Software Underground

Board Meeting

26 February 2021

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 17.00 UTC on Friday 26 February. Quorum is 5.

Regrets: Jo.

Present: Matt, Dieter, Filippo, Brendon, Luisa, Leiaka, Chance, Steve (a bit late due to Rendezvous event)

Visiting: None.

Previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting are on GDocs here > https://docs.google.com/document/d/141HR1bREPIIS1o7cO-GmmiKlBGBAfwSrwcAZgVzikrE/edit#

...and on GitHub here > https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/tree/master/board

Remarks: None.

Finance

I have added the financials for financial year 2020 (partial, Apr to Dec) to GitHub: https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/tree/master/financial

Remarks: None.

Studio X sponsorship

The 'accelerator' Studio X (funded by Shell and the group behind Xeek) have proposed to sponsor the Software Underground.

Here's their website https://x.studio/

12-Month Engagement, $5,000
1. Studio X is the title sponsor at Transform 2021
2. Xeek by Studio X launches a challenge for the Transform hackathon or a separate event depending on prize/data availability.
3. SWUNG | Studio X partner on a Models & Bottles Quarterly Event (Run by Studio X, Nominations for Presentations from SWUNG)
4. 1-3 monthly post in Slack group promoting our challenges, projects, incubator, events, etc (formal Studio X account posts)
5. 3 blog posts mentioning Studio X products on SWUNG abiding by community policies
6. Studio X Logo on the website as a sponsor until engagement ends
7. Depending on launch timeline, SWUNG members have access to fast-track their tools to the Xeek Tool Marketplace (launch TBD) for revenue opportunities and/or join SixLab if there is a market fit.

Dieter: rephrase 'title' as 'gold' or whatever.

Chance: what does 'prize/data availability' means. Filippo: open to a challenge. Matt: would it be better as a parallel event? Chance: clarify timing. All: try maybe not to clash with Hackathon. Matt: maybe better during the week? Make challenge short and approachable, 2-4 hr max. [Thinking of EAGE Code Show 2018]

Dieter: very marketing-ish. treat them like Dell. Matt: Point 4 is totally weird.

5: Matt: no.

6: Matt: sure.

7: Matt: sounds cool (for ppl to decide)

Brendon: use this as a chance to figure out what this sort of thing would look like. Map our ask onto what they are offering / what they 'need' and try to find a win-win.

Matt and Leiaka to meet with Christie from Studio X. We will describe what we have in mind and the feeling of the board on these points.

Equinor: Northern Lights

Equinor would like to see a data science event around the Northern Lights CCS project dataset.

Matt to explain. **[Gave brief description of opportunity brought to Swung: run a data contest with the open Northen Lights dataset.]**

Brendon: is NumFocus a model for this? (Non-profit funding NumPy, etc)

Dieter: NumFocus is a way to receive donations, which is too much to ask for a small s/w projects. They give grants to support devs. Matt: how?

Filippo: paying developers, potentially full-time. Matt: I like this, eventually developers need to get paid to develop open source code.

Brendon: could chat to Travis Oliphant, or someone else at Quantsight.

Steve: *Greenbacks for geos* maybe more approachable than *Dollars to developers*.

Plant seed at/by TRANSFORM.

Matt, Chance, and Luisa to meet about it then meet Valeria and Knut Sebastian.

Group to chat to Travis if poss.

Update: AWS sponsorship

Update from Steve Purves (thank you Steve!)

- Both Thomas Martin and Diana Acero Allard are setup on the platform and active. Thomas is in there but I am not sure Diana has managed to start much on her own. Perhaps this flags that there really is a need for some support around these resources?
- Filippo has talked to the folks at Geode - and can update us. **Filippo: he is working with them.**
- Reporting: configure AWS alarms ideally to ping #swung-cloud channel
- Planning to get a second and more refined call out there for proposals

Update: 2i2c relationship

Update on the 2i2c conversation. [See previous meeting.]

Remarks: Filippo working with 2i2c to try to set smthg up by Transform, just need to talk about what exactly we need, and how much we'd be prepared to pay. Filippo could spare 3hr/week, and would be coached. General feeling was that it would be easier to think about if they told us what they are charging.

Update: Rendezvous

Update from Steve Purves (thank you Steve!)

We are starting to get some traction with this event series. No Doubt we will pause around Transform but I think as we do these and people see what they are about, we have more interest. Some specific points:

- We've had 2 meetups in February both on inversion
- We have 2 time tabled for March and a third in discussion
  - Python + JS for interative plots - Wesley Banfield
  - Transform Hackathon Idea Meetup - All
  - The third are some ideas on geotthermal research review by Alex Hobe
- Going forward after Transform I am interested in trying to:
  - get at least one other or more organisers involved
  - making it easier for people to really step up and almost to "self serve" in order to setup this type of virtual community meetup on an ad hoc basis.
  - keep growing interest

Remarks: ~~Matt will add Steve as an Admin on SqSp so he can experiment with the Appointment / Event settings.~~ [Turns out he's already an Admin, but I flipped the Billing switch too, just in case.]

Gather beer garden

Update from Steve Purves (thank you Steve!)

Gather.town is completely free to use for < 25 people. So I have been using the swung-org room for meetings around 52 things, people enjoy it.

In the view of trying to get people familiar with gather.town before Transform i've started the Swung Beer Garden (permalink posted in #meetups) with the idea that we can promote/help with some more non-slack interaction for members. Let's see how. it goes.

https://gather.town/app/eWiY2oVqiSAczmzv/swung-beer-garden

Remarks: None.

[Matt: Quick update, Fri evening. A few people showed up, but it was v quiet. I thought the space was much too large; what would it take to reduce it by ~80%?]

Any other business

Please raise it.

Nothing raised.

Next meeting

~~**Matt will send out an invite for Feb / Mar in the coming days.**~~

You should have received an invitation for March, and April.

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.

- See TRANSFORM 2021 item, below.

- See Groningen open data item, below.

Question about 'affiliates'

This is about growing our reach and impact.

What are some tangible ways in which Software Underground can support sister projects like:

- Organizations like GeoLatinas and Black in Geoscience
- Grassroots software projects like segysak
- Organized software projects like GemPy and Devito

I feel like we have some leverage, and we'd like to build more leverage, and can direct attention, action, funds, frameworks... and other things to these groups. What's a good approach to ensuring that these conversations happen?

For example, how can we highlight some of these projects on our website and in social media?