

Software Underground

Board Meeting

17 December 2020

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 17.00 UTC on Thursday 17 December. Quorum is 5.

Regrets: Jo,

Present: Matt, Dieter, Leiaka, Luisa, Steve, Brendon, Chance, Filippo

Look at Gather.town

We decided to have the board meeting in Gather.town and spent a bit of time talking about it.

The Transform 2021 planning doc is here >

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AzfhnWnAZJcOvh0_nVrr_lGtiSj-XRMac2NZR2tFuUM/edit#

The virtual meeting info doc is here >

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e7BrISDTNwuvF4WNT211E8f-sb_nTQXsELmvibpPF68/edit#

Overall, the mood was favourable towards the tool, though we did not stretch it at all.

Previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting are on GDocs here >

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uQhaPvuyIuvGnyKPDVw5C9nrGAcqA_j38ju1R9DlQAo/edit?usp=sharing

...and on GitHub here >

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

Remarks: None.

Update: AWS sponsorship

The call for proposals is now up at <https://softwareunderground.org/call-for-proposals>, please promote it in your networks. Thank you Steve and Filippo for doing that.

Any remarks about it so far from Steve or Filippo?

Steve: put out on Twitter, LinkedIn, and in Swung [Update, 17 Dec: Done.]. Asking ppl to put in proposals even if not clearly formed yet, perhaps we can do some match-making. There are currently 5 submissions. This round is open till mid-Jan.

Submissions are here >

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oxREe8-VK8qx88yLel98HwH5VzDSsO8qJJ0wQAsCI/edit#gid=0>

Steve: It would be good to reach more people who would not normally have access to this sort of technology.

Luisa: Many of those people might not yet know what AWS is for or what they might be able to do with this sort of offer.

Dieter: we could point people to the AWS presentation(s) at Transform 2020.

Filippo: would be able to offer a beginner AWS tutorial.

Luisa: would like to team up and be the beginner in a pair-presentation.

Filippo: OK, will start putting something together.

Luisa: virtual tourism sales, via proxy shoppers, enabled by Amazon. Could translate idea to fieldtrip/fieldwork. Could this be an app?

In the short-term, Steve will start a blog post about 'things you can do with AWS', Matt will review. Will try to get out next week (would have to be early though).

By-laws and membership

Here is the almost final (!) version of By-law No. 1. It is very close, just 2 outstanding issues:

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

Please read this document.

I propose that we vote on this next week and test opavote.com in the process.

We looked at the document in its current state and had a short conversation about it. We made some edits, for example removing the section about a corporate seal and adding some language to allow for electronic communication. [Update: over the next week or so there were some more proposed changes, so we agree eventually to vote on it again in January.]

AGM and elections

I propose that we form a working group to take care of the board elections, and other voting, in April. There are a few questions to sort out, for example:

- How are we going to solicit candidates for election to the board in April?
- How will overlaps happen? Per Jo's suggestion, we can make a mechanism to open some limited number of places, so 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.
- What platform will we use? (opavote.com looks the most likely so far.)

Should such a group also look after the whole AGM?

FWIW, here's a skeletal draft agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zjZm4Bagj7kTtxa-vUqzMnNMxU1YKyCyr5GKHb3z8c0/edit?usp=sharing>

We briefly discussed this, but took no action.

Finance

No practical change since last time, but I have reason to believe I will be able to move our expenses to the new credit card in the next few days, as soon as I receive the blasted thing.

I propose that we set the financial year-end for the end of the calendar year. Please can we vote on this so that I can find an accountant and start that process. It will be very simple this year.

We voted on this and it was accepted unanimously.

Info: Website

Reminder: 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. I added some very basic content to the page.

Matt has updated the list of sponsors and donors on the home page and on <https://softwareunderground.org/supporters>

Matt has simplified the home page a little bit, and move the main navigation boxes back above the fold. I reduced the size of the main nav and the BLM notice.

Matt has revamped the Subscription options, removing the most expensive monthly option (which had 0 subscribers) and adding a cheaper one. It is still only a link in the footer, not in the header. <https://softwareunderground.org/subscribe> . Also removed the \$20 annual (the cheapest of all) because there's the one-time option for ppl that aren't up for \$48/year.

Agile started a Partner subscription at \$512/mo.

Further to brief mention last time, Matt and Leiaka will be making an event sponsors page and trying to fundraise for Transform. We need to raise about \$5000.

Matt ran over this list very quickly; we'll look at it again next time.

Info: GitHub

Last time we chatted about cross-linking the two GitHub organizations.

Dieter added an 'explanatory' repo to <https://github.com/swung-research>

Matt added some more contact info to the main repo:
<https://github.com/softwareunderground>

This was an information item, no comments.

Any other business

Please raise it.

Next meeting

Please check that you have been invited to:

- Thur 28 January at 1700 UTC (1100 CST, 1800 CET)

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

Parking lot / next meeting

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

Various

- 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.
- I don't think we properly discussed this in November but it's not urgent:
 - 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?**
- See TRANSFORM 2021 item, below.
- See Groningen open data item, below.

Transform 2021 and Annual General Meeting #1

Update:

- We have met twice since the last board meeting and got the new team members up to speed.
- Tutorials so far: Matteo Ravasi (PyLops), Ashley Russell (something beginner-friendly), Miguel de la Varga (GemPy). We've also asked 5 other people. **We need volunteers and nominations, especially from underrepresented groups.**
- We're evaluating platforms for 'serendipitous collaboration'. I've looked at 8 platforms and shortlisted 3. Aiming to select something by end of year.
- It looks like the platform will cost at least USD 5000, so we are certainly going to need to find sponsorship for Transform 2021.
- Convo is in **#t21-org** if you want to chat.

We have a draft schedule:

Reference	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
UTC/GMT	16 April	17 April	18 April	19 April	20 April	21 April	22 April	23 April	24 April
5:00									
6:00		HACKATHON	HACKATHON						
7:00									
8:00				TUTORIAL 1	TUTORIAL 1		TUTORIAL 1	TUTORIAL 1	
9:00									
10:00									
11:00				TUTORIAL 2	TUTORIAL 2		TUTORIAL 2	TUTORIAL 2	
12:00									
13:00									
14:00				GENERAL	GENERAL	AGM	Lightning	Lightning	
15:00	HACKATHON								
16:00									
17:00				TUTORIAL 3	TUTORIAL 3		TUTORIAL 3	HACKATHON	
18:00								Wrap party	
19:00									
20:00									

This was not discussed so I have moved it to the Parking Lot.

Info: Groningen open data

I wrote about this here:

<https://agilescientific.com/blog/2020/12/7/big-new-almost-open-data>

TL;DR is that NAM released a 5GB (compressed) Petrel project from the Groningen field, which has induced seismicity issues. It would be cool if the data was in open formats...

Tony Hallam, Behrooz Bashokooh, and Matt have exported the data to ASCII files and SEG-Y, etc, and placed it on Amazon AWS. There are something like 1616 files, total size 22GB (uncompressed).

Matt added it to Data Underground >

<https://dataunderground.org/dataset/groningen-open-fork> (and the original, non-open version here > <https://dataunderground.org/dataset/groningen>)

This was not discussed so I have moved it to the Parking Lot.