

Software Underground

Board Meeting

28 January 2021

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 17.00 UTC on Thursday 28 January. Quorum is 5.

Regrets: Luisa

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

Visiting: Lukas

Previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting are on GDocs here >

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hkrk3YJtCFyAOHaPaOJlqIftfm3ql5Vy8yplfzD5Fr0/edit#>

...and on GitHub here >

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

Remarks: None.

By-law #1

The attempt to vote on this in opavote didn't work out because:

1. We got into a discussion and changed the document slightly after the vote started.
2. I didn't realize that voting items on opavote.com only last 1 week with a free account. We have now paid USD 10, so items will last 10 weeks.

The document is here:

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

I propose that we vote to adopt this now.

Remarks: we voted in favour of adopting this by-law and can now share with the membership.

Remarks: Chance to write a post to convey to readers how to officially agree to be a member on the website.

AGM and elections

I need an ally to help take care of the board elections and other voting in April. If you're interested, please let me know ASAP.

I checked with everyone and have heard from almost all of you. It seems that everyone would like to continue on the board in April (thank you!) so I propose that we add 2 new board members at the AGM in April. **We need candidates — suggestions welcome!** If there are more than 2 candidates, then we will need an election. If not, then they will be elected by acclamation.

Remarks: None.

Update: AWS sponsorship

The update below is from Steve Purves.

Submissions are here >

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AmbPRJyeKacKvo8psp5XsLgPTY-1BqreCBggB2WHaXU/edit#gid=0>

We reviewed and contacted the people who submitted, here are the statuses:

- **Thomas Martin** is up and running with his project, where he will produce some blog posts and a series of notebooks. The aim is to look at and document the benefits of moving from Colab to AWS for geoML work, when you need to scale up compute power a bit.
- **Justin Gossess** is writing up his proposal a bit more formally with the idea to attract a working team.
- **Erdinç Şentürk** sort of misunderstood the proposal, but found Swung because of it. He is still interested in and sees the need for a software toolset for geothermal

reservoir work but he's not got anything concrete to start on. He's going to hang put in #geothermal.

- **Geode Solutions** want to develop and test / pilot an open-source web viewer for their models on swung AWS. Filippo is in touch there.
- **Diana Acero-Allard** made a proposal originally that we thought sounded a bit commercial. After contacting her though she has some different idea of what to take forward now. Here are Diana's two ideas
 - An educational app. "The heat beneath my feet". Based on a recent study done in the US, there is still a gap in the general knowledge (non-scientists, young audiences) for the Geothermal energy concept and applications. Also the general community do not think of geothermal as part of the clean energies. I will start the content based in public governmental documents such as :
https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/07/f17/doe_teacher_guide.pdf For the graphs and e-learning structure I will use the characters from WildJob <https://www.facebook.com/Thewildjob/> vey fresh for young audiences and light for non-scientific communities.
 - This one's a little more technical/gamey. It could be a combination of accessing to a global database as <https://www.ihfc-iugg.org/viewer/> where the heat flow is shown in mW/m², it would worth it to show in addition how many houses, buildings or green houses that heat flow could be translated (something like a real minecraft), o what type of extraction is necessary (Dry steam plants, Flash steam plants, Binary cycle power plants) infrastructure.... Etc

Remarks from the board:

Matt question: is it worth having a cost backstop / allocation for certain types of project (compute heavy)? Steve & Filippo: we can work with Justin and Thomas as guinea pigs on this sort of thing, e.g. setting up monitors.

Jo question: are there a priori criteria or is it wide open with evaluation of everything that comes in? Steve: The latter. Matt: Then we need a clear idea of our principles so we can evaluate and give feedback. Steve: should be able to be clearer about the kind of outcomes we are hoping for in the future. Jo: don't want to narrow the scope of proposals.

Filippo: 2i2c.org is a new organization setting up cloud infrastructure for e.g. sci-tech non-profits like NumFocus. They are very capable / experienced. Lindsey Heagey is on their advisory board. Filippo has been in touch with them. Jo: Sounds great, the overhead can be substantial. Matt: sounds great.

Finance

We now have a Visa card and Matt has moved various things onto it:

- Slack
- Squarespace website hosting
- Hover domain hosting
- Euro DNS domain hosting
- Printful merchandise

See the full list in the Technology Audit document:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mNAGEgQNvfZem5zY38u9etn200aFWbE2zJLcMEdiL4Y/edit#gid=0>

I will work on the year-end with the bookkeeper, Katie Condon,

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/katie-condon-383a0245> (Agile's bookkeeper). For the time being, she will include it in her usual fees for Agile. We have 6 months to file. We will come back with a proposal for an accountant at a future meeting.

Remarks: No remarks. Jo: happy to continue as 'second pair of eyes' for the numbers. Happy to hear there's a group of professionals for the year-end.

Privacy

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.

Remarks: None.

Events

Looking at Gather as the platform. Cost should be on the order of USD 1400. (Indeed, we can cap it at whatever number we want.)

It's now possible to register: <https://softwareunderground.org/shop> (and there are some new T-shirts!)

Remarks:

Dieter: Make is really easy for a person to justify expensing their registration, e.g. "Scientific conference" etc.

Jo: consider adding 'product' items at different amounts.

Dieter: Could have a \$1 item ("a Transformer") and let ppl buy an arbitrary number of them.

Website again

Matt has done some more things to the website:

- Added a page aimed at Sponsors here <https://softwareunderground.org/sponsors> and Matt and Leiaka will improve this and get it in front of some potential sponsors. Ideas and contacts welcome! **Jo: Should splash on #general.**
- Tried to make the call to action (Slack!) on the homepage more enticing.
- Collected Code, Data and Wiki under a Projects menu, along with Stack (not Slack!), which is a new page aimed at highlighting some software projects, <https://softwareunderground.org/stack>

Evan Bianco has been writing some Highlights posts (last 2 Fridays), <https://softwareunderground.org/blog>. How can we make this more sustainable? Getting more authors is an obvious one... Ideas?

See remark under By-law re Chance writing a blog.

Question about 'affiliates'

We might not get to this.

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?

Remarks: Individuals and Start-ups might be two other categories of entities we could help or support.

52 Things experiment and Swung Curvenote team

An explanation & proposal from Steve:

- I have created a Swung team on <https://curvenote.com/@swung> and would like to make a proposal about this becoming a resource for Swung.
- We are trying out review and editing of the *52 Things... Geocomputing* book project on the platform <https://curvenote.com/@swung/52-things-geocomputing>

Questions for Steve?

Remarks from board (in Steve's absence):

Any other business

Please raise it.

Next meeting

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

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>)