

# Founding and running C++ User Groups

Jens Weller  
CppCon 2019

Its lunch...  
So thanks for coming to this talk!

Tomorrow: BoF on C++ User Groups!

# Introduction



- \* '81
- C++ since '98
- was a C++ Freelancer
- Meeting C++
- C++ Evangelist
  - Supporting C++ Community
  - Social Media
  - global Network for C++

# History of this (and similar) talks

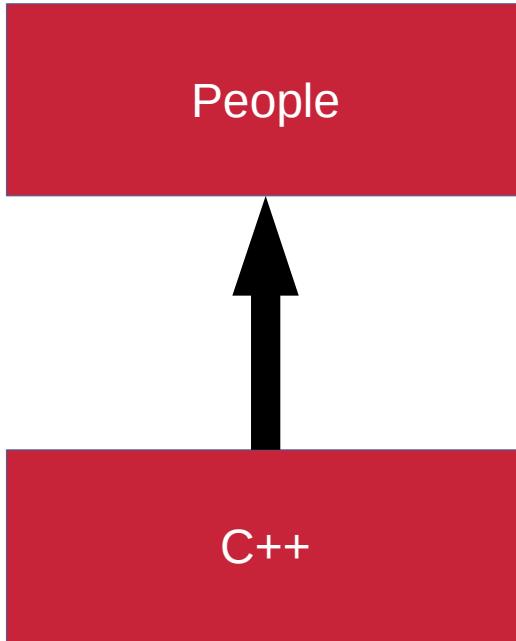
- 2012
  - User Group Talk at Meeting C++
- 2013
  - User Group Talk at C++Now\*
- 2014
  - “Founding C++ User Groups” at CppCon\*
- 2014 – 2018
  - Meeting C++ Update
  - BoF meeting at CppCon
  - Lounge Track at Meeting C++

\* with Jon Kalb



# Goals of this talk

- Help Folks with starting a Group
  - Including a general update from 2015
- Address the existing groups
  - Join the organizers!



# Existing User Groups

C++ User Groups - 2011



C++ User Groups – 2014



# Today...

Meeting C++ 2018



[worldmap]



# How many attend?



Meeting C++  
@meetingcpp



Have you attended a C++ User Group meeting?

#cpp

#cplusplus

#Thursdaysurvey

Yes

33%

No

67%

213 votes · Final results

# How many attend?



Meeting C++  
@meetingcpp



Have you attended a C++ Conference?

[#ThursdaySurvey](#)

[#cpp](#)

[#cplusplus](#)

Yes ✓

30%

No

70%

433 votes · Final results

# Combining these polls...



Meeting C++

@meetingcpp



Did you attend a C++ User Group meeting and/or C++ Conference?

[#cpp](#)

[#cplusplus](#)

Attended C++ UG & Conf ✓

24%

Attended C++ Conference

16%

Attended C++ User Group

9%

Neither

51%

173 votes · 3 hours left

# C++ User Groups

What is a C++ User Group?

# A C++ User Group (my definition)

- Local
  - City, local Area
  - Audience & Speakers
- Regular meetings
  - Once a month/quarter
- Opportunity to
  - Meet & network with other local C++ folks
  - Exchange ideas, libraries and knowledge about C++
  - Reach & educate the C++ Community

# Getting Started



# How to start a C++ User Group

- “Recipe”
  - People
  - Location
  - Content
  - First meeting



# People

- Attendees
  - Beginner to Expert
  - “Your target Audience”
  - Like to plan their week/month
    - Need to know meeting dates
- Organizers
  - No (C++) Experts needed!
  - Roles
    - Location contact/scout
    - Content planner
    - Moderator
    - Greeter



# Where to find folks

- Your Network
  - Coworkers
  - Friends
- Internet
  - Social Media
  - Meeting C++
  - (local) Forums & chats
- Meetup
  - Most groups are present
  - Source of new folks joining for every meetup.
  - \$
  - Alternatives

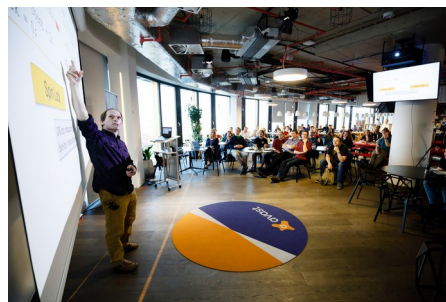
# Locations

- Bar / Restaurant / Social Place
- Hacker Space
- “Presentation” Room
  - Company?



C++ Stockholm

# Locations



# Help folks find you!





# Help folks find you!



# Hosting

- Free vs sponsored vs paid
  - Room
  - Food
  - Drinks

# Content

- More then just Talks
  - Coding Dojo ([cyber-doj.org](http://cyber-doj.org))
  - Video Interviews
  - Debates
  - Bookclub
  - C++ Quiz
  - Lightning Talks
- Talks
  - C++ Standards or Papers
  - Libraries
  - Feature focused
  - Audience specific
    - Beginner ↔ Expert

Lots of these Content activities  
are also great for your own team



And your team could be the seed  
of your user group

# First meeting

- Get started!
- No ideal date
  - Poll
- When to start
  - Avoid holiday times
  - December can be hard
- Tips
  - Don't expect too many people
  - Fluctuation is quite common
  - Meet regularly (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)
  - Try to announce next meeting with topic

# On Agendas (Example)

- Give folks time to arrive and socialize
- Start with a welcome message by a moderator
  - Slides are optional
- Content
  - Breaks / Food / Drinks
- End with room for Questions and socializing



# Sponsoring

- Hosting meetings
  - HR often provides funding
- Food/Drinks/Nice to have
- Recording
- Have in Mind
  - No Marketing
  - Change of perspective
  - Don't spend money you don't have!

# Starting new vs. Joining

- Inactive Group might exist
  - Reaching out to members has great value
- Joining an active group
  - Adds value
  - Increases chance of success
- Starting new
  - Only option?
  - Existing group not flexibel enough?

# Next Meetings & Long Term Perspective

# Next Meetings

- Prefer wide over narrow topics
    - Introduction to X
    - Beginner – Intermediate
  - Good alternatives to talks
    - Coding dojos
    - Share knowledge on
      - Open Source Libraries
      - Books
  - Lighting Talks
    - Great if you have enough
- Structure
    - Socialize first
    - Content
    - Breaks
    - End with time to socialize

# Long Term Perspective





# Long Term Structure (build a team)

- Roles
  - Location Contact
  - Speaker Contact
  - Attendee Contact
  - Meeting Planning
  - Moderation
  - Greeting
- An idealized C++ User Group ...
  - 1-n Roles per Person
  - 0-n Persons per Role
  - Mentoring opportunity
- Organizers welcome to join!

# Long Term Structure (build a team)

- Roles
  - **Location Contact**
  - Speaker Contact
  - Attendee Contact
  - Meeting Planning
  - Moderation
  - Greeting
- Responsible for where your group meets
  - Can be Hosting contact
  - Open/Closes location

# Long Term Structure (build a team)

- Roles
  - Location Contact
  - **Speaker Contact**
  - Attendee Contact
  - Meeting Planning
  - Moderation
  - Greeting
- Your pipeline for talks
- Folks planning to speak should reach out

# Long Term Structure (build a team)

- Roles
  - Location Contact
  - Speaker Contact
  - **Attendee Contact**
  - Meeting Planning
  - Moderation
  - Greeting
- Answers general Questions
- Other roles might be busy
- Code of Conduct

# Long Term Structure (build a team)

- Roles
  - Location Contact
  - Speaker Contact
  - Attendee Contact
  - **Meeting Planning**
  - Moderation
  - Greeting
- Decides on when, where and with which content a meeting is
- Team leader?

# Long Term Structure (build a team)

- Roles
  - Location Contact
  - Speaker Contact
  - Attendee Contact
  - Meeting Planning
  - **Moderation**
  - Greeting
- Leads through the meeting
- Does Announcements
  - Upcoming opportunities
    - Call for Papers
    - Other local events
    - Next Meeting?
- Introduces
  - Hosts
  - Speakers

# Long Term Structure (build a team)

- Roles
  - Location Contact
  - Speaker Contact
  - Attendee Contact
  - Meeting Planning
  - Moderation
  - **Greeting**
- Welcomes new Folks to the C++ User Group
- Connects new members to the group
- Helps socialize
- Makes people feel welcome

# Long Term Structure

- Know your local speakers
- Ask past speakers to return





# Long Term Structure

- Code of Conduct
  - Berlin CoC
- Signal to under-represented groups

#include <C++>



# Your Group & Diversity

- This can be hard
  - Depending where your group is
- Reach out
  - Include in your team
- Diversity in
  - Talk topics (Beginner ↔ Expert)
  - Content
  - Audience
- Make it easier to attend by not always meeting at the same weekdays / times / dates
- Code of Conduct



# What Meeting C++ offers

- Monthly Listing of Meetings
- Contact form
- Listing at [meetingcpp.com](http://meetingcpp.com)
- Social Media

The logo for Meeting C++ features a black rectangular background. On the left side of the rectangle, there are three horizontal white bars of equal length, stacked vertically. To the right of these bars, the text "Meeting C++" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Welcome to Meeting C++!**

# Monthly Listing at Meeting C++

- New User Groups are mentioned in the beginning
- Have your current meeting online at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month
- Have it listed in an ical source
  - e.g. meetup
- I do not edit the listing after posting.
- Distributed to Social Media, isocpp.com and reddit

## C++ User Group Meetings in September 2019

published at 02.09.2019 10:28 by Jens Weller

The monthly overview on upcoming C++ User Group meetings!

There are 2 new C++ User Groups: [Linz\(QI\)](#), [Boulder](#).

### The Meetings

- 2.9 C++ UG Seattle - [Coffee and Code](#)
- 2.9 C++ UG Dublin - [September C/C++ Meetup](#)
- 3.9 C++ UG Oslo - [Jason Turner: Best Practices LIVE + Panel on Compile-time Executi](#)
- 4.9 C++ UG Bay area - [Object Oriented Programming - Back to Basics](#)
- 5.9 C++ UG Munich - ["Efficient GPU programming" and "Non-conforming C++"](#)
- 5.9 C++ UG Paris - [C++ FRUG #36 - Return of the C++FrUG](#)
- 5.9 C++ UG Bay area (livm) - [LLVM's bay-area monthly social gathering](#)
- 5.9 C++ UG St. Petersburg - ["Efficient GPU programming" u "Non-conforming C++"](#)
- 9.9 C++ UG Seattle - [Coffee and Code](#)
- 9.9 C++ UG London - [Type Punning and Counting Nanoseconds](#)
- 9.9 C++ UG Hannover - [Treffen der C++ User Group Hannover \(Thema noch offen\)](#)
- 10.9 C++ UG Melbourne - [Deep Chalk: For Library Authors](#)
- 10.9 C++ UG San Diego - [7th C++ group meetup - 9-10-2019](#)
- 10.9 C++ UG Portland - [PDXCPP - Monthly Meetup](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Linköping - [Septemberröte](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Saint Louis - [ROS2 and DDS](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Denver - [Back To Basics: Object Oriented Programming](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Utah - [Regular Monthly Meeting](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Boston - [TBA \(hosted at CIC Boston\)](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Bay area - [Software Engineers Wanted \(If You Can Find Any\)](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Irvine (OI) - [OI Q&A - Topic TBD](#)
- 11.9 C++ UG Karlsruhe - [Die schattigen Ecken von C++ \(Vortrag von Achim Guckenberger\)](#)
- 12.9 C++ UG Montréal - [Lightning Talks](#)
- 12.9 C++ UG Aachen - [C++ User Meeting Aachen](#)
- 12.9 C++ UG Dresden - [Martin Perckert: Alien Technology - Functional Programming and C++](#)
- 12.9 C++ UG C++ Italy - [Meetup Settembre / Modena - Esperimenti di Domain Driven Design in C++](#)
- 16.9 C++ UG Seattle - [Coffee and Code](#)
- 18.9 C++ UG Hamburg - [N.N.](#)
- 18.9 C++ UG Düsseldorf - [Treffen der C++ User Gruppe Düsseldorf](#)
- 19.9 C++ UG Ruhrgebiet - [std::variant und sum-types](#)
- 19.9 C++ UG St. Petersburg - [Автоматизация ЭТО](#)
- 23.9 C++ UG Seattle - [Coffee and Code](#)
- 24.9 C++ UG Toronto - [Modern C++ Threads and CppCon Trip Reports](#)
- 25.9 C++ UG Vienna (OI) - [OI Vienna Meetup @ Feige](#)
- 25.9 C++ UG New York - [Go for C++ Developers](#)
- 25.9 C++ UG Bay area - [Trip Report for CppCon](#)
- 26.9 C++ UG Karlsruhe - [Stammtisch \(Gemeinsam mit der Functional Programmers UG KA\)](#)
- 26.9 C++ UG Munich - [Aspects of C++ in autonomous driving development](#)
- 26.9 C++ UG Moscow - [C++ Drink Up Moscow](#)
- 30.9 C++ UG Seattle - [Coffee and Code](#)
- 30.9 C++ UG Bremen - [C++ User Group](#)

# meetingcpp.com/usergroups

## C++ User Groups

This section is for the different C++ User Groups, where you can see if there is a local C++ User Group meeting near you! As Meeting C++ is dedicated to support new and running user groups, feel free to contact me for any questions, but also if you want to have your User Group added to the list. You might also want to read about [founding new C++ User Groups](#) and [6 topics on starting and running a User Group](#). There is also the #local\_groups channel at the cpplang slack, [get your invite here](#). Many of the User Groups are always on the look out for speakers, sponsors, coorganizers/hosts, or just C++ programmers visiting. Hence [Meeting C++ provides a contact form](#) to get in contact via email with one or more user groups.

User Group organizers can [register their User Group as Meeting C++ community sponsor](#), this will also list you in the [User Group contact](#) form.

# meetingcpp.com/usergroups

## **Alphabetical list of C++ User Groups world wide:**

- [Aachen](#)
- [Amsterdam](#)
- [Ann Arbor](#)
- [Arhus](#)
- [Atlanta](#)
- [Auckland](#)
- [Austin](#)
- [Austin \(Mentoring & Study Group\)](#)
- [Bangalore](#)
- [Barcelona](#)
- [Bay area](#)
- [Bay area \(Illum\)](#)
- [Beijing](#)
- [Belfast](#)
- [Belgium](#)
- [Belgrade](#)
- [Berlin](#)

# User Group contact form

[Meeting C++ 2019](#) | [Post your job to Meeting C++](#) | [Meeting C++ Recruiting](#) | [Login](#)

## Meeting C++ User Group contact form

Running a C++ User Group? [Register your User Group for this form here.](#)

You can contact one or more C++ User Groups over this form for speaking, sponsoring/hosting or just visiting.

Select user groups


<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belfast	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belgium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bochum/Dortmund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bratislava	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budapest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chig-Nepco
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calicut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denver, CO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dallas
<input type="checkbox"/> Düsseldorf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hamburg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hannover
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Köln	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> London
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Madrid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manchester, Salford, Leeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montreal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oslo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paris
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prague	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saint-Petersburg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Francisco/Bay Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seattle, WA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stockholm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toronto
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vancouver		

Name:

Email:

Title of your message:

Your message sent to the selected user groups:

  
The talk will center around material presented at Meeting C++, C++How and CppCon in the past, but also include new material and ideas which have been implemented since then.  
New to have: things that would still make it into my talk  
Images, links and ideas for my talk  
Especially some images from User Groups around the world would be a nice addition to my talk  
Thanks,  
Jens Weller  
P

What value is a?

- Makes contacting User Groups easy for speakers or sponsors
- User Groups are visible here when registering with Meeting C++
- Its how I contacted the C++ User Groups for this talk

# Wikipage at isocpp.org

## User Groups Worldwide

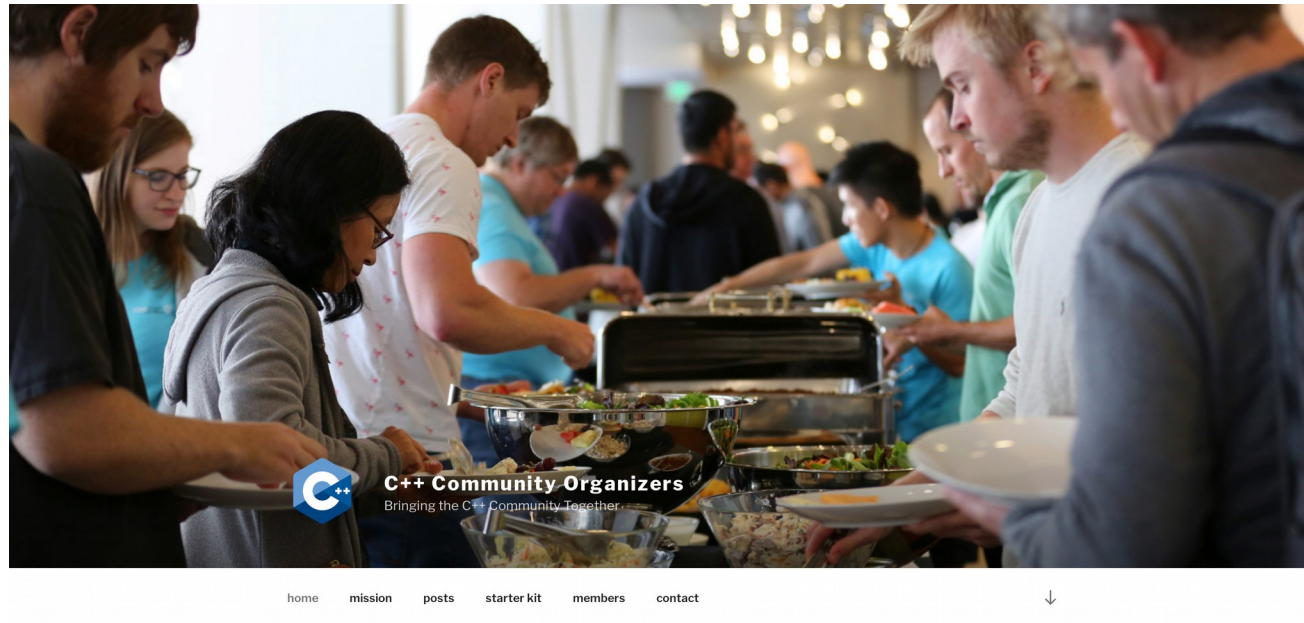
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### Contents of this section:

- [World Map](#)
- [How can I start a local user group?](#)
- [How can I present at a local user group?](#)
- [Argentina](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [Austria](#)
- [Belarus](#)
- [Belgium](#)
- [Brazil](#)
- [Bulgaria](#)
- [Canada](#)

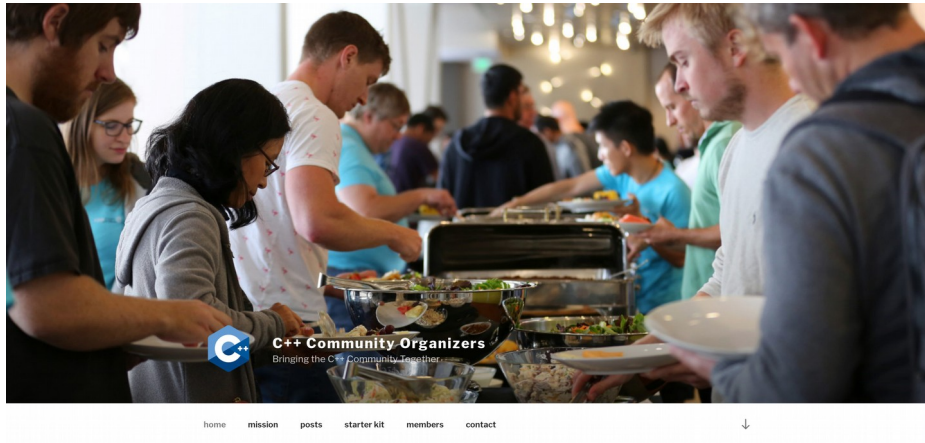


# New since 2019: cppcom.org



# New since 2019: cppcom.org

- UG Starter Kit
- Monthly Group Chat



# Conclusions

- When Starting
  - Well prepared
  - Community helps
  - High chance of success
- When Joining
  - What can you add?
  - Organizers always happy about help
  - Reach out

# Questions?

- Ask now
  - Reach me
    - @meetingcpp
    - info@meetingcpp.com
  - Jon Kalb
    - @\_JonKalb
  - Include
    - Includecpp.org
- Come tomorrow at lunch to the BoF

Thanks for coming!