

# Mozilla

## Fix the Internet Spring MVP Lab - Fix the Internet Spring Lab

View on Screendoor at <https://mozilla2.forms.fm/fix-the-internet-spring-lab/responses/3B4HN8suUmtv>

### Name

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### One line summary of the idea.

Open-source cross-platform automated time tracker with self-ownership of data through decentralized synchronization

### Description of product idea: What will the Minimum Viable Product be in 8 weeks?

In 8 weeks we will have an advanced automated time-tracker capable of decentralized synchronization where the user owns all their data.

This will include our most requested features (our users request and vote on features at our forum) offered by centralized time trackers such as cross-device synchronisation, better categorization, a better (non-beta) Android app, as well as better ability for our users to create privacy-focused reports which could be used to report time worked to employers without sacrificing your privacy to them.

In the long-term, our project is being designed to help the individual track and get insights on how they spend their time without giving up their privacy. We have users today which find our app of great help in their lives. We also find that there is great potential for building additional tools on top, to help people practice good screen-time habits and improve their productivity and work-life balance.

Additionally, several companies have reached out to us about how to incorporate our project into their business, which we've cautiously approached as we want to make sure we don't end up in the same trap as our competitors (centralized databases with sensitive data).

### Optional Video

<http://>

### All Team Members

NAME	EMAIL	LOCATION	ROLE ON TEAM	AFFILIATION	SKILL SETS	LINK
Erik Bjäreholt	<a href="mailto:erik@bjareho.lt">erik@bjareho.lt</a>	Lund, Sweden	PM, lead dev	None	Jack-of-all-development, project management experience, long-time open source contributor	<a href="https://github.com/ErikBjare">https://github.com/ErikBjare</a>
Johan Bjäreholt	<a href="mailto:johan@bjareho.lt">johan@bjareho.lt</a>	Lund, Sweden	Lead backend dev	None	Backend guru	<a href="https://github.com/johan-bjareholt">https://github.com/johan-bjareholt</a>
Kerkko Peltari	<a href="mailto:kerk.pelt@gmail.com">kerk.pelt@gmail.com</a>	Helsinki, Finland	Developer	None	Developer	<a href="https://github.com/xylix">https://github.com/xylix</a>

### Are you looking for any teammates? If so, please indicate what skills or roles you seek.

We're always looking for more teammates who are skilled in Rust or data visualization JavaScript/TypeScript (frontend built with Vue).

We are also looking for people with the skills necessary to help us successfully market an open source project like ours.

## Team Member Details

**# Erik**  
Lots of experience building open source stuff, especially with Python and JavaScript/TypeScript, as well as some Rust. In the past he's been: algotrading crypto, built Dapps for Ethereum (including Thankful, an automated no-middlemen microdonation web extension), and more (see GitHub profile).

He currently works part-time at a startup building an app for people with speech-language pathologies. He has almost completed his MSc in Computer Science (WIP). Already in his first year of university, he received an award/scholarship for his open-source contributions (and is now a board member for the committee awarding the scholarship).

**# Johan**  
Works as a full-time developer. Writes C at his day job. Rewrote the backend for the application in Rust (for amazing performance and security improvements). Has a BSc in software engineering. The (slightly) younger brother of Erik.

**# Kerkko**  
Experience working on various open source projects, have been contributing to the project for the last couple of months (with great results!). Studying computer science at the University of Helsinki.

## Describe your work plan.

**# Competitors**  
Time-tracking services like RescueTime, ManicTime, and more (see the README in our main GitHub repository for a comparison). Unfortunately, all our competitors have gone the route of collecting all your sensitive usage data in their centralized databases. We almost have full feature parity (apart from not having finished our cross-device sync, and our Android app still being in an early stage).

**# Getting users**  
We've already attracted over 10,000 users (>36k downloads), we will attract more by first finishing our most requested feature: cross-device, decentralized, synchronization. After that, we will be continuing with our marketing efforts, which we think will make us able to eventually reach our 100k and 1M users. It's not really a matter of if but when, and we're working to get there sooner :)

**# Roadmap**  
We have a roadmap laid out for the next months (see GitHub), all we need is the resources (money) so we can work less on our other jobs and therefore speed up development so that those months become weeks. This project has always had a focus on the long-term, and judging from what our users think of us, it has paid off (see the ratings on, for example, <https://alternativeto.net/software/activitywatch/reviews/>).

**# Tech stack - Backend**  
We have originally been using Python for most of our backend code. We are rewriting parts of our backend code in Rust (including the main "server" component which will soon replace the Python implementation). There is no use of cloud services or APIs, it's all runs locally. Our decentralized sync is based on the user already having a folder under synchronization, using any folder synchronizer of their choice such as Syncthing, Dropbox, Google Drive, or even just rsync.

**# Tech stack - Frontend**  
We use JavaScript/TypeScript (Vue) for our frontend. We have an Android beta which leverages the Rust codebase for the backend and the web UI for frontend, but it also naturally has some parts written in Kotlin.

**# Sketches**  
Running out of time for the application so unfortunately don't have time for this... Jacob who referred us was a bit late, letting us know about it only a few hours before the deadline. However, our website has some screenshots you may look at (but they are notably missing our new, fancy, categorization feature and dashboard redesign) and there's plenty to read about the project in the links provided below.

\*Please\* reach out if you want us to add more, we can definitely make our plan more concrete and specific, if desired.

**# Links**  
Website: <https://activitywatch.net>  
Main GitHub repo: <https://github.com/ActivityWatch/activitywatch>  
Forum: <https://forum.activitywatch.net> (where features can be voted on)

**What challenges do you anticipate with this idea?**

We think we already have a decent plan laid out, but anticipate challenges in speeding up our user acquisition. We already have over a thousand downloads every week (with virtually zero marketing effort), but we think this could be over ten thousand downloads, even today.

Our long-term challenges are ways to fund the project (to improve development speed and get a higher bus factor), but since two of our developers are brothers who have happily been at it for years without pay we have an unusually long runway before this becomes a critical issue.

**Please explain the team's remote working condition.**

Our team is already working remote today, with regular dev calls. Most communication happens openly either in the GitHub issues or on the forum.

**Category (pick all that match)**

- ✓ Collaboration & society
  - Decentralized web
  - Messaging & social networking
  - Misinformation & content
- ✓ Surveillance capitalism
  - Artificial Intelligence

**Anything else we should know?**

Our project is already past an MVP stage, but the features we're applying for (decentralized sync and multi-device support) are not.

Since we really have something great going here and are actively looking for ways to fund ourselves to speed up development (see our GitHub issue on the matter) we hope you consider our project a worthy cause and that we're well worth the funding :)

**How did you hear about this the Spring MVP Lab?**

From my dear friend Jacob Karlsson (who's also applying and worked with Erik on Thankful, and a great coder)