

FreeCAD

A hackable design platform

Yorik van Havre FOSDEM 2015

Please tweet with #FreeCAD

Interrupt me when you want

 PDF of this talk on http://yorik.uncreated.net

 This presentation is shamelessly copied from a talk by Ryan Gordon

Yorik van Havre

 Architect (houses, not information), and one of the main FreeCAD devs

http://yorik.uncreated.net

yorik@uncreated.net

@yorikvanhavre

Self-promotion moment (You can skip in 5...4...3...)



http://www.freecadweb.org

Homepage with download info, etc

Documentation wiki

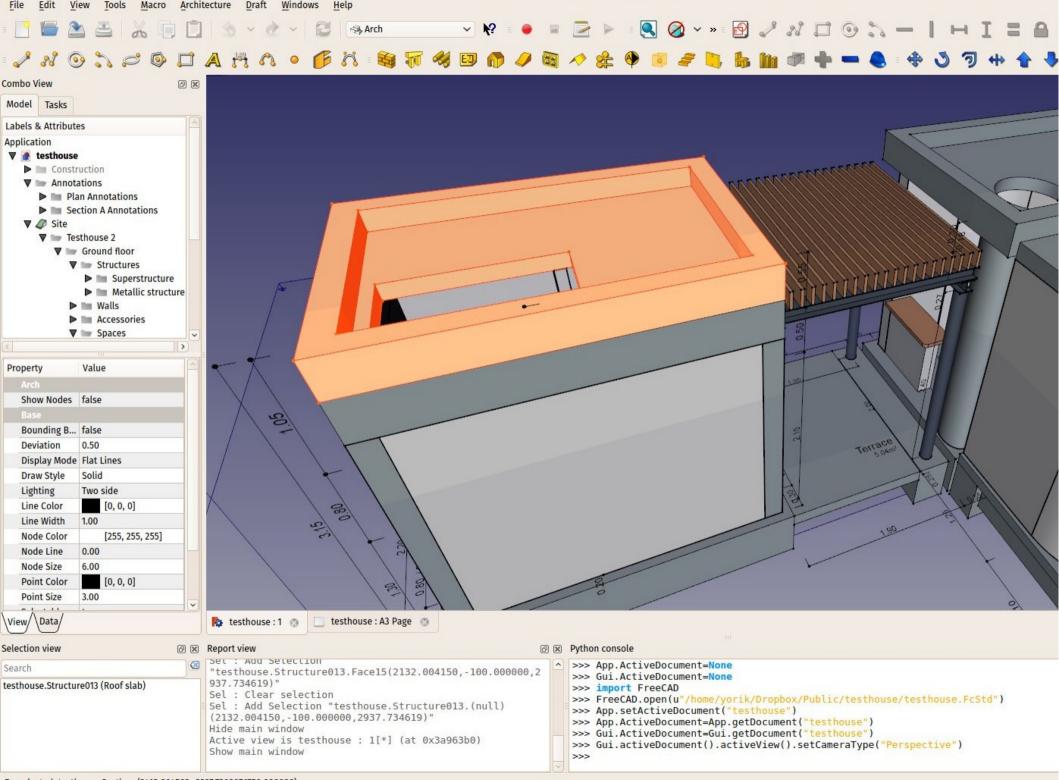
VERY active forum (← go there)

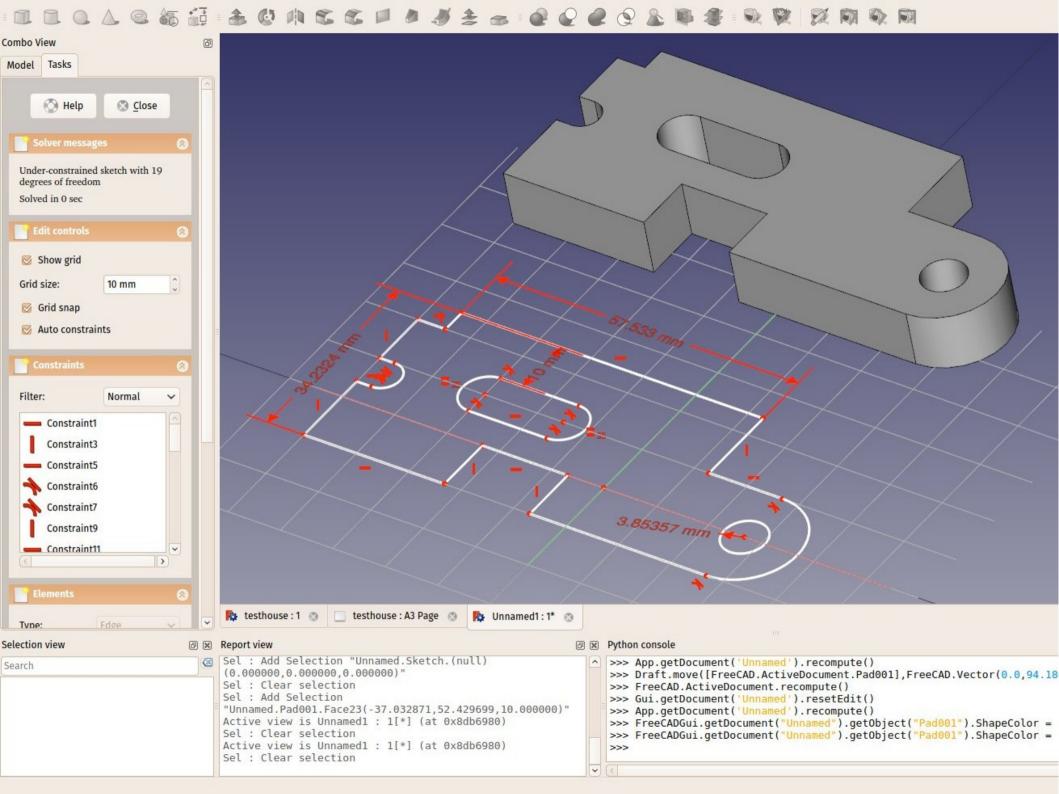
Bug tracker

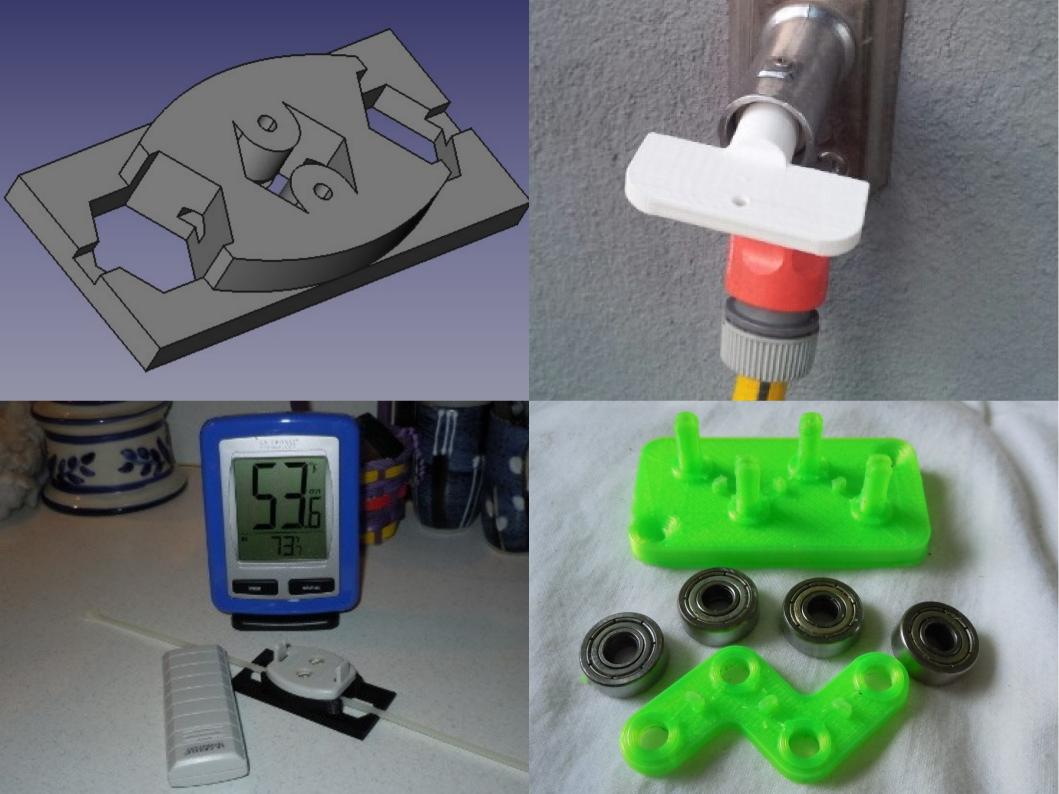
What is FreeCAD

 Made to model "anything that will be built in the real world"

- Parametric (3D objects are controlled by parameters, for ex. Height or Length, or another object)
- LOVES standards







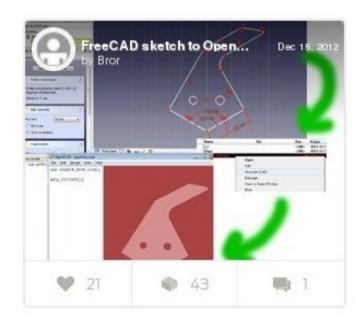
Advanced Search

Sort: Relevant >





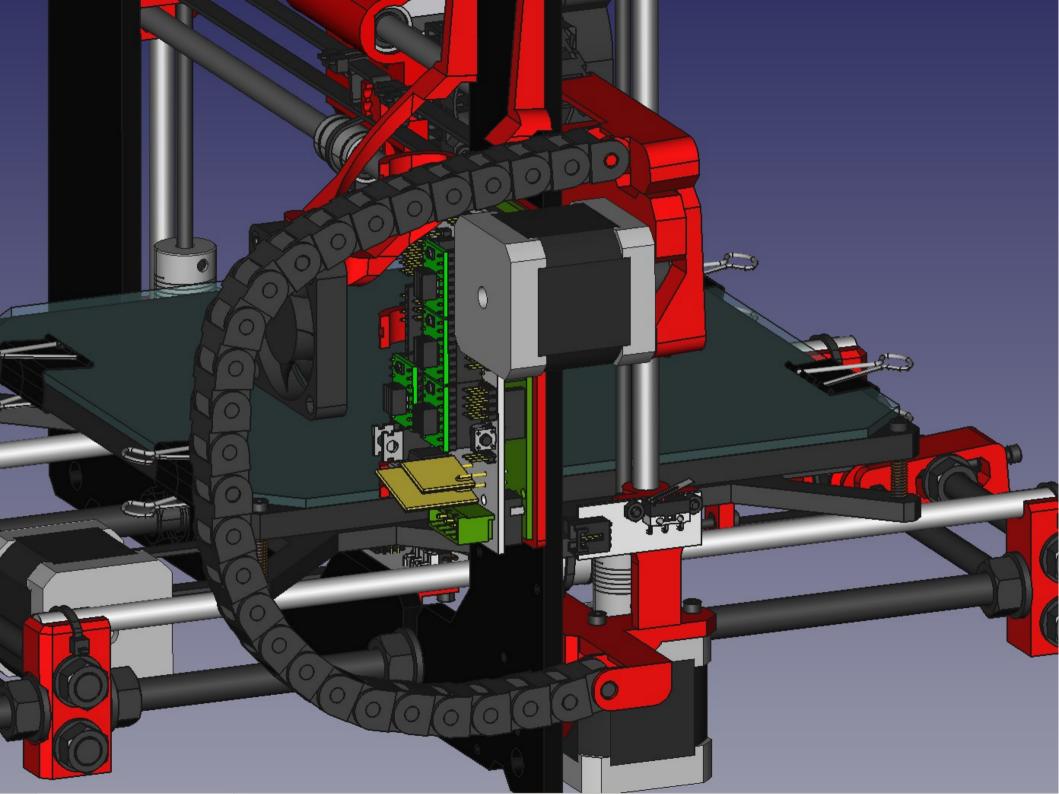


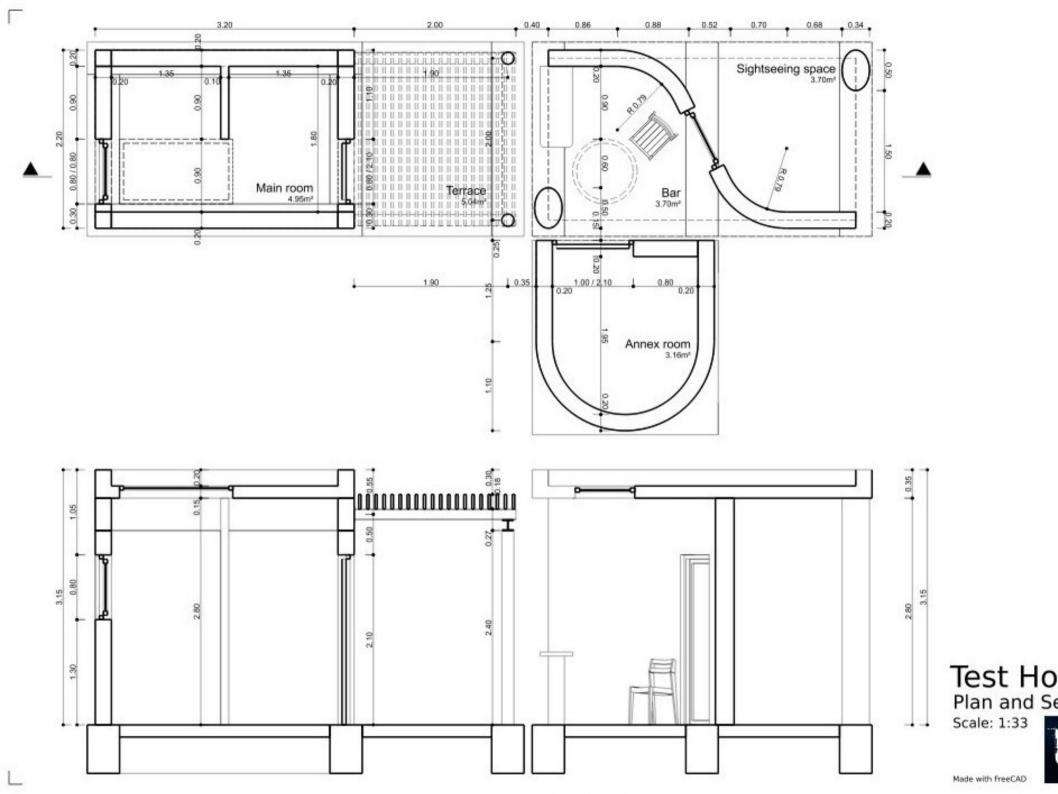


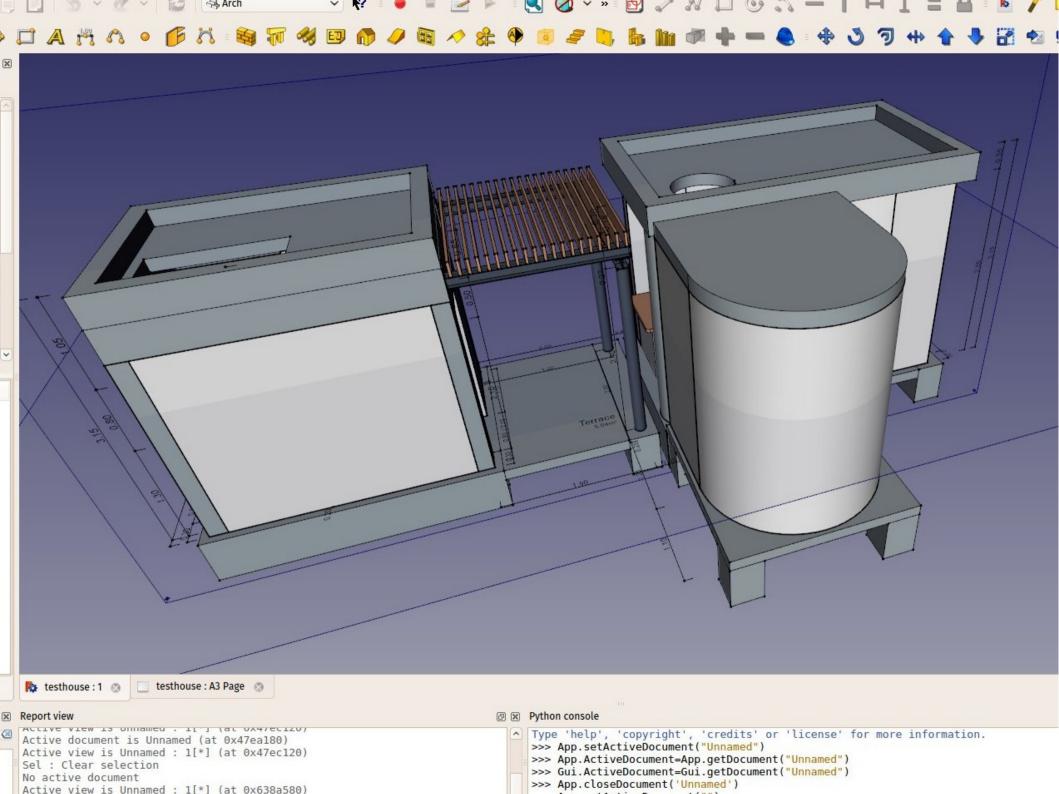


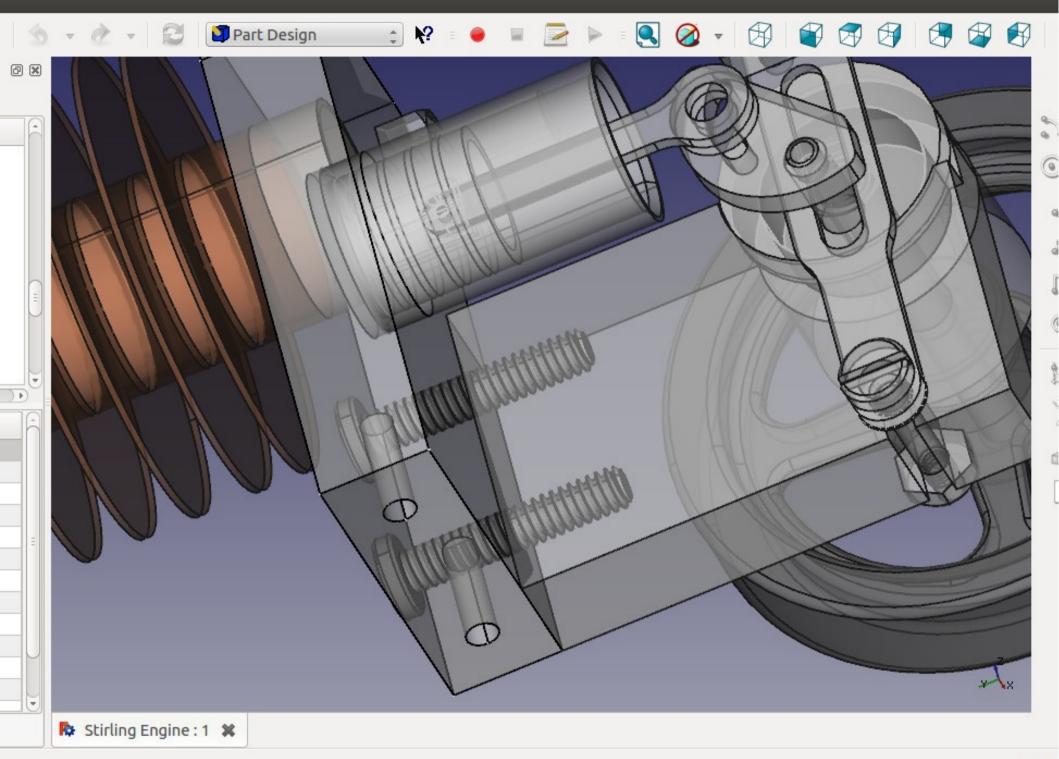


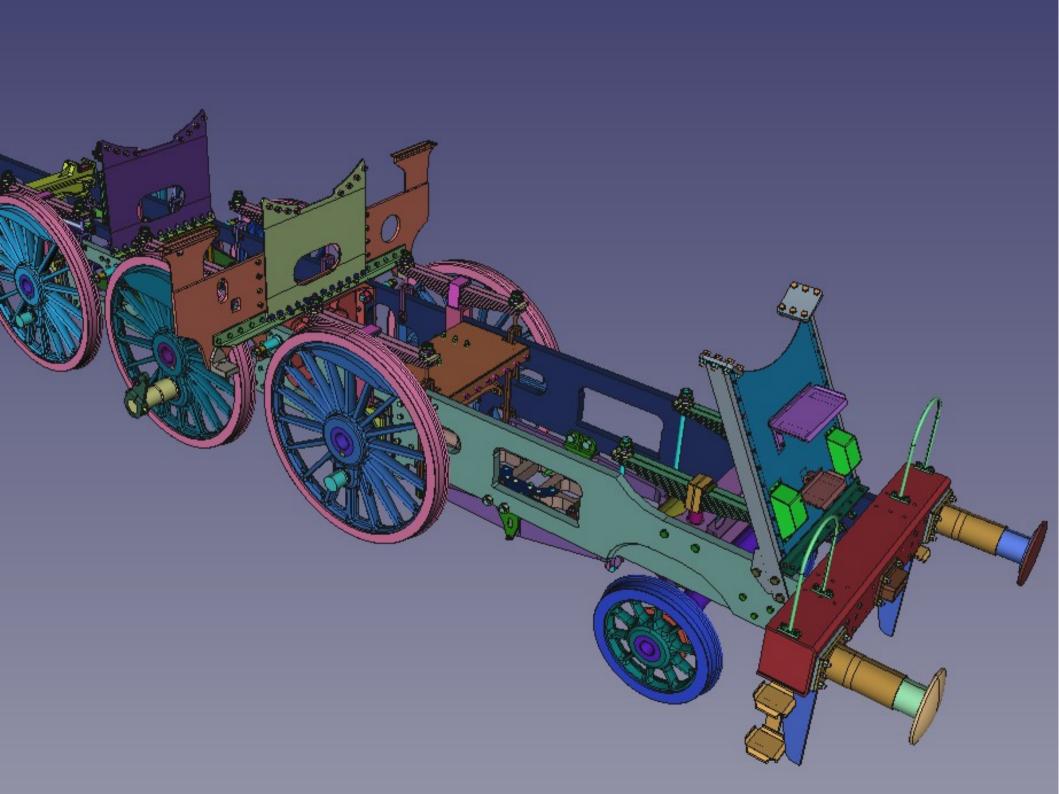




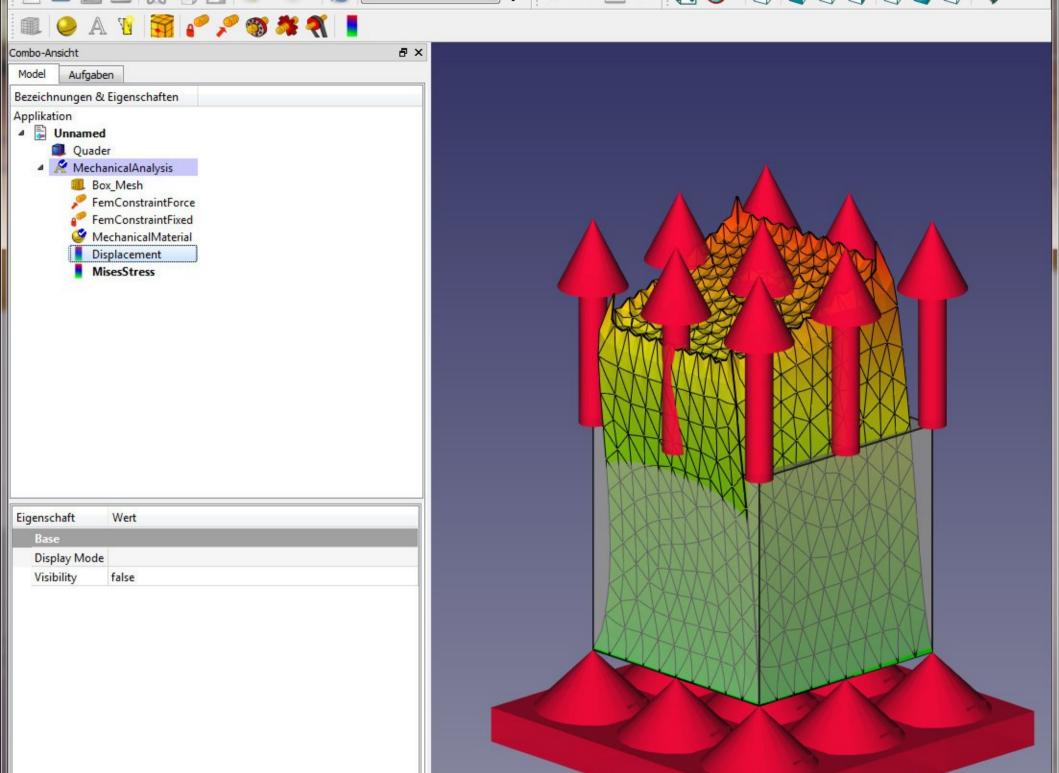








Unnamed: 1* 🗵



Modularity

mech design

GUI

architecture

GUI

ship design

GUI

core

GUI

Multi paradigm

 Core provides only a container for modules and a 3D viewer

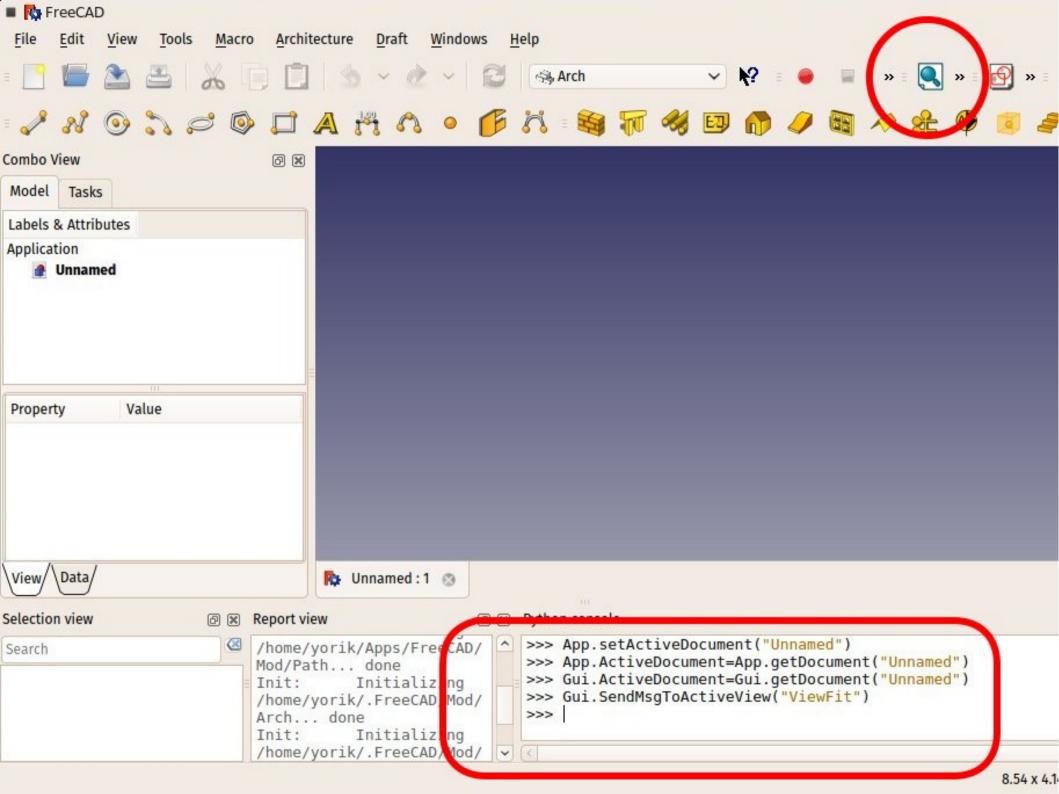
- The type of objects that can be contained in a FreeCAD document are defined in modules
- Any kind of stuff can coexist in a same document

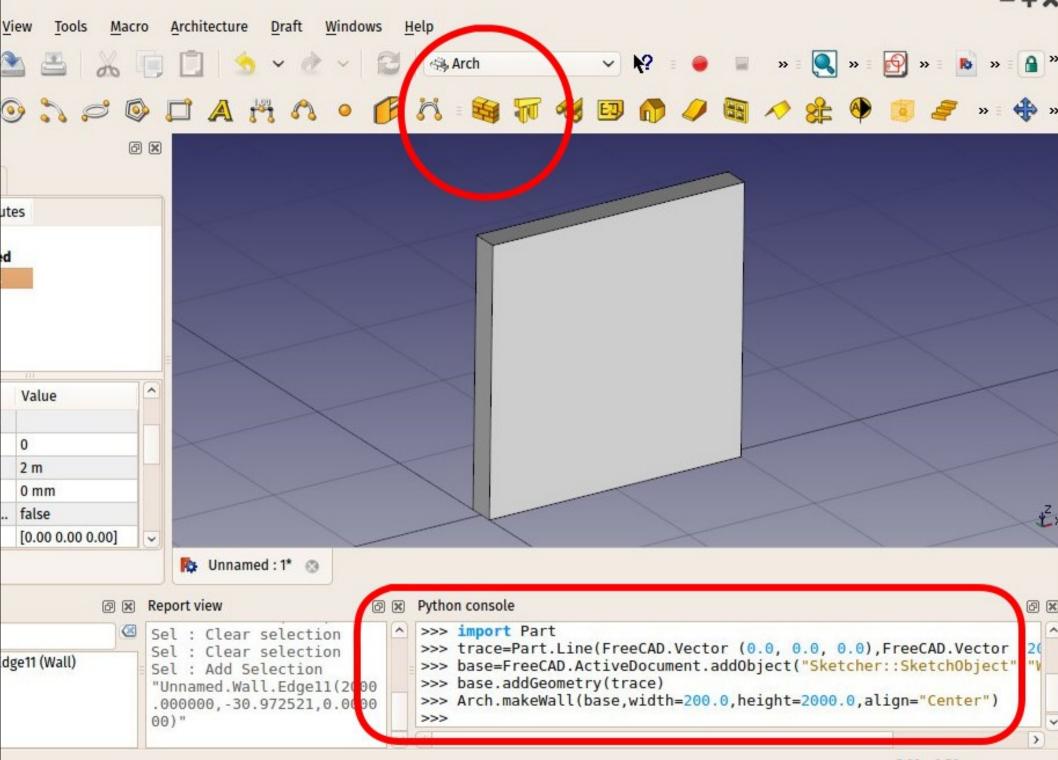
Heavy dependencies

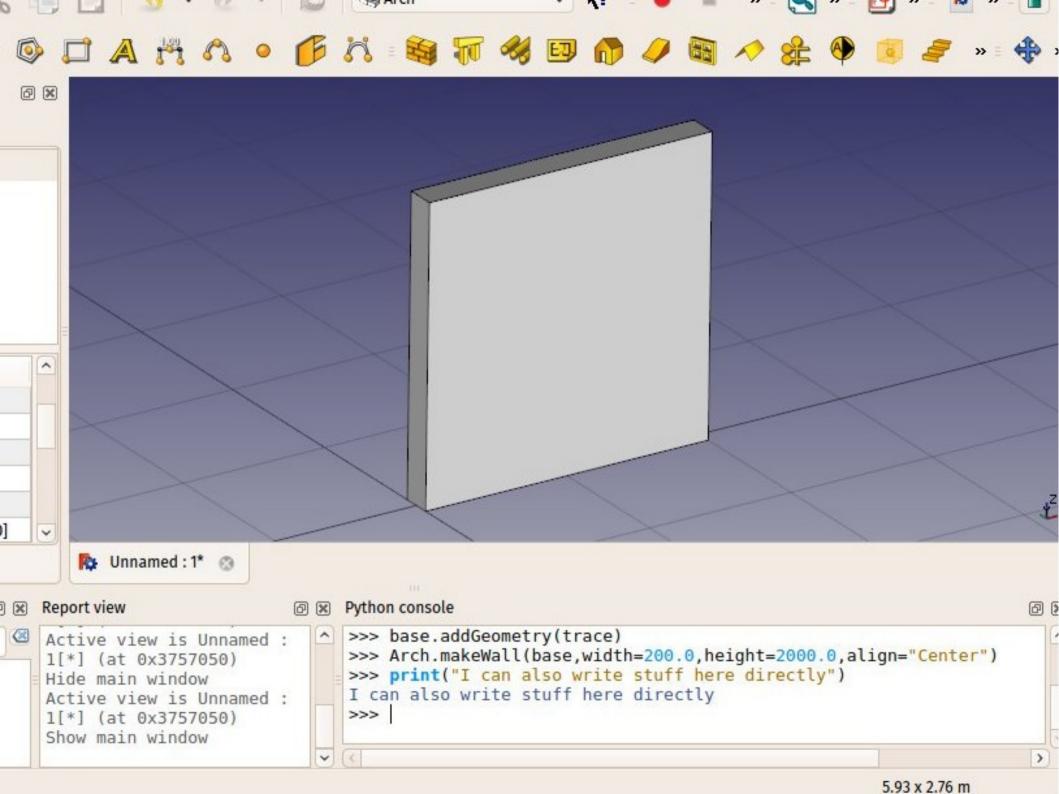
- Qt (interface)
- Python (scripting & more)
- OpenCasCade (geometry kernel)
- OpenInventor/Coin3D (3D display)
- Many more, each module has its own: KDL, IfcOpenShell, matplotlib, openSCAD, etc...

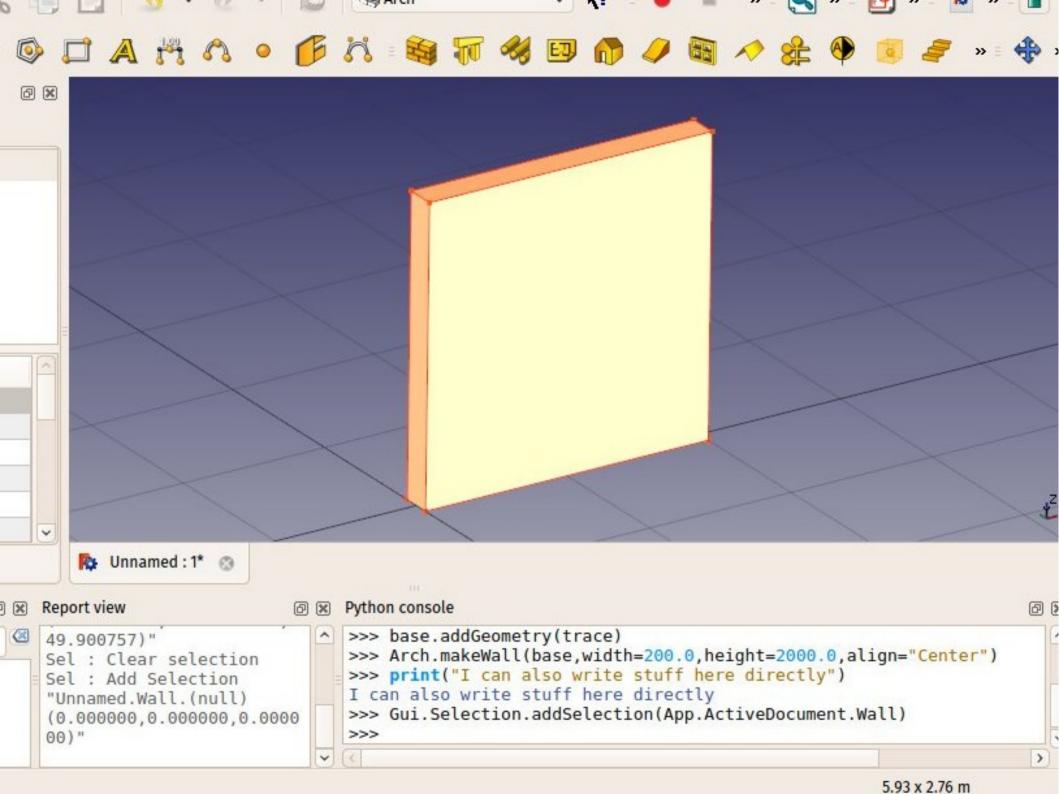
Python everywhere

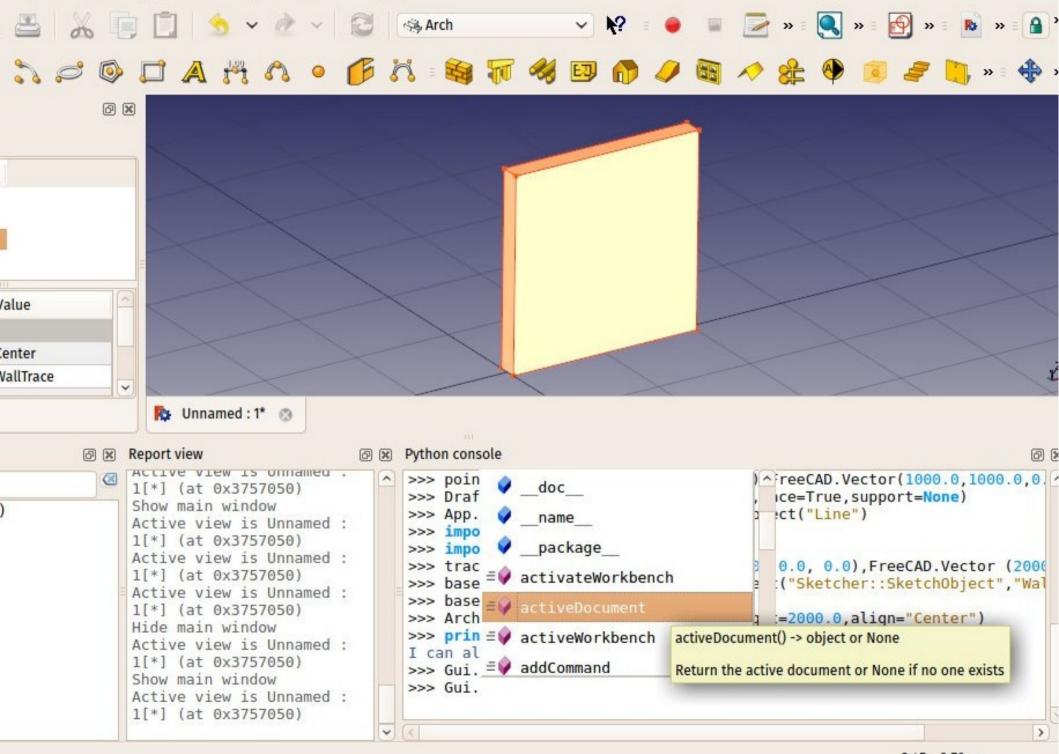
- The "glue" between "core" and GUI
- Some modules fully written in python
- The user can access just anything, and therefore gain the powers of a GOD full C++ developer
- Learn while doing



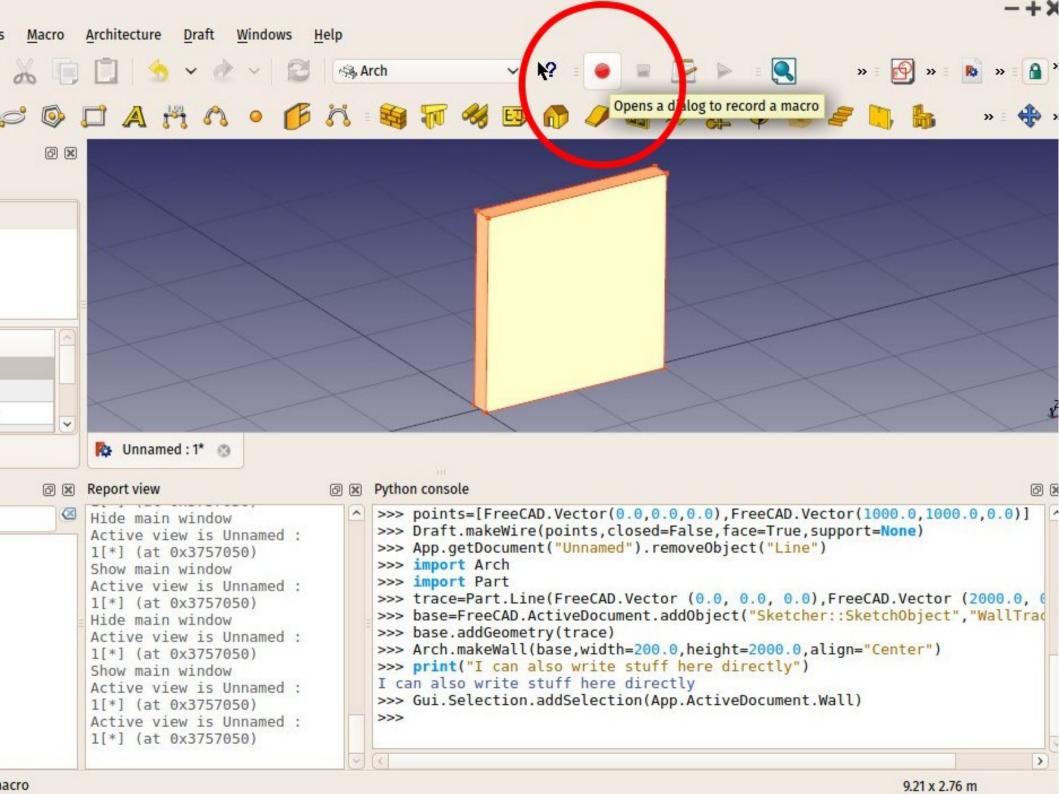


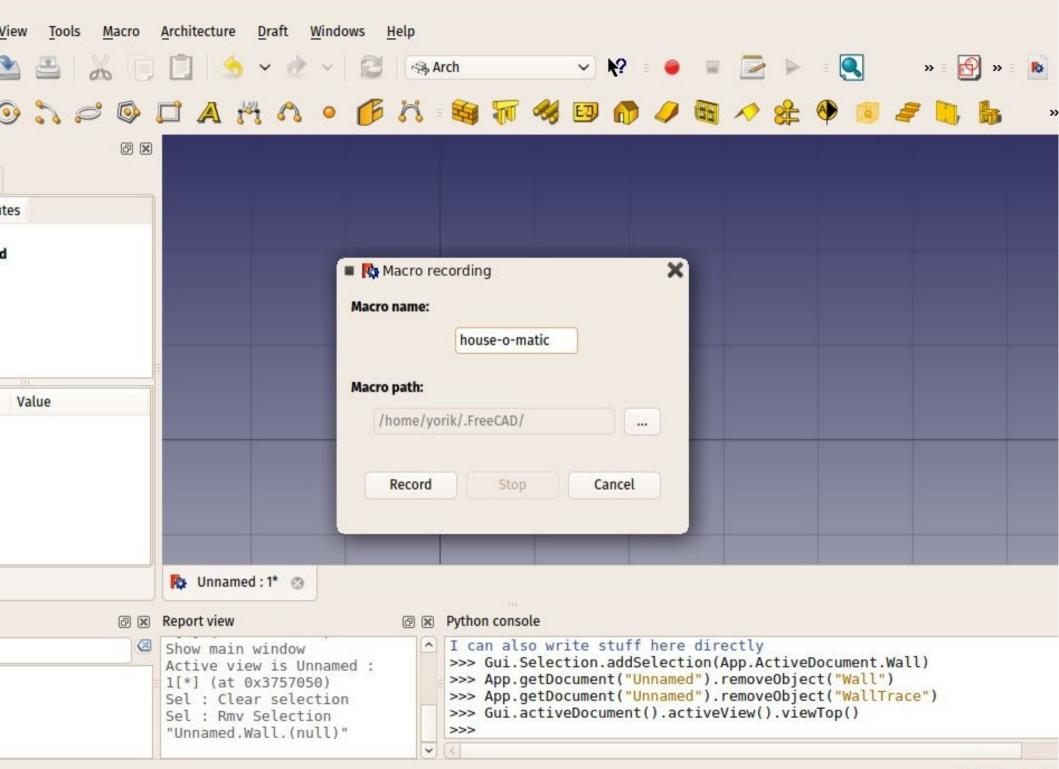


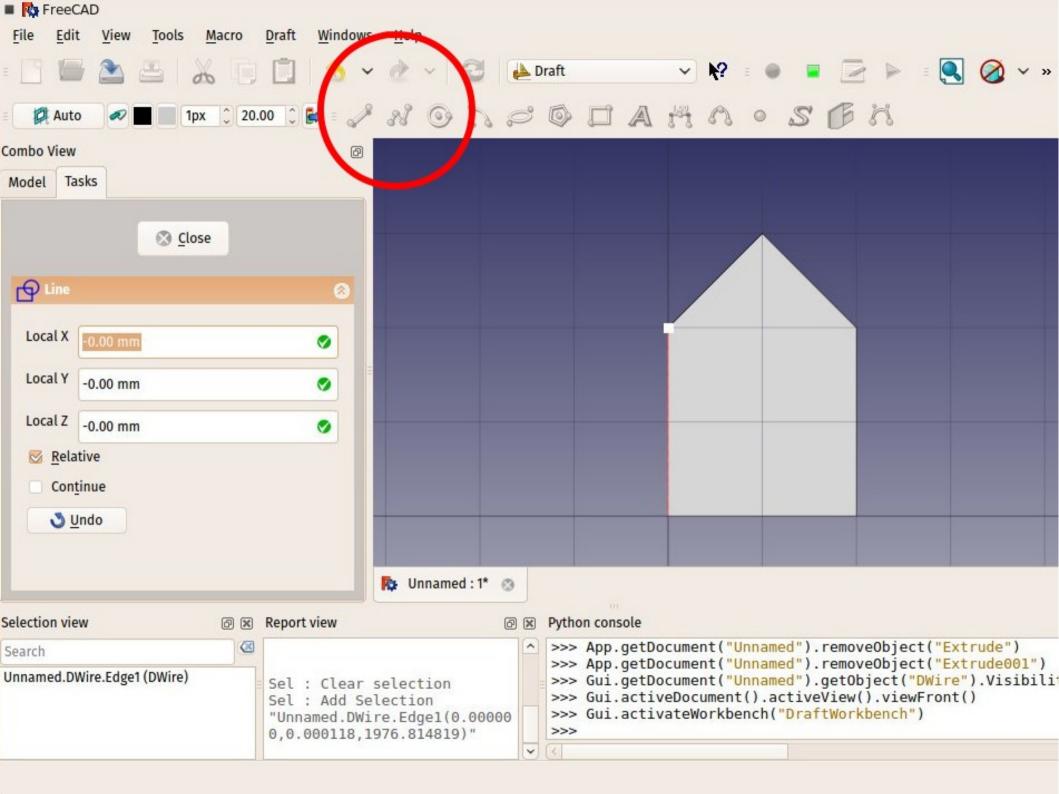


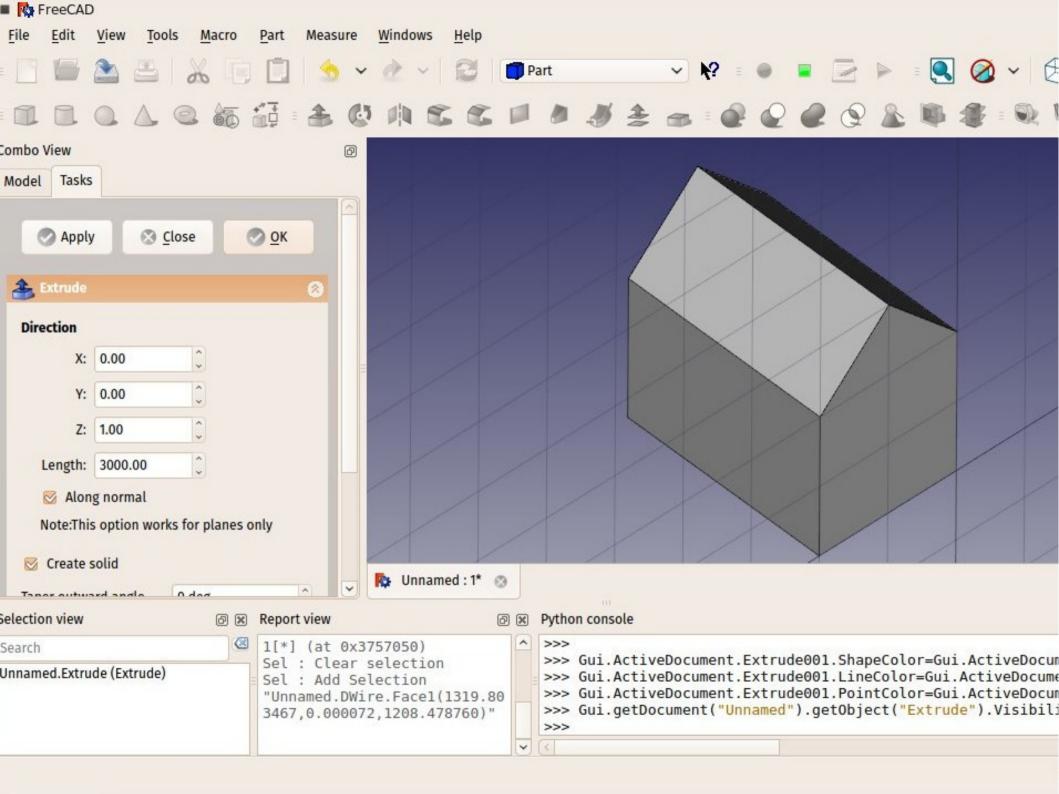


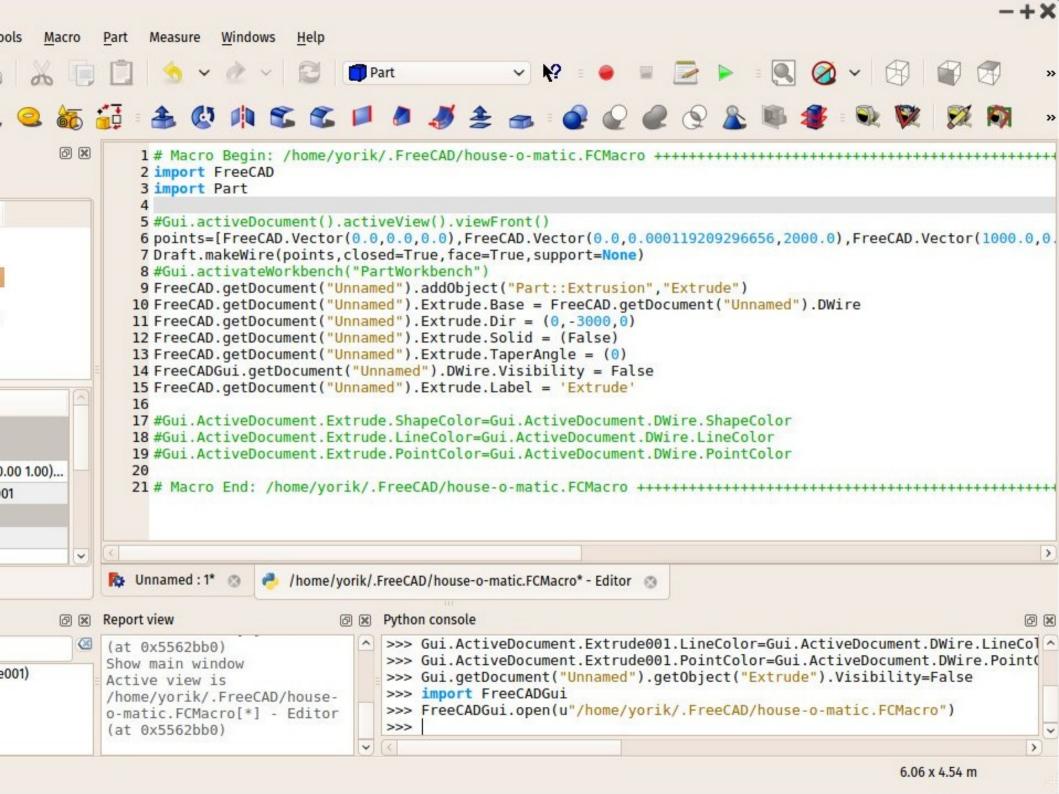
100ts Macro Architecture Drait Windows Help

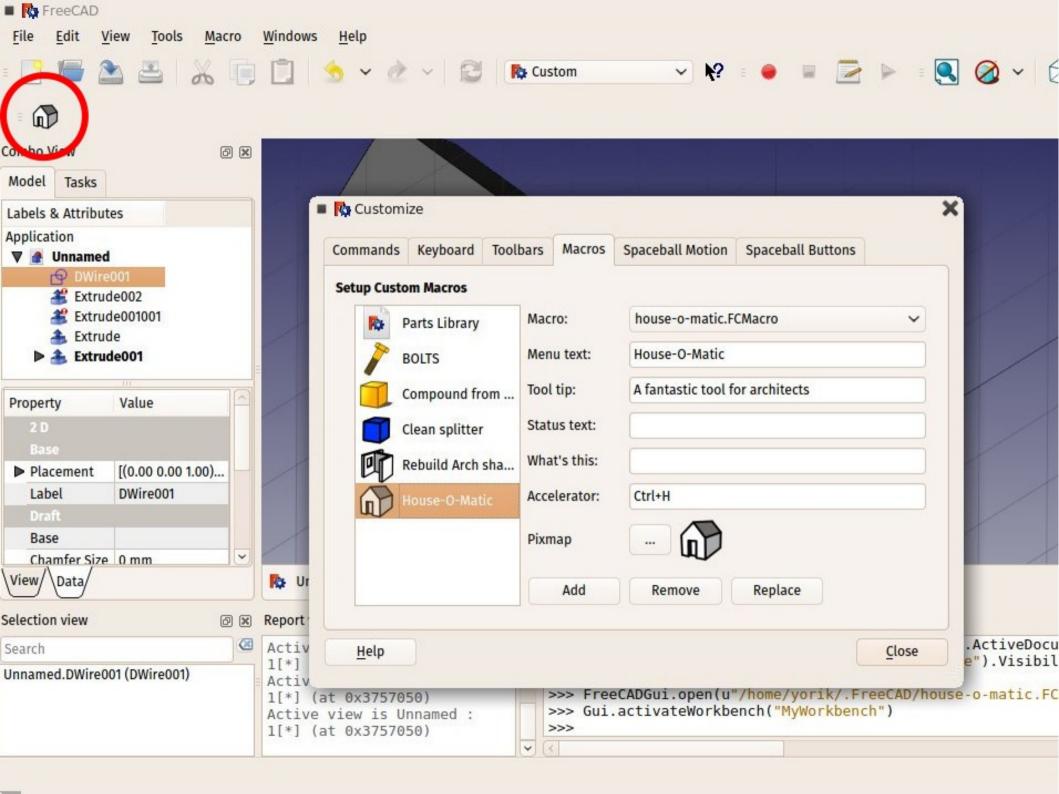












Recording?

wait... that means...

A fatal exception OE has occurred at 0028:C00069F8 in UxD VMM(01) + 000059F8. The current application will be terminated.

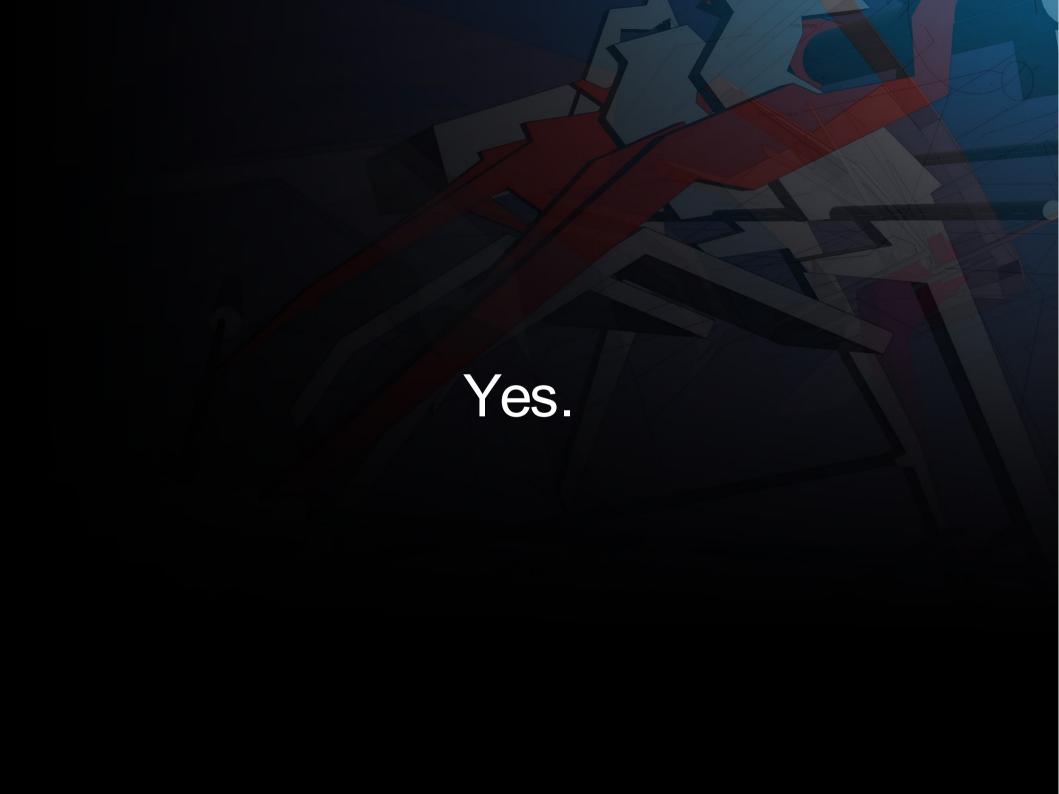
- * Press any key to terminate the current application.
- * Press CTRL+ALT+DEL to restart your computer. You will lose any unsaved information in all applications.

Press any key to continue _

Your work can be replayed

Separation between "core" and GUI?

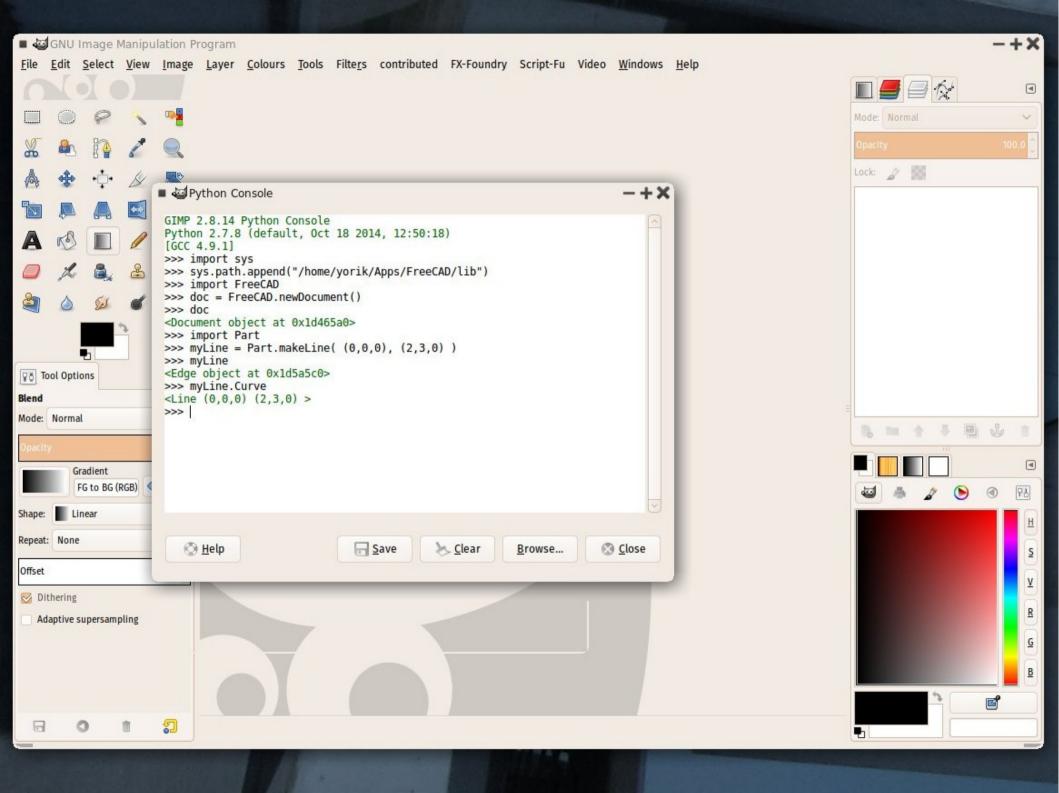
wait... that means...

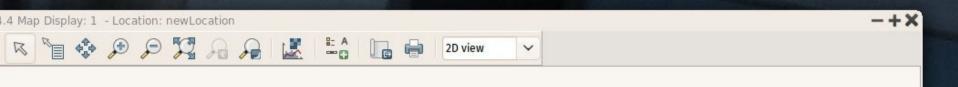


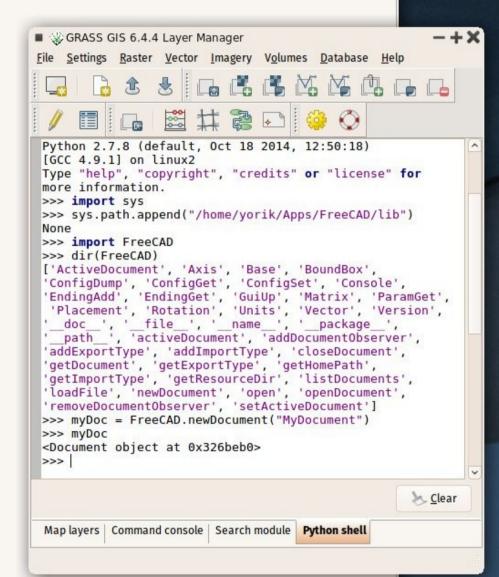
>>> import FreeCAD

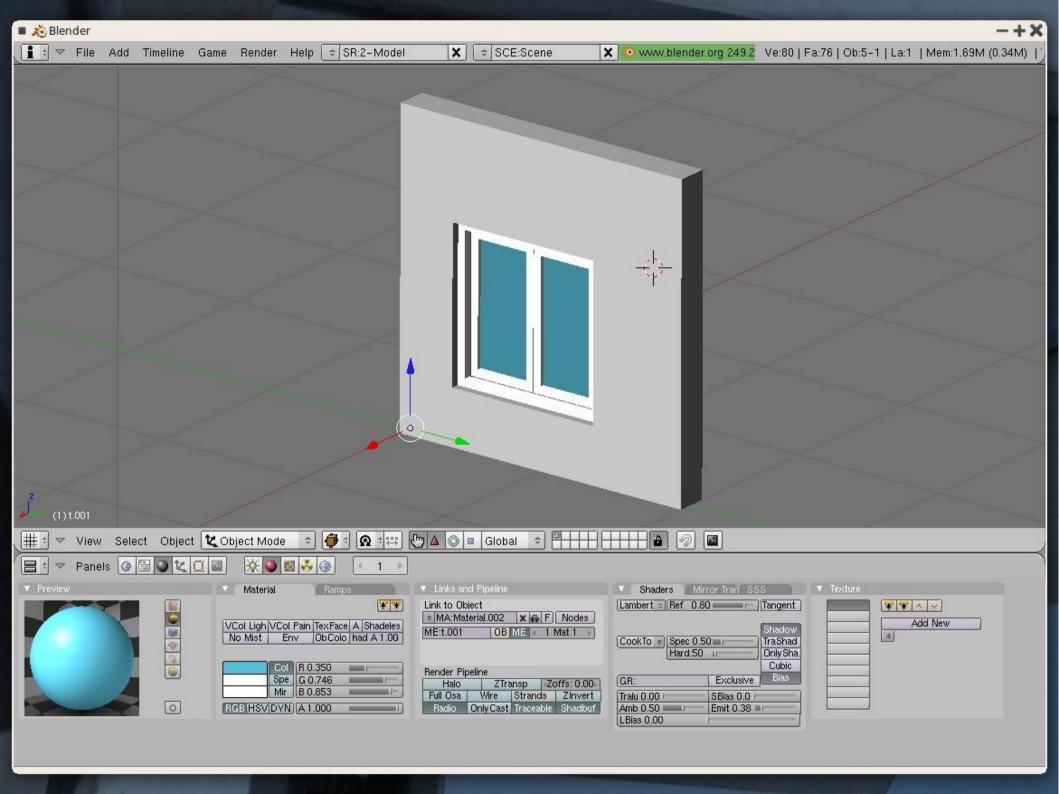
- FreeCAD runs fully without the GUI
- It is embeddable in other apps with one line of code

- All its modules still work (without their GUI too)
- It can then act as a (web) server
- It could have other GUIs









The web!

Web applications that use FreeCAD in the background

WebGL interfaces for FreeCAD

Anything that has not yet been imagined

Why python, after all?

- Powerful C API, very easy to embed and make dialog with the C++ core
- Almost every lib has python bindings nowadays
- The open-source community is fond of it, easy adoption

Useful apps that use python

opensource

proprietary

- Blender: yes
- Inkscape: yes
- OpenSCAM: yes
- GRASS: yes
- Salome: yes
- OpenSCAD: yes

- Autocad: yes
- SolidWorks: no
- Catia: yes
- Rhino: yes
- SolidEdge: yes
- Revit: yes

Why would users want it?

- Making objects in real-life already involves a lot of tinkering
- Technical and precise 3D modeling quickly becomes very complex (lots of ways to do things)
- Paradigms evolve constantly

Now for some serious stuff...

Access the geometry kernel

via FreeCAD's own API

```
>>> import Part
>>> 1 = Part.makeLine((0,0,0),(2,2,0))
>>> Part.show(1)

>>> c = Part.makeBox(2,2,2)
>>> Part.show(c)
```

Access the geometry kernel

directly

```
>>> import OCC
>>> from OCC.BRepPrimAPI import
                    BrepPrimAPI MakeBox
>>> c = BrepPrimAPI MakeBox(10,20,
                            30).Shape()
>>> p = Part. fromPythonOCC (c)
>>> Part.show(p)
```

/classes.html

Open CASCADE Technology: Data Structure Index

Data Structure Index

A B C O E F O H I K L M N O P O F O K L M N O F O K M N M M M M M M M M				
A	Geom2dConvert_CompCurveToBSplineCurve Geom2dGcc	MAT2d_SequenceNodeOfSequenceOfSequenceOfCurve	RWStepShape_RWManifoldSurfaceShapeRepresentation	StepToGeom_MakeParabola
11-1-21 021		MAT2d_SequenceNodeOfSequenceOfSequenceOfGeometry	RWStepShape_RWMeasureQualification	StepToGeom_MakeParabola2d
Adaptor2d_Curve2d Adaptor2d_HCurve2d	Geom2dGcc_Circ2d2TanOn Geom2dGcc_Circ2d2TanOnGeo	MAT2d_SequenceOfConnexion MAT2d_SequenceOfSequenceOfCurve	RWStepShape_RWMeasureRepresentation/ternAndQualifiedRepresentation/tem RWStepShape_RWNonManifoldSurfaceShapeRepresentation	StepToGeom_MakePlane StepToGeom_MakePolyline
Adaptor2d_HLine2d	Geom2dGcc_Circ2d2TanOnlter	MAT2d_SequenceOfSequenceOfGeometry	RWStepShape_RWOpenShell	StepToGeom_MakePolyline2d
Adaptor2d_Line2d	Geom2dGcc_Circ2d2TanRad	MAT2d_SketchExplorer	RWStepShape_RWOrientedClosedShell	StepToGeom_MakeRectangularTrimmedSurface
Adaptor3d_Curve	Geom2dGcc_Circ2d2TanRadGeo	MAT2d_Tool2d	RWStepShape_RWOrientedEdge	StepToGeom_MakeSphericalSurface
Adapter3d_CurveOnSurface	Geom2dGcc_Circ2d3Tan	MAT_Are	RWStepShape_RW0rientedFace	StepToGeom_MakeSurface
Adaptor3d_HCurve	Geom2dGcc_Circ2d3Tanlter	MAT_BasicElt	RWStepShape_RW0rientedOpenShell	StepToGeom_MakeSurfaceOfLinearExtrusion
Adaptor3d_HCurveOnSurface	Geom2dGcc_Circ2dTanCen	MAT_Bisector	RWStepShape_RWOrientedPath	StepToGeom_MakeSurfaceOfRevolution
Adaptor3d_HisoCurve	Geom2dGcc_Circ2dTanCenGeo	MAT_DataMapiteratorOfDataMapOfIntegerArc	RWStepShape_RWPath	StepToGeom_MakeSweptSurface
Adaptor3d_HOffsetCurve	Geom2dGcc_Circ2dTanOnRad	MAT_DataMapReratorOfDataMapOfIntegerBasicElt	RWStepShape_RWPlusMinusTolerance	StepToGeom_MakeToroidalSurface
Adaptor3d_HSurface	Geom2dGcc_Circ2dTanOnRadGeo	MAT_DataMapiteratorOfDataMapOfIntegerBisector	RWStepShape_RWPointRepresentation	StepToGeom_MakeTransformation2d
Adaptor3d_HSurfaceOfLinearExtrusion	Geom2dGcc_CurveTool	MAT_DataMapiteratorOfDataMapOfIntegerNode	RWStepShape_RWPolyLoop	StepToGeom_MakeTransformation3d
Adaptor3d_HSurfaceOfRevolution	Geom2dGcc_CurveToolGeo	MAT_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfIntegerArc	RWStepShape_RWPrecisionQualifier	StepToGeom_MakeTrimmedCurve
Adaptor3d_HSurfaceTool	Geom2dGcc_FunctionTanCirCu	MAT_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfIntegerBasicElt	RWStepShape_RWQualifiedRepresentationItem	StepToGeom_MakeTrimmedCurve2d
Adaptor3d_HVertex	Geom2dGcc_FunctionTanCuCu	MAT_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfIntegerBisector	RWStepShape_RWRevolvedAreaSolid	StepToGeom_MakeVectorWithMagnitude
Adaptor3d_InterFunc	Geom2dGcc_FunctionTanCuCuCu Geom2dGcc_FunctionTanCuCuOnCu	MAT_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfIntegerNode	RWStepShape_RWRevolvedFaceSolid	StepToGeom_MakeVectorWithMagnitude2d
Adaptor3d_IsoCurve Adaptor3d_OffsetCurve	Geom2dGcc_FunctionTanCuPnt	MAT_DataMapOfIntegerArc MAT_DataMapOfIntegerBasicElt	RWStepShape_RWRightAngularWedge RWStepShape_RWRightCircutarCone	StepToTopoDB
		MAT_DataMapOfIntegerBisector	RWStepShape_RWRightCircularCylinder	StepToTopoDS_Builder
Adapter3d_Surface Adapter3d_SurfaceOfLinearExtrusion	Geom2dGcc_FunctionTanObl Geom2dGcc_Lin2d2Tan	MAT_DataMapOfintegerNode	RWStepShape_RWSeamEdge	StepToTopoD8_CartesianPointHasher
Adaptor3d_SurfaceOfRevolution	Geom2dGcc_Lin2d2Taniter	MAT_Edge	RWStepShape_RWShapeDefinitionRepresentation	StepToTopoDS_DataMapIteratorOfDataMapOfRI
Adaptor3d_TopolTool	Geom2dGcc_Lin2dTanObl	MAT_Graph	RWStepShape_RWShapeDimensionRepresentation	StepToTopoDS_DataMapIteratorOfDataMapOfRINames
AdvApp2Var_ApproxAFunc2Var	Geom2dGcc_Lin2dTanObiliter	MAT_ListOfBisector	RWStepShape_RWShapeRepresentation	StepToTopoDS_DataMapIteratorOfDataMapOfTRI
AdvApp2Var_ApproxF2var	Geom2dGcc_QCurve	MAT_ListOfEdge	RWStepShape_RWShapeRepresentationWithParameters	StepToTopoDS_DataMapIteratorOfPointEdgeMap
AdvApp2Var_Context	Geom2dGcc_QualifiedCurve	MAT_Node	RWStepShape_RWShellBasedSurfaceModel	StepToTopoDS_DataMapIteratorOfPointVertexMap
AdvApp2Var_Criterion	Geom2dHatch_Classifier	MAT_SequenceNodeOfSequenceOfArc	RWStepShape_RWSolidModel	StepToTopoDS_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfRI
AdvApp2Var_Data	Geom2dHatch_DataMapiteratorOfHatchings	MAT_SequenceNodeOfSequenceOfBasicElt	RWStepShape_RWSolidReplica	StepToTopoDS_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfRINames
AdvApp2Var_EvaluatorFunc2Var	Geom2dHatch_DataMapiteratorOfMapOfElements	MAT_SequenceOfArc	RWStepShape_RWSphere	StepToTopoDS_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfTRI
AdvApp2Var_Framework	Geom2dHatch_DataMapNodeOfHatchings	MAT_SequenceOfBasicElt	RWStepShape_RWSubedge	StepToTopoDS_DataMapNodeOfPointEdgeMap
AdvApp2Var_Iso	Geom2dHatch_DataMapNodeOfMapOfElements	MAT_TListNodeOfListOfBisector	RWStepShape_RWSubface	StepToTopoDS_DataMapNodeOfPointVertexMap
AdvApp2Var_MathBase	Geom2dHatch_Element	MAT_TListNodeOfListOfEdge	RWStepShape_RWSweptAreaSolid	StepToTopoDS_DataMapOfRI
AdvApp2Var_Network	Geom2dHatch_Elements	MAT_Zone	RWStepShape_RWSweptFaceSolid	StepToTopoDS_DataMapOfRINames
AdvApp2Var_Node	Geom2dHatch_FClass2dOfClassifier	math	RWStepShape_RWToleranceValue	StepToTopoDS_DataMapOfTRI
AdvApp2Var_Patch	Geom2dHatch_Hatcher	math_Array1OfValueAndWeight	RWStepShape_RWTopologicalRepresentationItem	StepToTopoDS_GeometricTool
AdvApp2Var_SequenceNodeOfSequenceOfNode	Geom2dHatch_Hatching	math_BFGS	RWStepShape_RWTorus	StepToTopoDS_MakeTransformed
AdvApp2Var_SequenceNodeOfSequenceOfPatch	Geom2dHatch_Hatchings	math_BissecNewton	RWStepShape_RWTransitionalShapeRepresentation	StepToTopoDS_NMTool
AdvApp2Var_SequenceNodeOfSequenceOfStrip	Geom2dHatch_Intersector	math_BracketedRoot	RWStepShape_RWTypeQualifier	StepToTopoD8_PointEdgeMap
AdvApp2Var_SequenceNodeOfStrip	Geom2dHetch_MepOfElements	math_BracketMinimum	RWStepShape_RWVertex	StepToTopoDS_PointPair
AdvApp2Var_SequenceOfNode	Geom2dInt_ExactIntersectionPointOfTheIntPCurvePCurveOfGInter	math_BrentMinimum	RWStepShape_RWVertexLoop	StepToTopoOS_PointPairHasher
AdvApp2Var_SequenceOfPatch	Geom2dInt_Geom2dCurveTool	math_BullardGenerator	RWStepShape_RWVertexPoint	StepToTopoDS_PointVertexMap
AdvApp2Var_SequenceOfStrip	Geom2dInt_Ginter Geom2dInt_IntConicCurveOfGinter	math_CompareOfValueAndWeight	RWStepVisual_RWAreainSet	StepToTopoD8_Root
AdvApp2Var_Strip		math_ComputeGaussPointsAndWeights math_ComputeKronrodPointsAndWeights	RWStepVisual_RWBackgroundColour	StepToTopoDS_Tool
AdvApp2Var_SysBase	Geom2dint_MyImpParToolOffheintersectorOffheintConicCurveOfGinter		RWStepVisual_RWCameralmage	StepToTopoDB_TranslateCompositeCurve StepToTopoDB_TranslateCurveBoundedSurface
AdvApprox_ApproxAFunction AdvApprox_Cutting	Geom2dint_PCLocFOfTheLocateExtPCOfTheProjPCurOfGinter Geom2dint_SeqPCOfPCLocFOfTheLocateExtPCOfTheProjPCurOfGinter	math_Crout math_DirectPolynomialRoots	RWStepVisual_RWCameraMedel RWStepVisual_RWCameraMedelD2	StepToTopoDS_TranslateEdge StepToTopoDS_TranslateEdge
AdvApprox_DichoCutting	Geom2dInt_SequenceNodeOfSeqPC0fPCLocF0fTheLocateExtPC0fTheProjPCur0fGinter		RWStepVisual_RWCameraModelD3	StepToTopoDB_TranslateEdgeLoop
AdvApprox_EvaluatorFunction	Geom2dInt_TheCurveLocatorOfTheProjPCurOfSinter	math_EigenValuesSearcher	RWStepVisual_RWCameraUsage	StepToTopoDS_TranslateFace
AdvApprox_PrefAndRec	Geom2dInt_TheDistBetweenPCurvesOfTheIntPCurvePCurveOfGinter	math_FRPR	RWStepVisual_RWColour	StepToTopoD8_TranslatePolyLoop
AdvApprox_PrefCutting	Geom2dInt_TheIntConicCurveOfGInter	math_Function	RWStepVisual_RWColourRgb	StepToTopoDS_TranslateShell
AdvApprox_SimpleApprox	Geom2dint_TheintersectorOfTheintConicCurveOfGinter	math_FunctionAllRoots	RWStepVisual_RWColourSpecification	StepToTopoDS_TranslateVertex
AIS	Geom2dInt_TheintPCurvePCurveOlGInter	math_FunctionRoot	RWStepVisual_RWCompositeText	StepToTopoD8_TranslateVertexLoop
AlS_AngleDimension	Geom2dInt_TheLocateExtPCOITheProjPCurOfGInter	math_FunctionRoots	RWStepVisual_RWCompositeTextWithExtent	StepVisual_AnnotationOccurrence
AlS_AttributeFilter	Geom2dInt_ThePolygon2dOfTheIntPCurvePCurveOfGInter	math_FunctionSample	RWStepVisual_RWContextDependentInvisibility	StepVisual_AnnotationText
AlS_Axis	Geom2dint_TheProjPCurOfGinter	math_FunctionSet	RWStepVisual_RWContextDependentOverRidingStyledItem	StepVisual_AnnotationTextOccurrence
AlS_BadEdgeFilter	Geom2dLProp_CLProps2d	math_FunctionSetRoot	RWStepVisual_RWCurveStyle	StepVisual_AreaInSet
AlS_C0RegularityFilter	Geom2dLProp_CurAndInf2d	math_FunctionSetWithDerivatives	RWStepVisual_RWCurveStyleFont	StepVisual_AreaOrView
AlS_Chamf2dDimension	Geom2dLProp_Curve2dTool	math_FunctionWithDerivative	RWStepVisual_RWCurveStyleFontPattern	StepVisual_Array10fBoxCharacteristicSelect
AIS_Chamf3dDimension	Geom2dLProp_FuncCurExt	math_Gauss	RWStepVisual_RWDraughtingModel	StepVisual_Array1OfCurveStyleFontPattern
AIS_Circle	Geom2dLProp_FuncCurNul	math_GaussLeastSquare	RWStepVisual_RWDraughtingPreDefinedColour	StepVisual_Array1OfDirectionCountSelect
AlS_ColoredDrawer	Geom2dLProp_NumericCurtnf2d	math_GaussMultipleIntegration	RWStepVisual_RWDraughtingPreDefinedCurveFont	StepVisual_Array1OfFillStyleSelect
AlS_ConcentricRelation	Geom2dToIGES_Geom2dCurve	math_GaussSetIntegration math_GaussSingleIntegration	RWStepVisual_RWExternallyDefinedCurveFont	StepVisual_Array1OfinvisibleItem
Als_ConnectedInteractive	Geom2dToIGES_Geom2dEntity Geom2dToIGES_Geom2dPoint	math_GlobOptNin	RWStepVisual_RWFillAreaStyle RWStepVisual_RWFillAreaStyleColour	StepVisual_Array1OfLayeredItem StepVisual_Array1OfPresentationStyleAssignment
			RWStepVisual_RWInvisibility	
AIS_DataMapiteratorOfDataMapOfILC AIS_DataMapiteratorOfDataMapofIntegerListOfinteractive	Geom2dToIGES_Geom2dVector Geom_Axis1Placement	math_IndeperRandom	RWStepVisual_RWMechanicalDesignGeometricPresentationArea	StepVisual_Array10fPresentationStyleSelect StepVisual_Array10fStyleContextSelect
AIS_DataMapiteratorOfDataMapOflOStatus	Geom_Axis2Placement	math_integerVector	RWStepVisual_RWMechanicalDesignGeometricPresentationRepresentation	StepVisual_Array10fSurfaceStyleElementSelect
AlS_DataMapheratorOfDataMapOfSelStat	Geom_AxisPlacement	math_Jacobi	RWStepVisual_RWOverRidingStyledItem	StepVisual_Array10fTextOrCharacter
AlS_DataMapNedeOfDataMapOffLC	Geom BezierCurve	math_KronrodSingleIntegration	RWStepVisual RWPlanarBox	StepVisual_BackgroundColour
AIS_DataMapNodeOfDataMapofintegerListOfinteractive	Geom_BezierSurface	math_Matrix	RWStepVisual_RWPlanarExtent	StepVisual_BoxCharacteristicSelect
AlS_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOflOStatus	Geom_BoundedCurve	math_MultipleVarFunction	RWStepVisual_RWPointStyle	StepVisual_Cameralmage
AlS_DataMapNodeOfDataMapOfSelStat	Geom_BoundedSurface	math_MultipleVarFunctionWithGradient	RWStepVisual_RWPreDefinedColour	StepVisual_Cameralmage2dWithScale
AIS_DataMapOffLC	Geom_BSplineCurve	math_MultipleVarFunctionWithHessian	RWStepVisual_RWPreDefinedCurveFont	StepVisual_Cameralmage3dWithScale
AlS_DataMapofintegerListOfinteractive	Geom_BSplineSurface	math_NewtonFunctionRoot	RWStepVisual_RWPreDefinedItem	StepVisual_CameraModel
AlS_DataMapOfIOStatus	Geom_CartesianPoint	math_NewtonFunctionSetRoot	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationArea	StepVisual_CameraModelD2
AlS_DataMapOfSetStat	Geom_Circle	math_NewtonMinimum	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationLayerAssignment	StepVisual_CameraModelD3
AIS_DiameterDimension	Geom_Conic	math_Powell	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationLayerUsage	StepVisual_CameraUsage
AIS_Dimension	Geom_ConicalSurface	math_PSO	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationRepresentation	StepVisual_Colour
AlS_DimensionOwner	Geom_Curve	math_PSOParticlesPool	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationSet	StepVisual_ColourRgb
AIS_Drawer	Geom_CylindricalSurface	math_QuickSortOfValueAndWeight	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationSize	StepVisual_ColourSpecification
AlS_EllipseRadiusDimension	Geom_Direction	math_RealRandom	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationStyleAssignment	StepVisual_CompositeText
AIS_EqualDistanceRelation	Geom_ElementarySurface	math_SingleTab	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationStyleByContext	StepVisual_CompositeTextWithExtent
AIS_EqualRadiusRelation	Geom_Ellipse	math_SVD	RWStepVisual_RWPresentationView	StepVisual_ContextDependentInvisibility
All EnclusionFilter	Geom_Geometry Geom_HSequenceOfBSplineSurface	math_TrigonometricFunctionRoots	RWStepVisual_RWPresenteditemRepresentation	StepVisual_ContextDependentOverRidingStyledItem
AlS_FixRelation AlS_GlobalStatus	Geom_Hyperbola	math_ValueAndWeight	RWStepVisual_RWStyleditern RWStepVisual_RWSurfaceSideStyle	StepVisual_CurveStyle StepVisual_CurveStyleFont
Als_GraphicTool	Geom_Hyperbola Geom_Line	math_Vector	RWStepVisual_RWSurfaceStyleBoundary	StepVisual_CurveStyleFont StepVisual_CurveStyleFontPattern
				Supressing Surrectly for State III

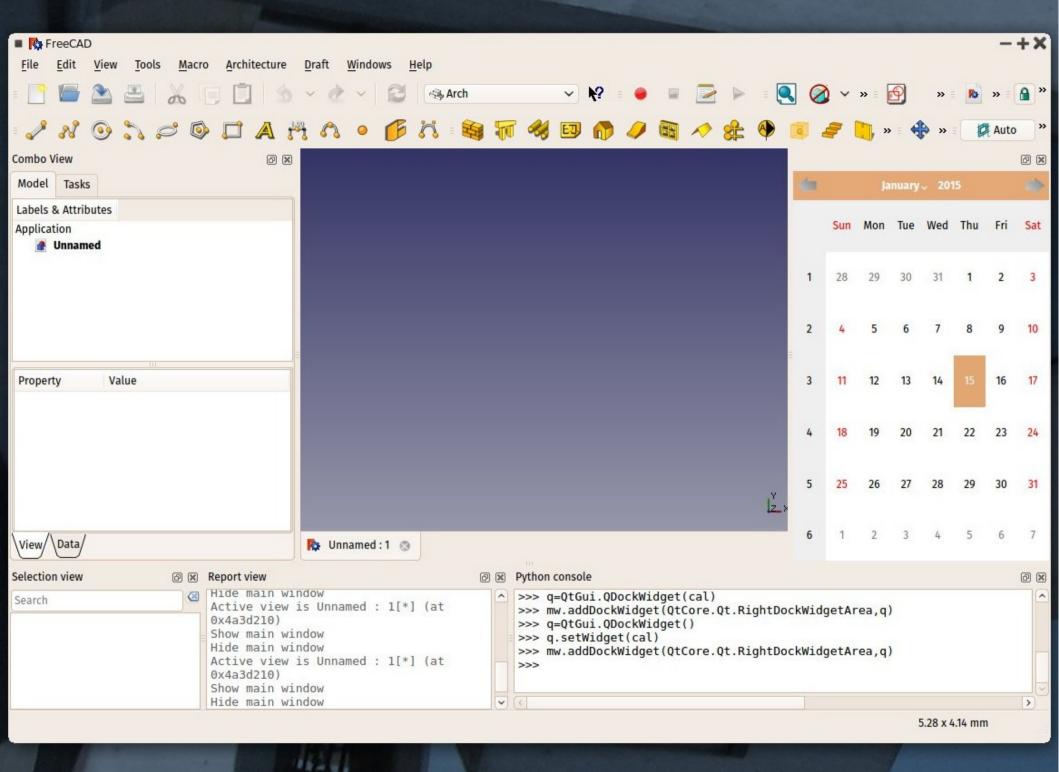
23

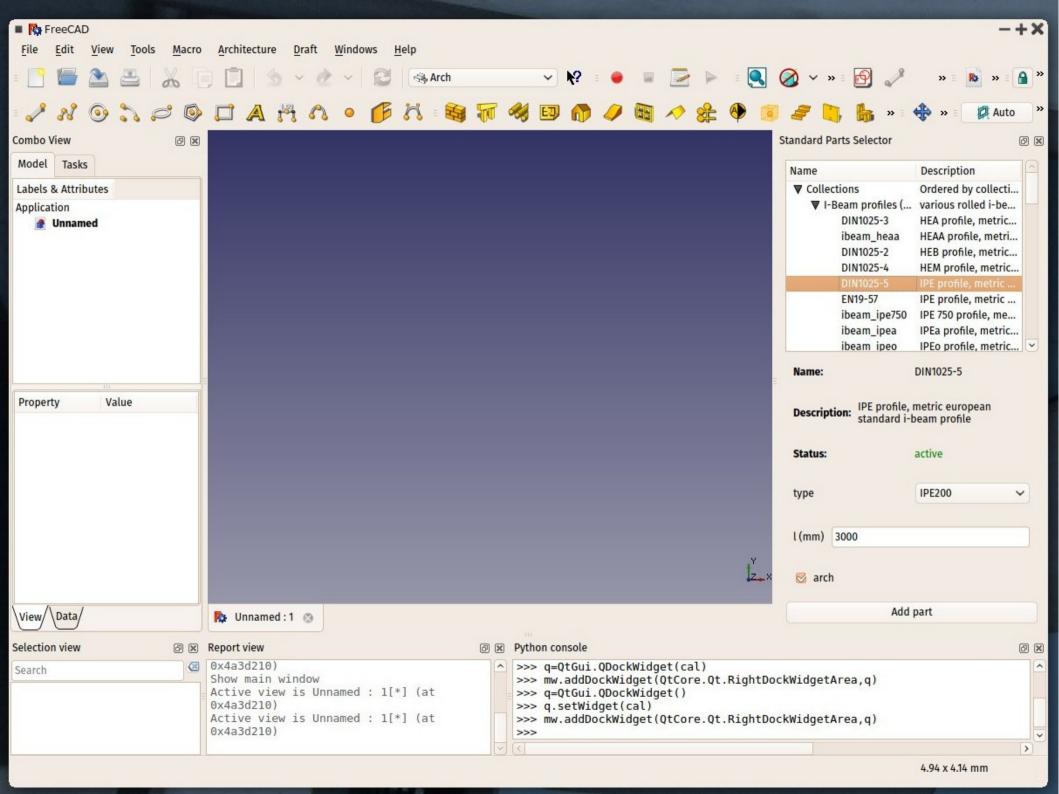
1/18

Access the interface

via Qt's own python libs

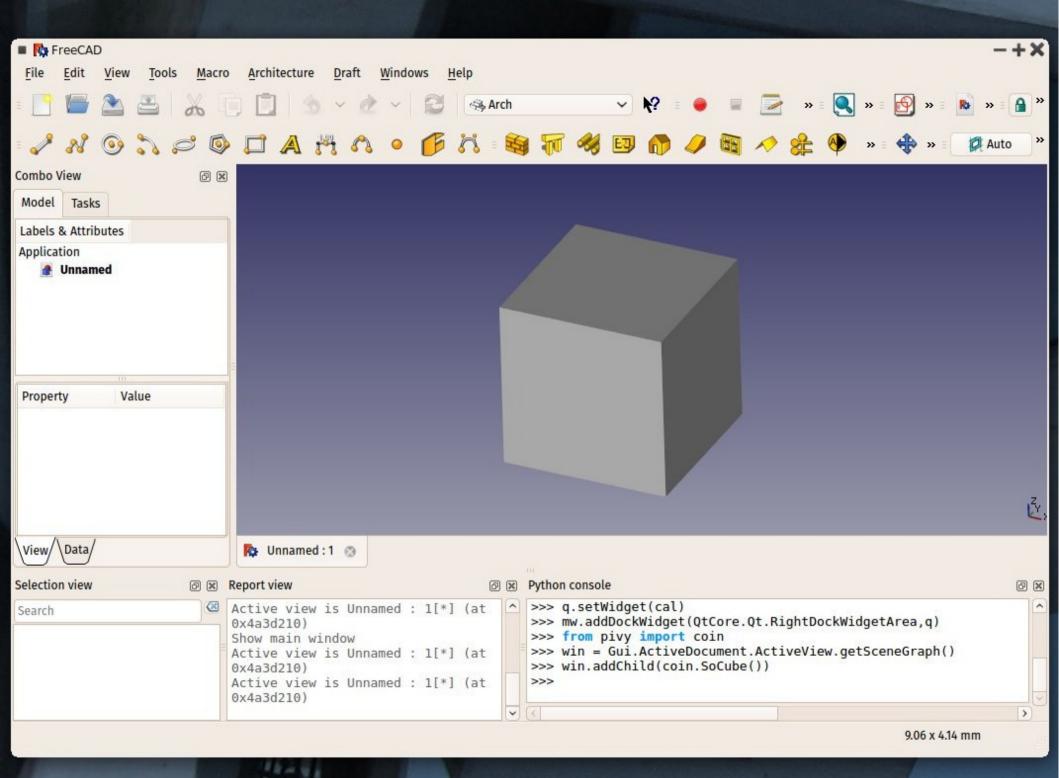
```
>>> from PySide import QtGui, QtCore
>>> mw = FreeCADGui.getMainWindow()
>>> d = QtGui.QDockWidget()
>>> d.setWidget(QtGui.QCalendarWidget())
>>> mw.addDockWidget(d)
```

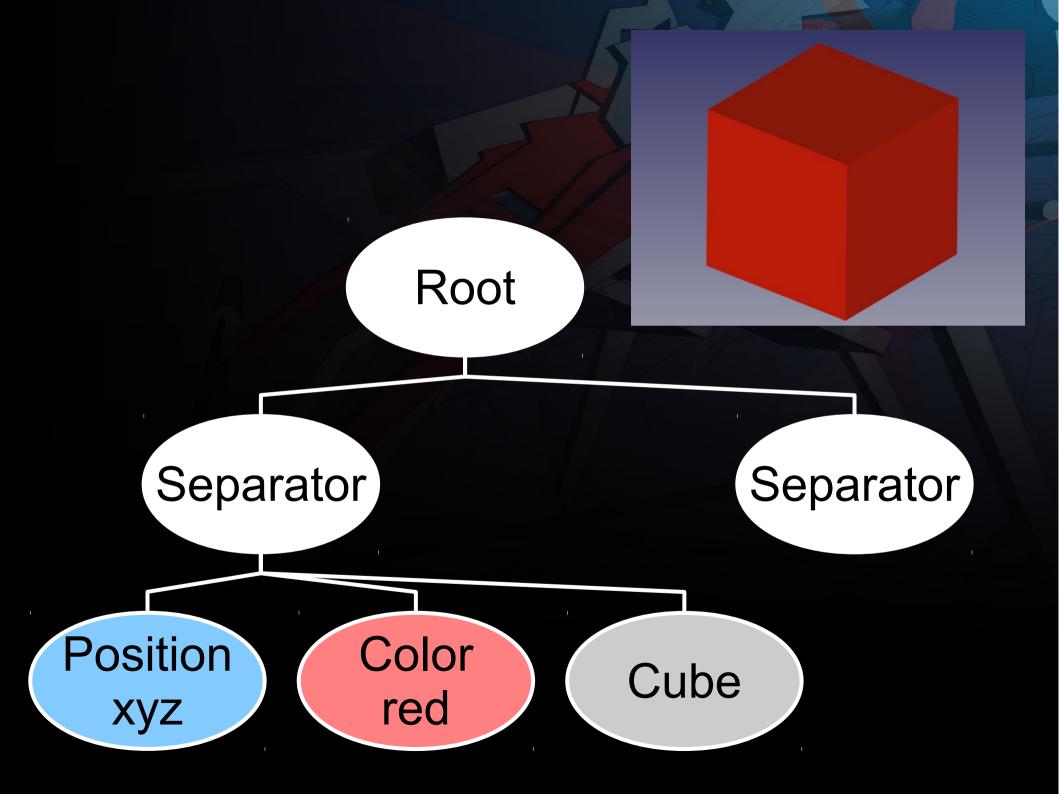


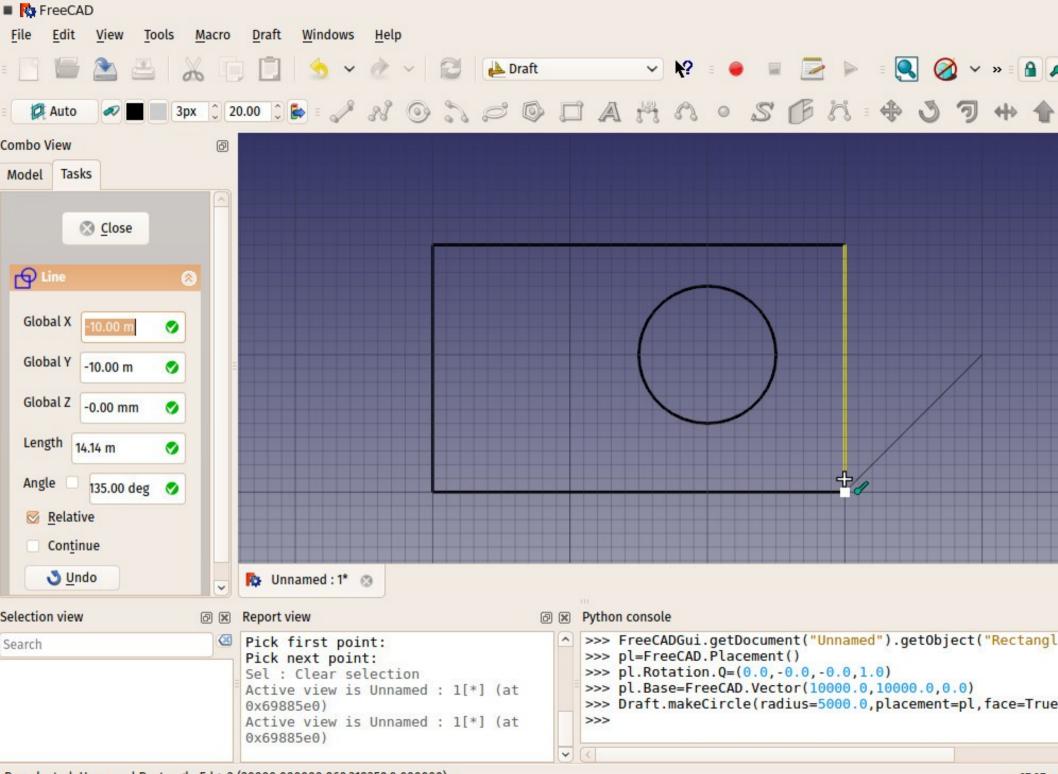


Access the OpenGL 3D view

via Coin3D's python lib







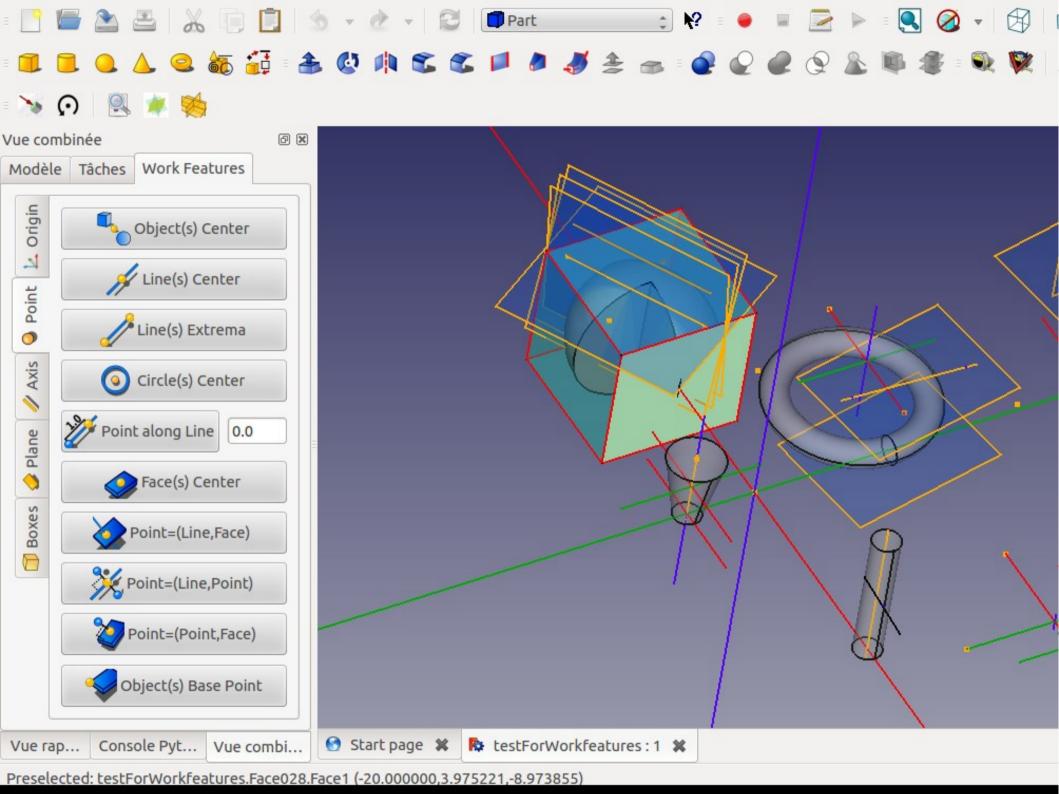
The user can

Quickly record a couple of actions

Tweak it afterwards

Create highly complex GUI elements

Create the needed screen behaviour



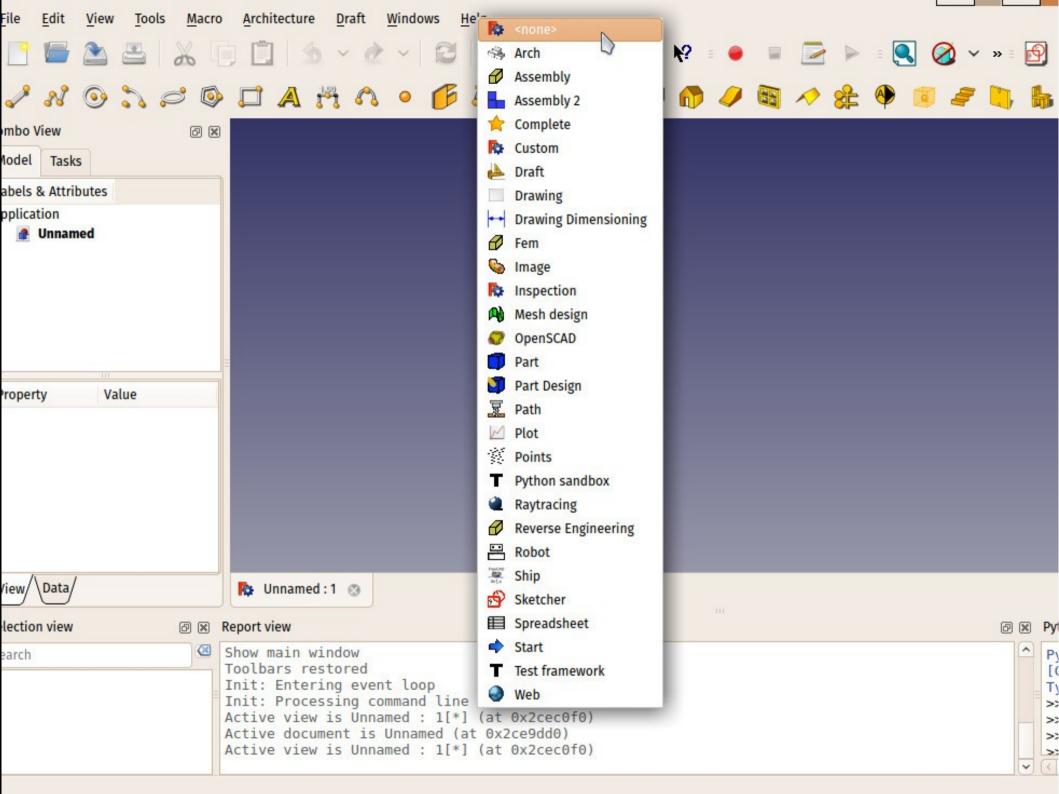
Typical learning path

 Start by recording some actions: my first macro!

Publish it on the FreeCAD website

Tweak it, add some salt

• Man, I need a dialog...



The community usually

- Suffocates cool new users with help
- Guides through the complex world of technical 3D

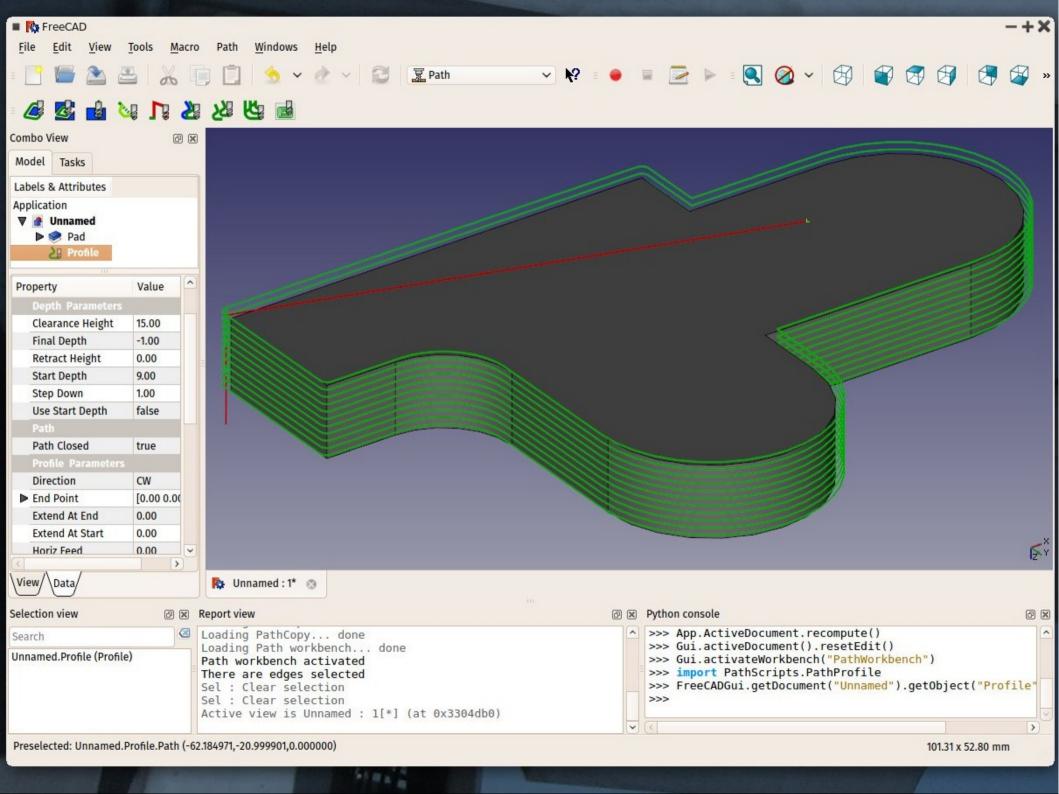
- Provides a lot of feedback and testing
- Decides about anything

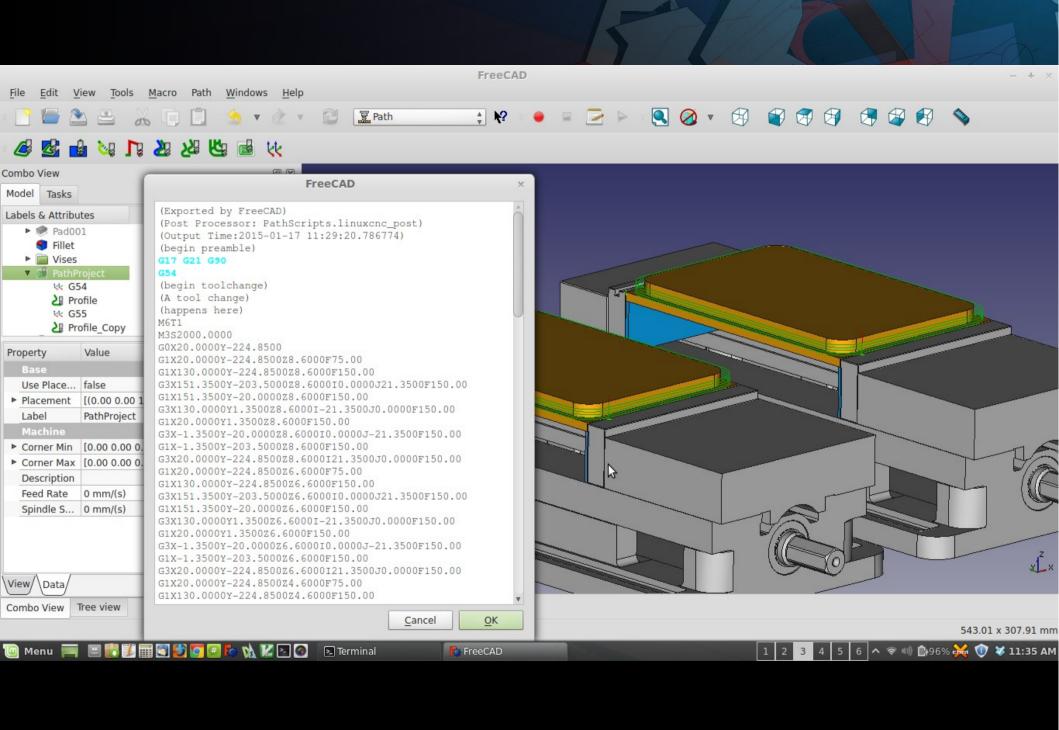
The FreeCAD development

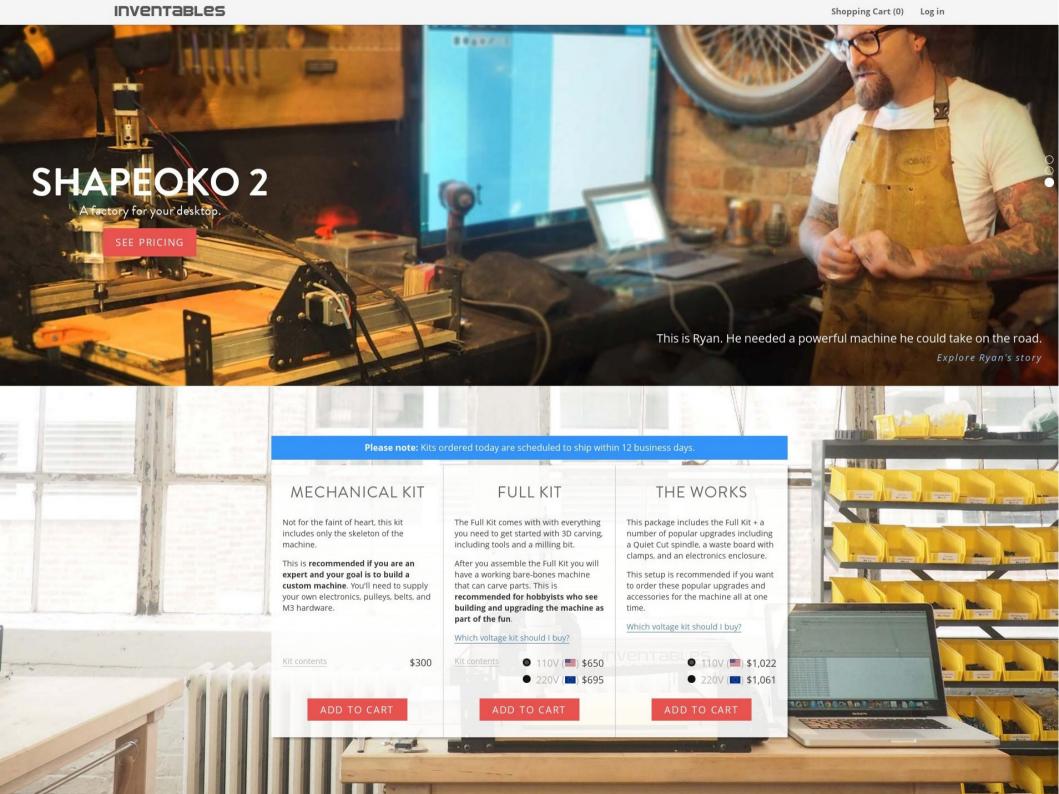
- No goals, no schedule, no law
- No release plan. No plan at all, actually
- No typical "user-to-developer" thing
- Most of the problems get solved directly on the forum

And the developers?

- Just 3 people with write permission
- General knowledge of the whole app
- Very tight attention to the structure and the principles
- Promote FWD (FreeCAD World Domination)







"We're moving into this future where the factory is everywhere, and the design team is everyone. That is an industrial revolution"

Alastair Parvin (TED talk) http://www.wikihouse.cc

