

Software Underground

Board Meeting

19 November 2020

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 16.00 UTC on Thursday 19 November. Quorum is 5.

Regrets: Chance, Brendon

Present: Matt, Leiaka, Luisa, Filippo, Steve, Dieter, Jo,

Previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting are on GDocs here >

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hdk6GuV1CXQ9wS_gvrhoTOyZjXae2Vl6TkWkKhFUMLo/edit?usp=sharing

...and on GitHub here >

<https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/tree/master/board>

Remarks: None.

GitHub

Dieter created <https://github.com/swung-research> , and there is a first repo which could serve as an example:

<https://github.com/swung-research/3d-csem-open-source-landscape>. We discussed this before, but it caused some discussion over at **#swung-org** recently, so maybe another quick discussion is required. **Dieter to comment.**

Dieter: intended for collaborative projects among Swungers, where no one person/org wants to or should 'own' the project. This new org follows the same model as Simpeg.

Matt: can we elegantly cross-link the orgs?

LinkedIn & social media

Steve has set up a LinkedIn page, per the last meeting. Please tag it if you're using LinkedIn. Anything to report, Steve?

Page is here >> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/softwareunderground/>

Changed the company type to "Professional training and development" but it could be "Non-profit organization management" too.

Luisa: could connect

Leiaka: will help out with Twitter - awesome.

Subsurface Rendezvous

The 'Research meeting' changed in format and timing and the first event was earlier this week, on Tuesday 17 November. Update from Steve Purves.

The document generated at the Rendezvous is here >

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15-ZVnJBFkf16SBhMDLdSZeoZonI_YZ0pm6bI_WArfR_Y/edit

The YouTube video is here > https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_dbLhIoNVs

Steve - Ca. 25 ppl on the Zoom, and 10-12 on the Livestream on YouTube. Goal was to capture & produce something from the session. Georg Semmler presented, provoking discussion about what geomodels are, what other software exists for geomodeling, and lots of sharing of ideas and points of view. Chat was almost all in the Zoom, not in Slack. Google Doc grew to reasonable size, plan is to turn that into a summary with Georg, and perhaps put it on subsurfwiki.org and/or as a blog post on swung.org.

Planning similar events on geostats and seismic inversion for Jan and Feb, but also to do another event (topic TBC) in December.

Planning to iterate on the format to improve it, collaborating in Slack (asynchronously too) and the live event. Looking for more interactivity, eg w notebooks. Exploring format so next events might change up / vary a bit.

Brian: liked that discussion was captured in GDoc. Conversation in Slack during Transform was less easy to take away / parse. Was a good way to 'freeze'/capture the content.

Dieter: could push the format into Transform after all these experiments. Advertise these things at Transform to pull more people in after that event.

Will report on the December Rendezvous event in the December board meeting.

Bursaries for PyData Global

Update from Filippo now that the event is over.

Q: are there other meetings we should support in this way? Perhaps another in the spring?

A little disappointing. Few remarks about the event. Timing was a little rushed or 'just in time' -- planning to repeat but with longer lead time.

PyData scheduling / logistics was a bit of a mess, with login in to portals etc. Another NumFocus event, JupyterCon, was also a little messy.

Steve: lesson may be: don't build your own infrastructure. Mattermost integration was good.

Filippo: lots of time wasted finding things.

Dieter: how did they deal with the global timezones etc? Steve: they didn't, but content is getting to the website.

Matt: worth reading about the JupyterCon incident >>

<https://swung.slack.com/archives/C0138FEJRUZ/p1604886152083300>

AWS sponsorship

Per last meeting, Matt made a (very rough) Call for Proposals page:

<https://softwareunderground.org/call-for-proposals>

Plan is for Filippo and Steve to review -- with your input if you have any -- then post on Slack.

Matt: the form exists, and can be tweaked / edited.

Steve: clock is ticking a bit, need to get it out there.

Dieter: based on PyData experience, can we ask for specific feedback?

Steve: will be more collaborative anyway.

Matt: can add a form field asking what the 'report back' will be, but without closing the door on using for somewhat commercial applications. Dieter: can still specify something.

Matt: a blog post would be a good way to launch this, with some examples.

Transform 2021 and Annual General Meeting #1

Update:

- Awesome news: Irene Wallis (geothermal geologist in NZ), Sofiyah Mokhtar (petroleum geologist in MY), and Ashley Russell (data scientist in NO) have joined the organizing team.
- Next team meetings are in the next 2 weeks; we will hold 2 of them to try to account for the time zones (we're never awake at the same time!).
- The Jitsi server is now on jitsi.softwareunderground.org (thank you Filippo!) — please use it whenever you can.
- **Input needed on tutorial topics.**
- **We're still looking for ideas for 'serendipitous collaboration'.** Mentioned: branch.gg, remo.co, gather.town
- Convo is in **#t21-org** if you want to chat.

Website

Matt updated the **about** page, which was very out of date.

Matt added an **events** dropdown to the header menu. Please check it out. It includes a page for TRANSFORM and one for the AGM. There is an event calendar.

Note that there is also a *separate* Google Calendar; I think I added everyone to it. You can also create events there; that way they show up in the Slack #events channel. I have not yet found a way to connect all these things up (Squarespace events with Google calendar).

Matt also added a link to the **wiki** in the header menu.

Finally, but not least, I added a **join** page, which is linked to:

<https://softwareunderground.org/join>. This is 'members only', which means a person will be prompted to sign up if they click on it. Currently it leads to a completely blank page.

Matt: make a v simple member's only page.

Here is what people see when they click the link:

JOIN TO VOTE

To vote in Software Underground elections you must be a Voting Member. By clicking **JOIN**, you are accepting the [Terms and Conditions](#).

JOIN

[Sign In](#)

Question: how does this play with the Slack bot? Is there a workable solution here?

These are the 'terms' the page refers to:

<https://softwareunderground.org/terms-and-conditions> (this is accessible to anyone from the footer menu)

Matt removed the subscriptions page, which is currently not accessible from anywhere. I think we need to review the subscription / donation strategy in the light of the new sign-up process etc. I have been asked about a Sponsors page (by an actual sponsor), which is related. My default behaviour will probably be to copy this

<https://agilescientific.com/sponsors>

Reminder: the FAQ is still pretty crap, in case anyone wants to check it out.

By-laws and membership

Please read the current version of this By-law No. 1, which we should ratify soon and make available to the members. They will then vote on adopting it at the AGM (or before).

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CMH6BDnF9CmCD82lKi9wcMzxBCKOT4Kz6MigUTbBAG0/edit?usp=sharing>

The key part is the membership arrangement, **which has changed again**:

- We have reverted to a single class of members: voting members. Everyone else in the Slack is just a public person (non-voting, non-member).
- The Slack is 'just' a public service that Swung runs.
- We found a candidate voting site: opavote.com please check it out.

I propose we vote on this thing at the December board meeting. Do we need another read-through before then?

Regarding the AGM, which will be our next focus, please have a look at this example AGM documentation from OSM (thank you for this, Jo!):

https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/wiki/Annual_General_Meetings/2019

Slack

Matt has archived some channels and put a note in some others to squawk if it is not to be archived yet. Please flag candidates over the next few weeks and we can start 2021 with a bit less clutter. We don't really have channel 'owners' so it's hard to delegate here.

Matt added #hello as the channel new users should be directed to for their first message. It's also a new default channel everyone will be added to. I also added the board members, and Agile peeps. What do we think of this?

I started looking for ways to purge users that have not signed in for a long time (say, a year or two) but didn't get too far. I guess in principle one can achieve almost anything with the API.

Is Slack still usable enough? Is it time to instigate a Slack team for managing the Slack?

Finance

Good news: we were finally approved for a credit card. This is guaranteed by cash, so it will lock CAD 2000 into a GIC indefinitely (about:

<https://www.rbcroyalbank.com/investments/gics.html>), which at least will make a small amount of interest.

Draft budget for 2020 [currency is CAD]:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mWJqEBVzTj4yJ57tsW TK74XAoJvb8b LJInV0bHCeQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Draft budget for 2021 [currency is CAD]:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-H9-3AeKSB-O6gHM8mwmPR769gWECW5rY82eHGGvSv0/edit?usp=sharing>

Technology audit has some changes, mostly I started adding columns for the owner user, and those who are admins:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mNAGEgQNvfZem5zY38u9etn200aFWbE2zJLcMEdiL4Y/edit?usp=sharing>

The slow progress with director's insurance continues.

AOB

Field Camp

Jo: Field Camp still interesting, especially for field hardware, what Field Camp material. BGS might be interested in some sort of project / collaboration.

Matt: I think there's something from when David sponsored, I will send.

Next meeting

What went wrong for the dates of this meeting?

Please check that you have been invited to:

- Thur 17 December at 1700 UTC (1100 CST, 1800 CET) - avoids Christmas

Matt will send out an invite for Jan / Feb / Mar in the coming weeks.

Parking lot / next meeting

- How are we going to solicit candidates for election to the board in April? Per Jo's suggestion, we can make a mechanism to open some limited number of places, so the the entire board doesn't change. This lets some founding directors stand down if they wish (to a maximum of 3, let's say), but still opens at most 2 new spots. Not sure how this works -- those founding members that stay are in by appo
- Data privacy standard. Luisa raised a point about PIPEDA and GDPR -- with respect to the Terms & Conditions page Matt added to the website. As a Canadian entity, we are bound by PIPEDA, not by GDPR (an EU law that in theory protects all EU citizens irrespective of their location, but in practice regulates EU corporations). However, we could voluntarily hold ourselves to GDPR. There are also non-profit accreditation schemes -- which aim to uphold quality and ethics -- we could join
- Joining a federation of earth science societies. For example there is one in Canada, but it has Canadian scope
<http://www.earthsciencescanada.com/careers/people/newrick/>; there's an EU equivalent <https://eurogeologists.eu/> but I don't know about a global one. There's also ESIP <https://www.esipfed.org/> (anyone want to attend their conference and report back?). Which brings up...
- ...BTW, are there other conferences we should be paying attention to?
- Other partnerships: I'd love to team up with organizations like EarthArXiv (e.g. on the reproducibility side), Volcanica, and other groups. I wonder if we can provide know-how, funding, etc. Anyone want to look into this?

These items will go into the next board meeting(s), along with those things we committed to revisit, such as the anti-racism list.