

Software Underground

Board Meeting

29 October 2020

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 16.00 UTC on Thursday 29 October. Quorum is 5.

Regrets: Steve, Leiaka, Brendon (temp), Jo?

Present: Chance, Luisa, Dieter, Filippo, Matt

Previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting are on GDocs here >

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16B78xzxWm9obYdtznzuURKv2ZDHFmRG2iUOUHlPvliA/edit?usp=sharing>

...and on GitHub here >

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

Remarks: None.

Welcome

In August we discussed posting the text of the Welcome message to #general to make people aware of it, and at the same time drawing attention to the new wording in the Code of Conduct that was approved at the last board meeting. **Update from Chance.**

The conversation about members continued!

- Dieter reiterated the key points are that we can't force everyone to become a member, and we need to know exactly who has voting rights so we know when we have a quorum, etc (and that number must be attainable).
- Chance told us about the bot which messages all new guests (what I suppose we need to call Slack users that are not voting members of Swung) with the Code of Conduct. This has not been shown to all existing guests, however.

- Matt: we need some process by which people will vote (Slack bot? Website?) and we need a database of members. We need the process to be simple (minimum viable solution) and maintainable/sustainable.
- Dieter: by-law currently allows for non-voting members, which is 'everyone in Slack'. Slack should be 'the list' of all other members. Membership should cycle on the same rhythm as the AGM.
- Chance: what the process is, it should mention making donations.
- Matt: I'll look at what SquareSpace has for membership.
- Luisa: voting system should allow for anonymous voting. This led to a discussion that resulted in a principle that all member voting should be anonymous. (We didn't discuss if this applies to board votes too.)

Bursaries for PyData Global

Update from Filippo.

See <https://swung.slack.com/archives/C0138FEJRUZ/p1600099666009500> and previous meeting.

Filippo will communicate with the 3 applicants and award their standard registration fees (dependent on location and job title).

Research meetings

The 'Research meeting' has changed in format and timing. Update from Steve Purves.

Purves posted details of new event direction in Slack, reproduced here for the record:

Unfortunately, we've not really got traction or momentum with the geo-dev-con event. I think we tried to plan something different, very different and

I think the event spiraled a into something that we couldn't grapple with. As a result, we didn't develop it as far as we needed to to hit our timeline.

So, we have decided to change tack! and do something different, So we will be going to run a series of regular mini-online events, here are the details:

These are not going to be plain "webinars" but we aim to incorporate the aspects of the geo-dev-con event that we were discussing namely:

- exploring a new/different online workshop format

- each event has a topic / theme and an objective, set out by the presenter
- The event is a 60-90 session, with presentation/demo and live discussion / interaction
- this gets streamed to you tube so others can join in at different times
- after the event activity gets funneled into a slack channel, where discussion can continue and a wider group
- We'll help the presenter drive the discussion and activity towards the objective/outcome/conclusion they have that session
- the workshop/activity will actually end once we hit that endpoint

Our group of presenters who put forward proposals for geo-dec-con are still engaged and happy to contribute to the new planned event format.

- We are aiming for 2 events this year, one w/c 16th Nov, and one w/c 1 Dec
- In the new year we'll review, figure out cadence and setup a schedule a few sessions ahead
- a sign up for the schedule is going out to presenters tomorrow
- a general announcement of the change of plan will go out in #swung-geodevcon

AWS sponsorship

AWS sponsorship update from Filippo and/or Steve.

Filippo: Using now for Jitsi server and Jupyter Hub.

Plan: Call for Proposals, with a Google form (or email or whatever): computation, learn / tutorial, or anything connected to Swung's purposes. Proposal should have intro, purpose (non-commercial only), methods, expected cost.

Matt to set up page on website, Filippo and Steve can edit, then post on Slack.

LinkedIn & social media

Steve will set up a LinkedIn page. Again, from Slack:

I think swung should have a LinkedIn presence.

- I am volunteering to look after / grow that presence there.

- To set it up we need a company page, which I believe I can create *if* I am able to associate a swung email address with my linkedin account.

- I would like to go ahead with this if everyone is in favour

- Should we go ahead, Matt would need to advise on how to get email access setup steve.purves@softwareunderground.org or linkedin@softwareunderground.org

No objections.

Matt: keep core content on softwareunderground.org and/or Slack. That is, prefer not to make long, 'original content' posts on social media, but instead post links to our content.

Luisa: would be prepared to contribute to the Twitter account. Sounds like the way to do this is to share credentials. [Note: done right after meeting.]

Transform 2021 and Annual General Meeting #1

Update from initial meetings:

- We've had two early meetings to try to get ahead of things.
- Brendon and Rob have invited 3 people to the organizing team: 2 women in Asia/Pacific, and one in Europe. This would give us better geographic and gender diversity. [See offline comment from Jo Walsh, below]
- Filippo has set up a Jitsi server, which we will experiment with over the coming days/weeks. [We are using it for this meeting.]
- We'll simplify signup this year, one platform only. Free as last year (pay-what-you-like).
- We'll do the hackathon over the first weekend mainly (and during the week, but less emphasis on weekend 2).
- We'll do tutorials more or less as before. **Input needed on topics.**
- We'll do lightning talks as before.
- **We're looking for ideas for 'serendipitous collaboration'** -- one of the intangibles of conferences.
- The AGM will be on the Wednesday.

We agreed to hold another meeting ASAP, which we will fix via Doodle.

OFFLINE REMARK FROM JO WALSH, 4 NOV 2020:

It would be good to find ways to make the event more asynchronous and more bitesized. I managed to miss most of it due to work commitments, and the three-hour tutorials while wonderful

material were too long to fully focus on. If you look at the Gitlab guidelines on "embracing asynchronous communication" they are interesting
<https://about.gitlab.com/company/culture/all-remote/asynchronous/>

E.g. a channel with a set of lightning talks / microtutorials which can be consumed as-and-when, don't need realtime attendance.

Something cute like a USB stick based distribution of the entire conference that you can put in the post

I like the idea of doing at least part of the hackathon over a workday

Maybe a roundup of "good first issues" across the Swung family of projects and a mentoring channel as part of serendipitous collaboration. The gitlab internal docs also have a lot of suggestions for "informal communications" which conference social events could be based on. There seems to be a lot more precedent for "hallway track" breakouts etc now but how do you make sure it isn't draining? Again maybe discord. Or a Swung MUD. Ask Mika Mackinnon to organise us a rocklicking text adventure

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 we can summarize as follows:

- **Two classes of member: Voting and Non-voting. We need better names for these. The idea is that all Slack members will be non-voting at least, but people can opt to join as voting members by saying YES to <something?.**
- **We need a member communication plan that is fair and workable.**

We will hold another read-through of this in the coming weeks and aim for a vote to adopt at the November board meeting.

Finance

Everyone was added to Wave so they can see the accounts.

Technology audit:

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

Draft budget: <coming soon>

The slow progress continues; I have applications in for credit card, and for director's insurance.

No comment.

Skills passport

A brief conversation with a member indicated there might be some interest in a 'certification' program around the concept of a "digital geoscientist". The first step of such a thing might be as simple as a 'skills passport'. Please think about this for next time.

No comment.

Varia

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.

Moved to next meeting.

Next meeting

You have been invited to:

- Thur 19 November at 1700 UTC (1100 CST, 1800 CET) - avoids Thanksgiving
- Thur 17 December at 1700 UTC (1100 CST, 1800 CET) - avoids Christmas

Parking lot / next meeting

- No items

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