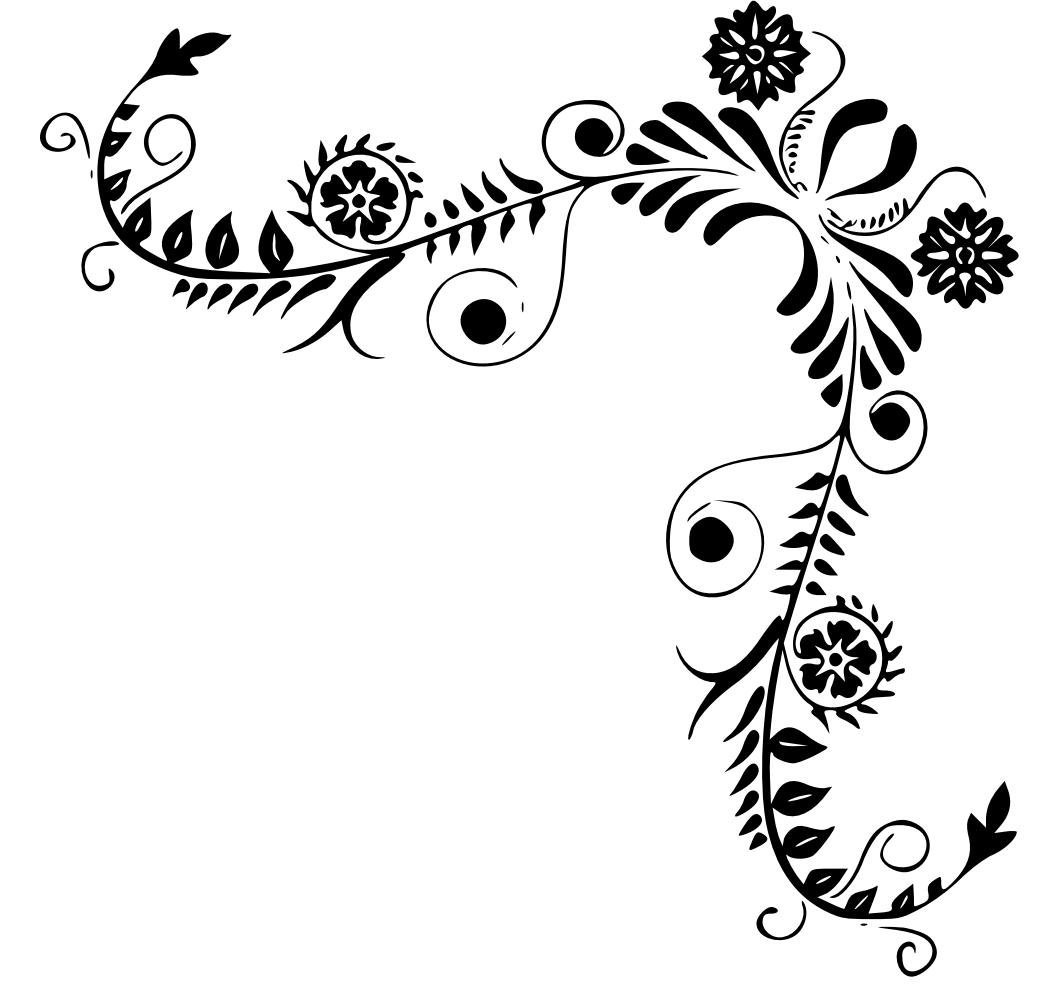
Release

- First implementation was crap

- Did not stop me from publishing it though

- What is a license?
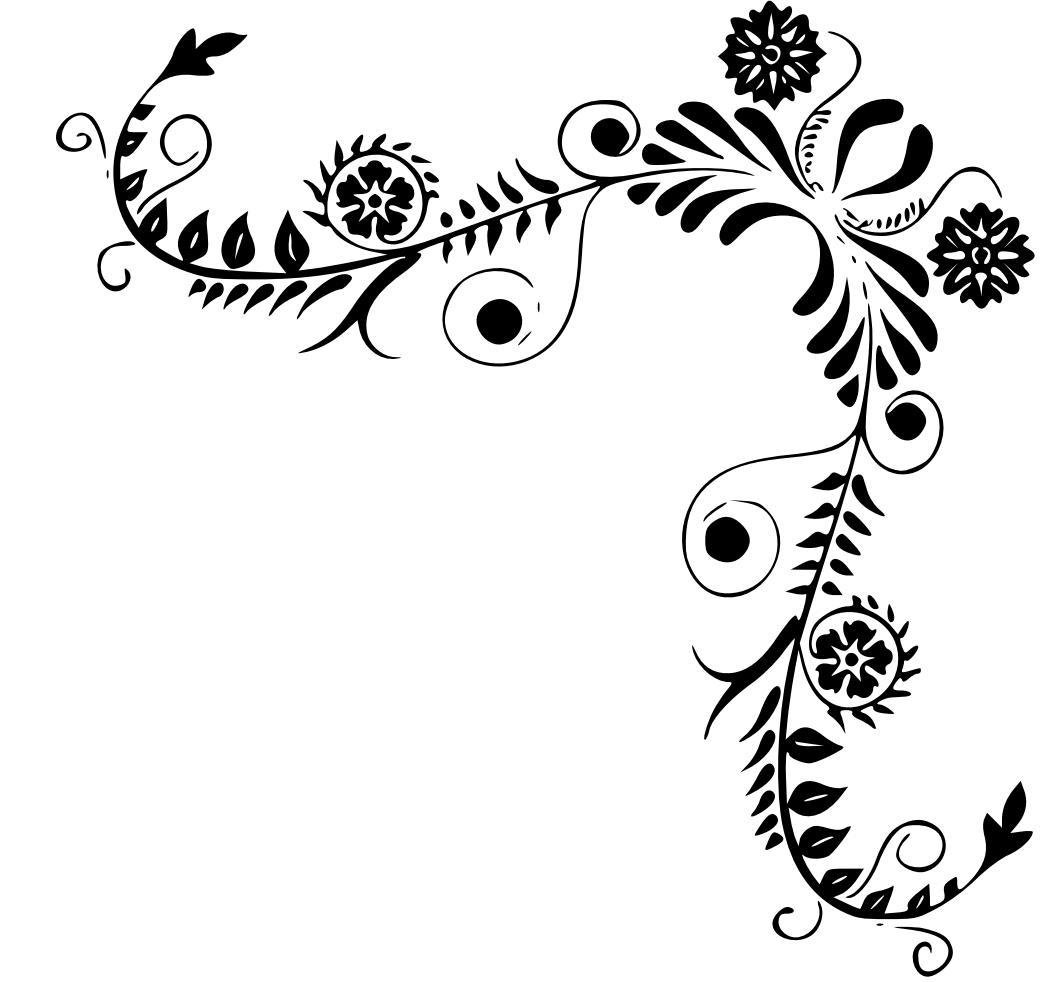
Open?

- You can do whatever you want with it.

- Wrong
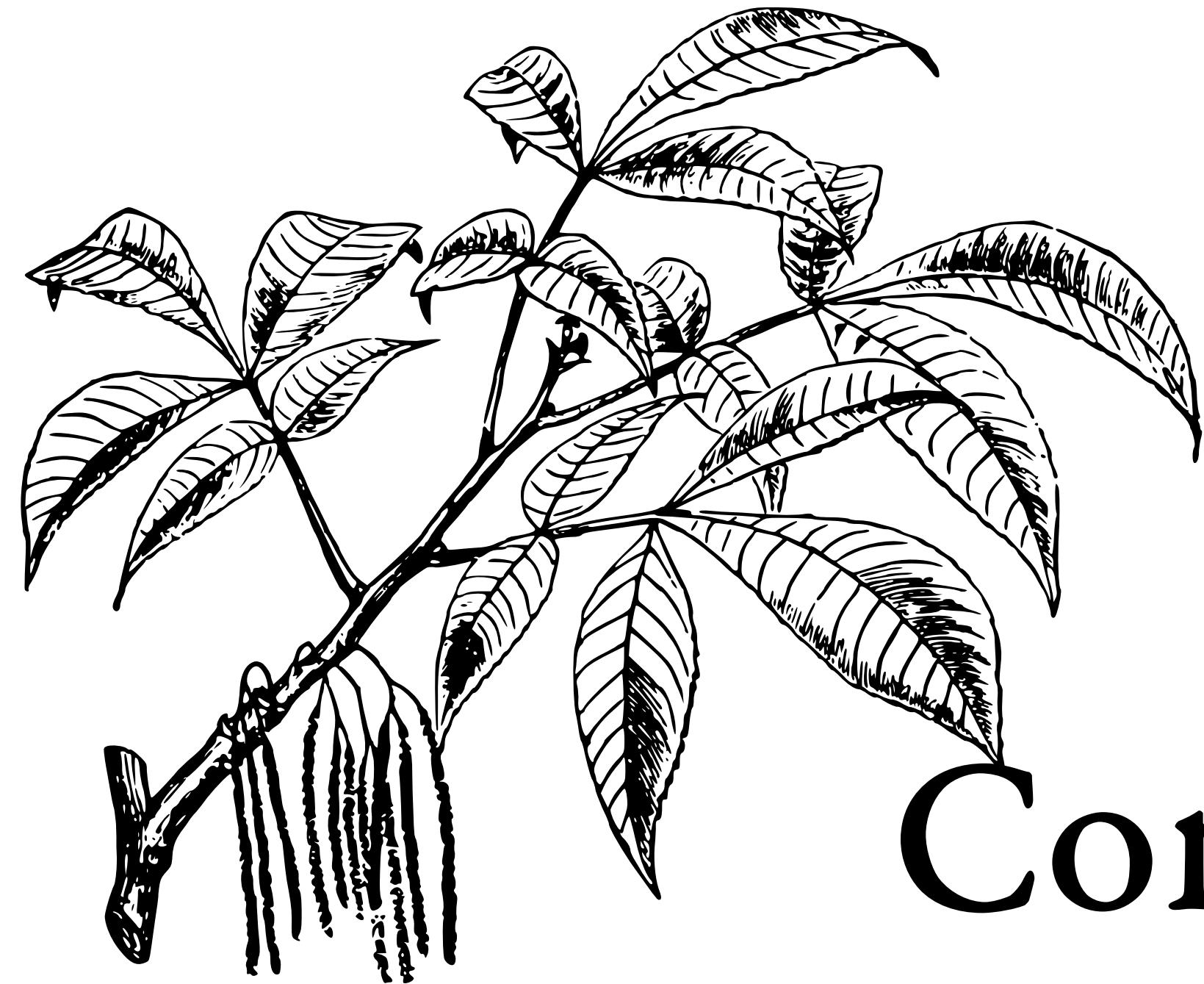
Stumbling Blocks
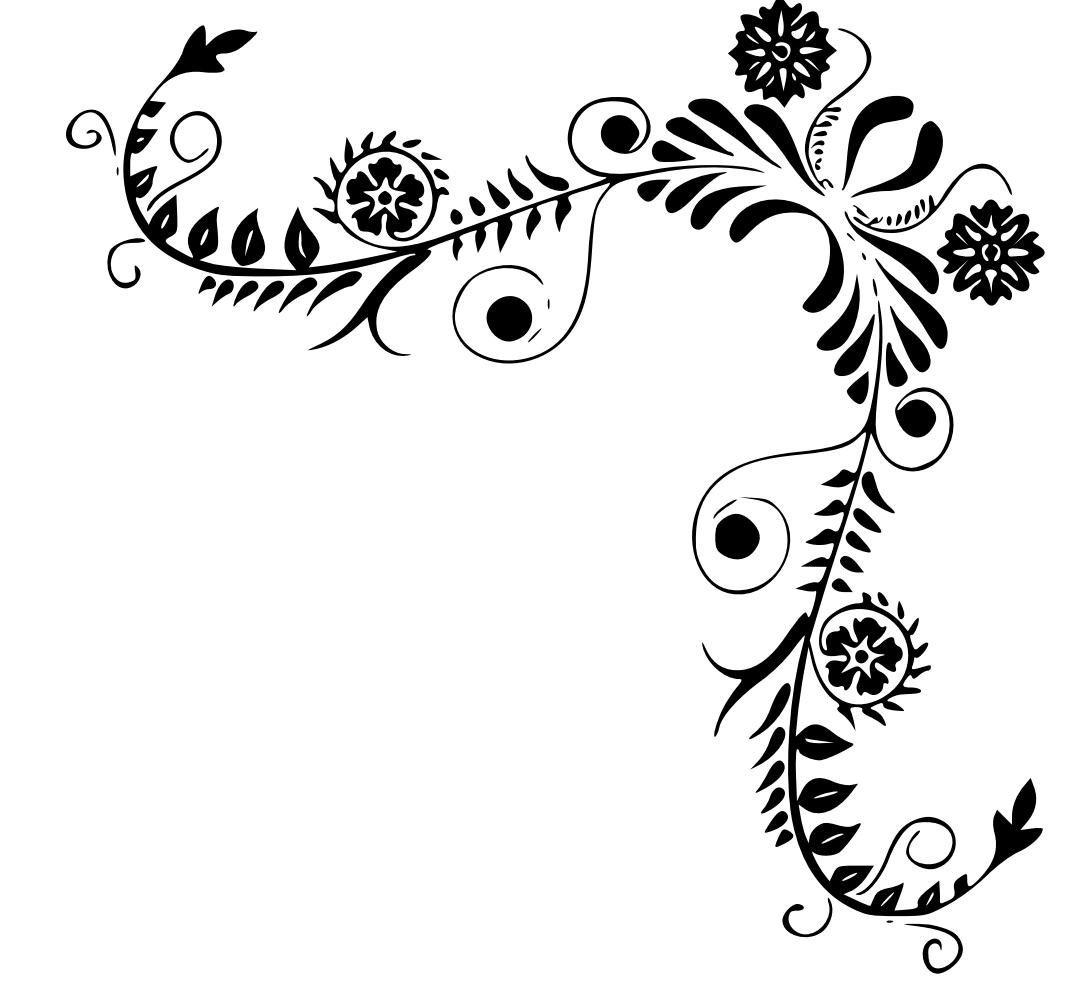
- Jacob Kaplan–Moss sends me a mail that some of the leftover code from Django in Jinja is missing the License declaration.

- Learning on Licensing
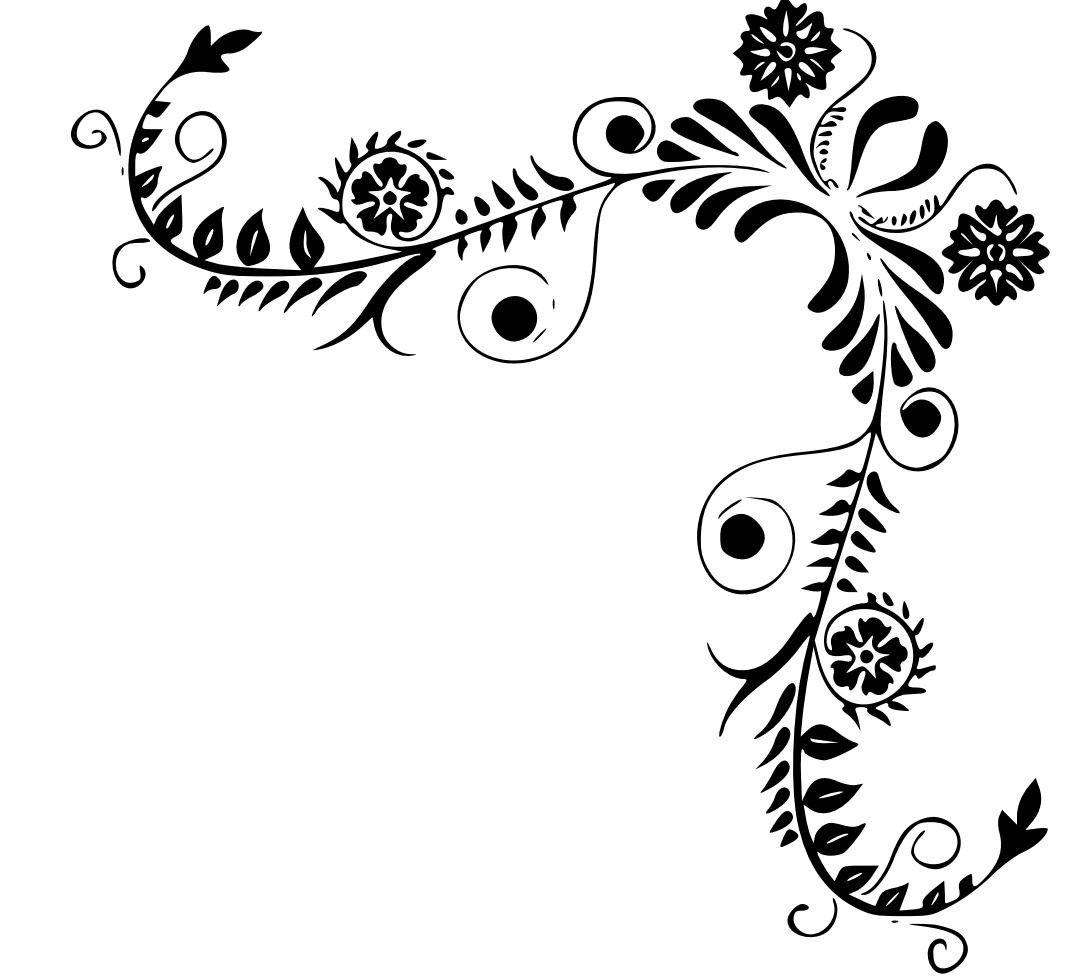
Communication & Culture

People

- There is a difference between IRC and RL

- Textual communication can be a problem

- IRC/mail does not transfer emotions

- Different cultures
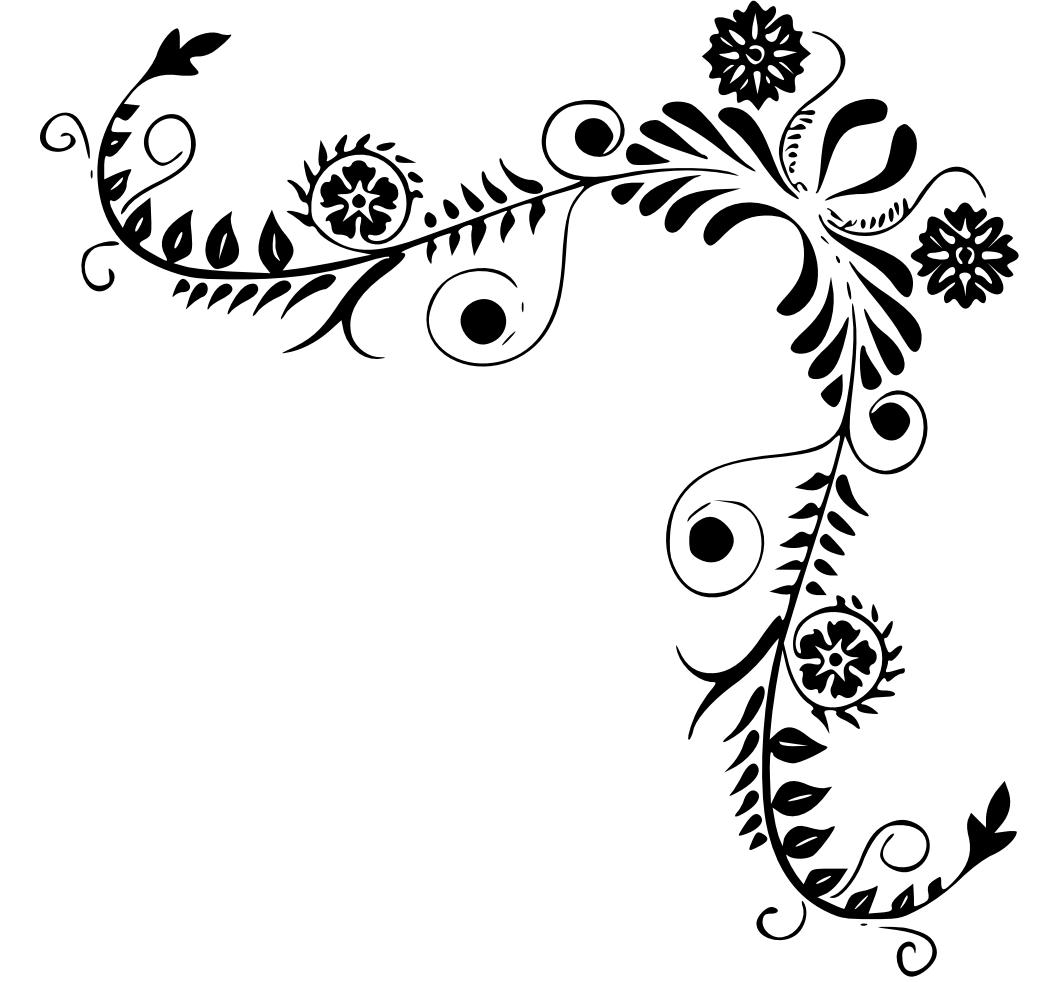
Licensing

- Horrible, horrible, horrible, horrible, horrible, horrible, horrible, bad, bad, bad, bad, AAAAaaaargh

- And you can seriously hurt yourself

Goals

- Often you don't want what others do

- And that might not even be obvious

- Learn to say no
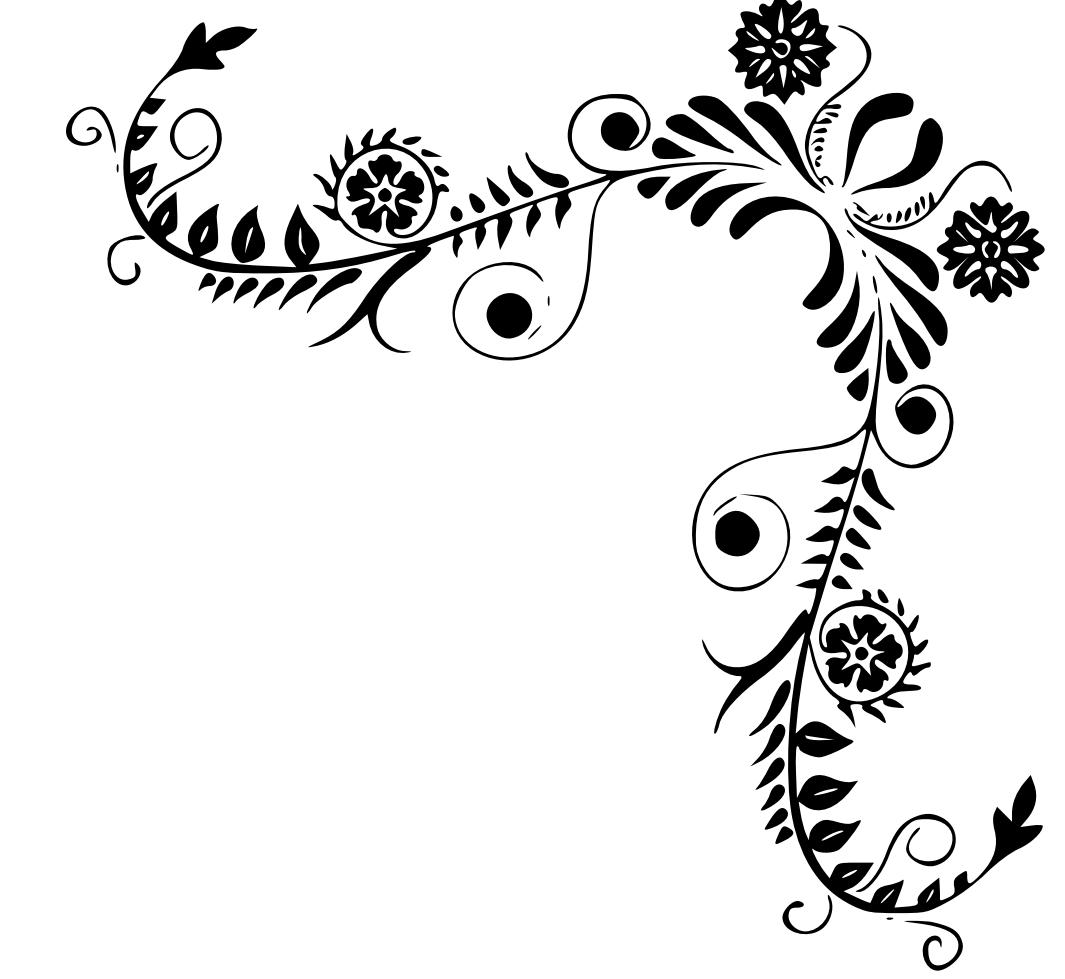
Why do it?

Why Open Source?

- Fun

- Rewarding

- Networking for shy people

- A common ground
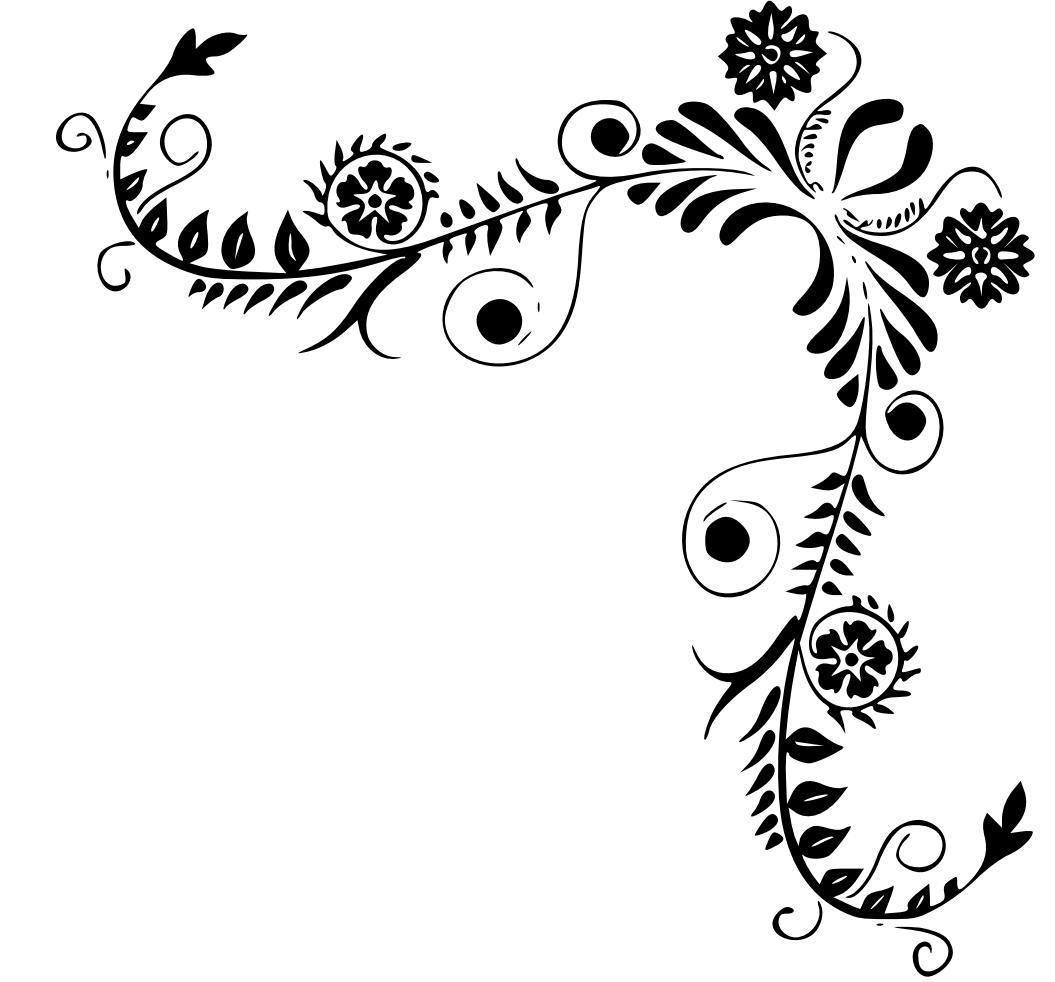
Learning

- I learn by failing and communicating with others.

- If it wasn't for the open source community I wouldn't be able to find people to talk to.

  - Cross language / border

It pays off
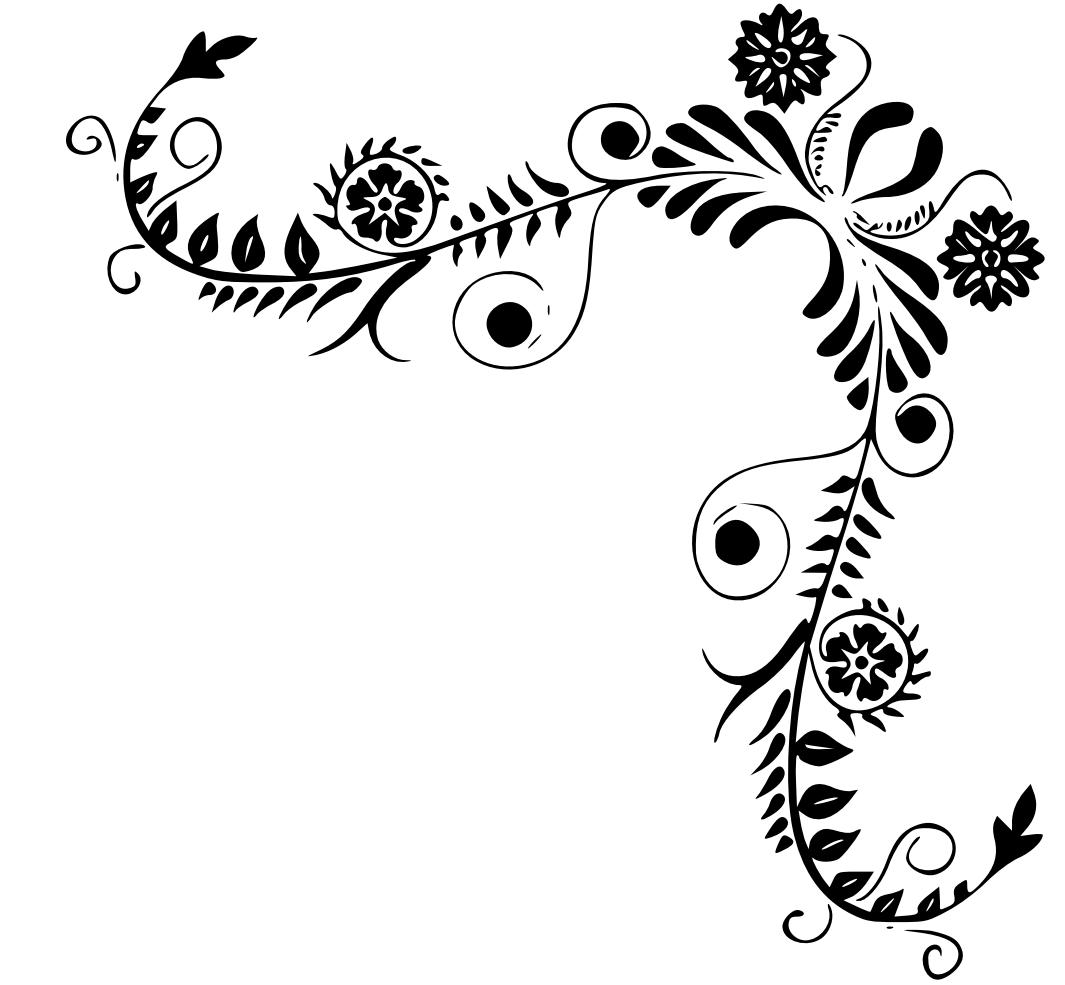
- Learning new things

- Getting introduced to interesting people

- The thrill of working together

- Happiness when you see your stuff being used
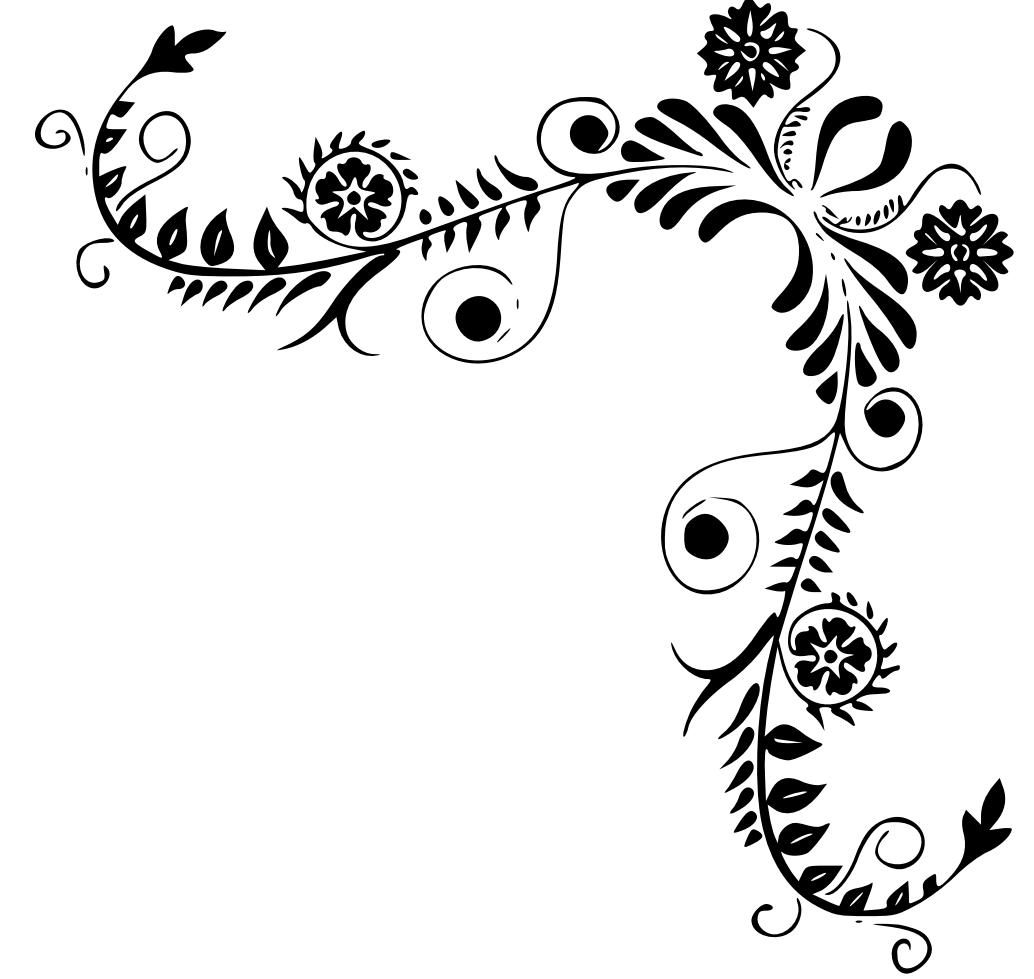
Staying Motivated

Use It

- You can only build things you use yourself

- Let other's chime in when you stop using it

- Stop using it if you find something better / you need to use something else

Be More Boring

- Sometimes it's important to stay boring

- Don't get carried away by the latest trends

- Don't overstep the original goals

Licensing

BSD or GTFO

- All popular Python modules are MIT/BSD licensed with the occasional LGPL one

- Commercial modules are very, very rare

- GPL libraries ends up being mostly unused

- Why?

Forced Contributions

- "99% of useful code contributions come from people who are motivated to participate in the project regardless of what the license tells them they have to do." — *Steve Streeting*

Money: Case Studies
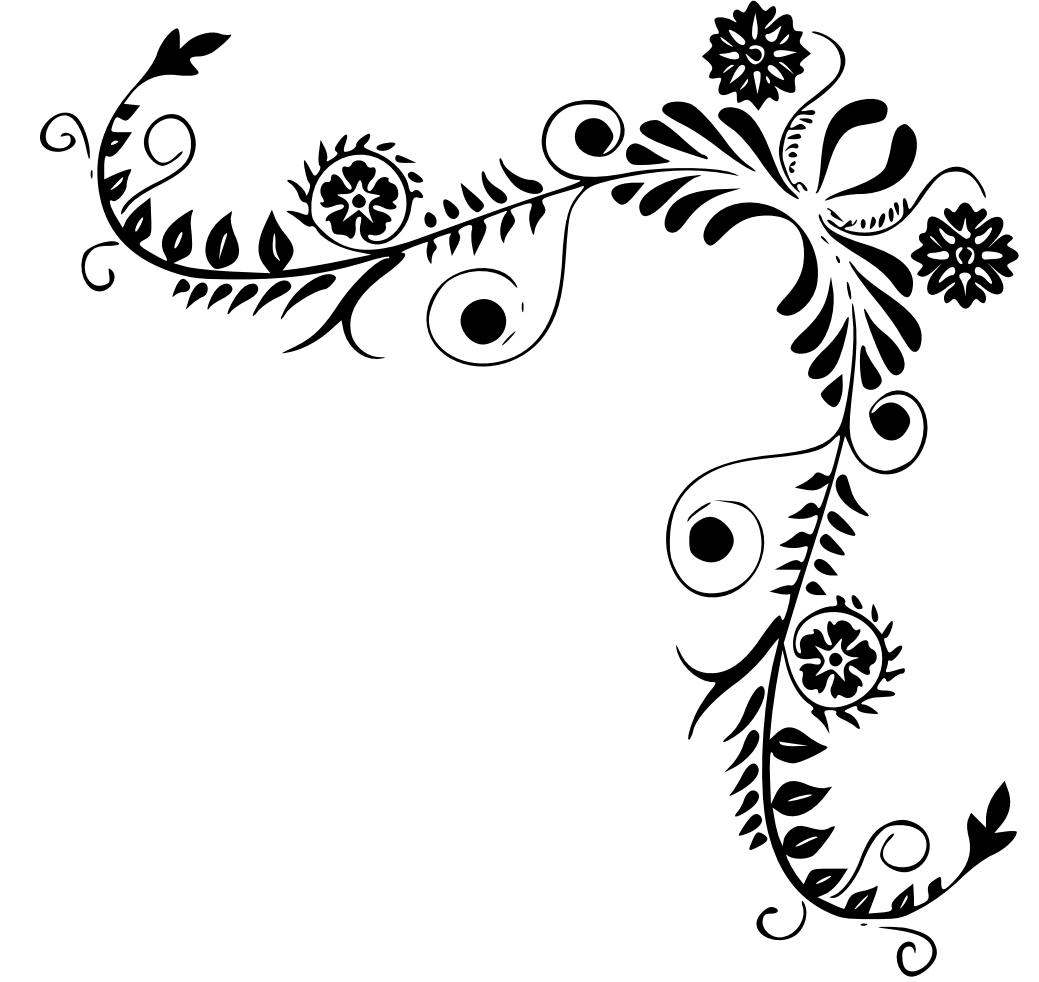
Making Money

- Selling the software?

  - Libraries vs Applications

- Selling support?

- BSD/MIT/zlib

Flask

- Impossible to sell

- However an amazing way to bootstrap a career

- More than possible to sell consulting

Sentry

- Open Source not Open Core

- Puts us where others cannot be

- Bootstrapped

Thank You

Contact

- Armin Ronacher (@mitsuhiko)

- http://lucumr.pocoo.org/

- http://www.getsentry.com/