LLVM OFFICE HOURS
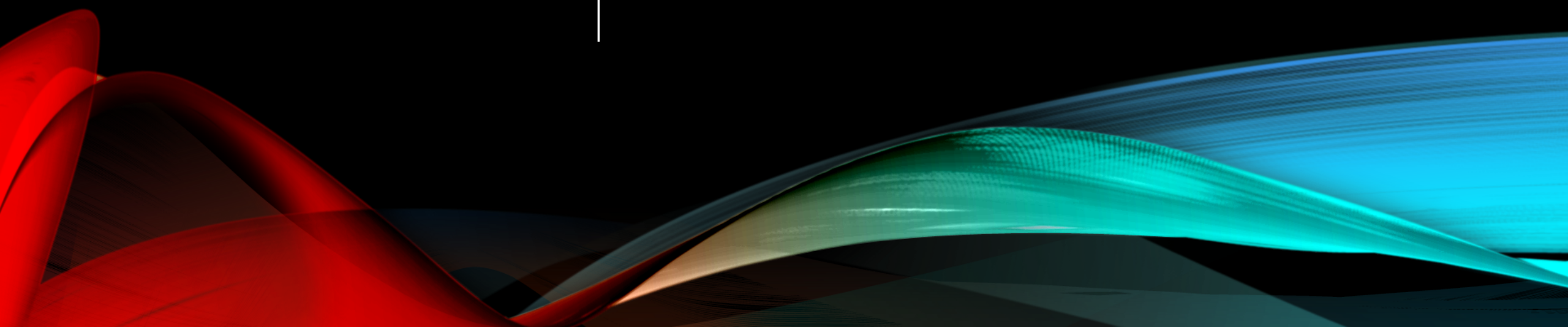
Kristof Beyls

LLVM dev 2022

TOP 3 ISSUES HINDERING INCREASED ENGAGEMENT IN AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LLVM COMMUNITY

As gathered from 450 attendees of the 2021 LLVM dev meeting:

1. Sometimes people aren't receiving detailed enough feedback on their proposals.

2. People are worried to come across as an idiot when asking a question on the mailing list/on record.

3. People cannot find where to start; where to find documentation; etc.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uORjOwuSG_M

ONE OF THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: "OFFICE HOURS"

- What is it?
  - Have people with some experience in LLVM or a specific area make themselves available.
  - Term comes from – I think – Anglo-Saxon academic system: professors making themselves available at given time for any student/any question.
  - I think of it as an "Ask-my-Anything" by experienced LLVM contributors/users.
  - An opportunity to talk 1-1 with other LLVM people without needing to travel to a developers meeting.
  - "There are no stupid questions"
  - A form of mentoring?

- We started office hours a few months ago.

CURRENTLY 10 HOSTS, DOCUMENTED AT HTTPS://LLVM.ORG/DOCS/GETTINGINVOLVED.HTML #OFFICE-HOURS

Office hours

A number of experienced LLVM contributors make themselves available for a chat on a regular schedule, to anyone who is looking for some guidance. Please find the list of who is available when, through which medium, and what their area of expertise is. Don't be too shy to dial in!

Of course, people take time off from time to time, so if you dial in and you don't find anyone present, chances are they happen to be off that day.

LLVM office hours

Name	In-scope topics	When?	Where?	Languages
Kristof Beyls	General questions on how to contribute to LLVM; organizing meetups; submitting talks; and other general LLVM-related topics. Arm/AArch64 codegen. LLVM security group.	Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9.30am CET, for 30 minutes. ics	Jitsi	English, Flemish, Dutch
Alina Sbirlea	General questions on how to contribute to LLVM; women in compilers; MemorySSA, BatchAA, various loop passes, new pass manager.	Monthly, 2nd Tuesdays, 10.00am PT/7:00pm CET, for 30 minutes. ics gcal	GoogleMeet	English, Romanian
Aaron Ballman	Clang internals; frontend attributes; clang-tidy; clang-query; AST matchers	Monthly, 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00am Eastern, for 30 minutes. ics gcal	GoogleMeet	English, Norwegian (not fluently)
Johannes Doerfert (he/him)	OpenMP, LLVM-IR, interprocedural optimizations, Attributor, workshops, research, …	Every 2 weeks, Wednesdays 10:30am (Chicago Time), for 1 hour. ics	MS Teams	English, German
Tobias Grosser	General questions on how to contribute to LLVM/MLIR, Polly, Loop Optimization, FPL, Research in LLVM, PhD in CS, Summer of Code.	Monthly, last Monday of the month at 18:00 London time (typically 9am PT), for 30 minutes.	Video Call	English, German, Spanish, French

INITIAL EXPERIENCE BY HOSTS…

Newcomers looking for how Clang is organized. **Experienced folks** to reconnect and discuss community

Many hosts have few or no people dialling in

A great way to see what kind of struggles newcomers have with getting involved. **Technical** difficulties, **social** ones, etc.

A lot more advertisement is needed to let newcomers know about the **existence**, and help them **overcome anxiety** to actually call in

Many newcomers stick around in the community and are successful.
When I see someone from office hours submitting a patch and going through the review process with confidence, one hour invested easily gives back multiple hours of benefit.

What is the value of "office hours" (a specific person) versus "online sync-ups" (a specific topic)?

INITIAL EXPERIENCE SO FAR...

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HOW CAN YOU HELP FOR OFFICE HOURS TO REACH FULL POTENTIAL?

- Volunteer for hosting an office hour
  - Not necessary to be a deep expert
- Don't be shy of calling in to an office hour
  - The hosts are looking forward to you joining
- Help advertising
  - Use Discourse/Discord more?
  - Word-of-mouth
  - Twitter/other social media?
  - Advertise at non-LLVM-specific conferences?
  - Blog posts
    https://blog.llvm.org/posts/2022-10-27-office-hours/
- Share your ideas at the round table this afternoon.