

Software Underground

Board Meeting

25 May 2022

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 16.00 UTC on Wednesday 25 May. Quorum is 5.

Chair: The chair is Matt Hall.

Regrets: Olawale, [Filippo]

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

Visiting: Rowan Cockett, Leo Uieda

Previous meeting

The previous meeting was the Annual General Meeting; the minutes are in the Notes of the presentation:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1lf3eEE3QXwgvugI-1PZyZN3_0SxU01vnr2lNcExYO64/edit#slide=id.p

The document is also on GitHub:

<https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/blob/main/agm/2022-04-28.pdf>

Recordings of board meetings (potentially stored for only 6-12 months)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgLft9vxdduAf4YkO38K9CCjzJnBdsegM>

Note that the minutes are usually stored here:

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

Remarks:

- **Dieter: Any specific followup on the AGM? Matt: will be covered in Transform session. Still aiming to organise the open discussion session that was discussed. Aiming for this to happen in June.**

Recording

Reminder: we are recording meetings now. They

Remarks:

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Birds of a feather

Links to gdocs where we collected some rough notes during the discussion:

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/19HuIhSIxU5sfotkEnjdRlIT2Ruremjn_IJbePdeyfls
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yYehmnS3riODCz-9MznYMMdWiUJFSeKJeKMQ6fLXdos>

TL;DR

- Outside appearance - swung looks dead / stale
- Encouraging discussion - we could do better?
- How active should swung be in marketing itself / looking for people to join?
- Could there be a research focussed event/activity, to complement Transform which is mostly educational?

Diversity statement

We got some criticism of a stale website:

- Last blog post > 1 year ago.
- BLM statement almost 2 years old.
- No 'events'.

So I added some board meetings as events, wrote a blog post about TRANSFORM, and changed the BLM statement to a more general one:

Software Underground is a global community of practice. The only community that matters is diverse, and free from racism, intolerance, and inequality of any kind. We are committed to standing up for our members and our community.



DIVERSITY IS A
SUPERPOWER

? Pride Month starts in a few days. What actions will we take to show support and continue changing the culture in our community?

Remarks:

- **Poll the community [done in EDI channel on Fri 27 May]**

AWS/Jitsi

AWS credits expire in June, we think.

Filippo updated Jitsi before TRANSFORM and it's working well again. We used it for TRANSFORM, streaming to YouTube as usual. Thank you Filippo!

? Are we okay with continuing this, taking on the cost directly?

Remarks:

- **Filippo: correct, the AWS credits will expire at the end of June**
- **Filippo: I have taken notes (VERY WORK IN PROGRESS!) on how to set up the required infrastructure on AWS and how to deploy the required Jitsi packages. When the machines are shut down, it costs us nothing. A key here is to be able to easily turn them on and shut them down when needed (specially to shut them down!)**
- **Steve was looking at costs... they sound high. Will follow up offline in #swung-org.**

TRANSFORM

From January:

We should do it, with less logistics. There needs to be an Annual General Meeting anyways. Tutorials+Lightning talks+AGM. Board to try and get a diverse set of people to host these tutorials, focusing on accessibility.

Accordingly, we did it that way. I have a quick summary here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vZlKkORCF78UQ3ZaIC6V54oNrUANCUR3vuss8PUJTpU/edit#slide=id.p>

Remarks:

- **Will be discussed during "swung day" which needs to be scheduled.**

Fiscal sponsorship program

This could be a major new program for Swung; it's one of the things we identified as a need at TRANSFORM 2019, but we have not had the tools to deliver. It turns out that the tool is called Fiscal Sponsorship (aka Fiscal Hosting) and has been around for years.

Basically it turns us into a little 'bank' for other projects aligned with our goals. I think it would work like this:

- We sign up on Open Collective as a Fiscal Host (done: <https://opencollective.com/softwareunderground>).
- We also optionally sign up on GitHub as a Fiscal Host (awaiting approval).
- We can invite groups (eg FOSS team, event team, whatever) to sign up.
- **They** can then solicit funds (e.g. via GitHub Sponsors, via Open Collective, or really however they like), which get paid into their 'account' with Swung.
- They can either get Swung to pay for things, or they can get reimbursed by Swung by submitting expenses on Open Collective.
- All this happens transparently and with a complete record.

To make all this happen, I think we need:

- A Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement to bind Collectives: <https://softwareunderground.org/fiscal-sponsorship-agreement>
- A set of processes for it all to happen (see the Protocol on that page)

- An application form / process for projects ("collectives") to apply:
<https://softwareunderground.org/apply-for-fiscal-sponsorship>

Remarks:

- **TLDR: we are waiting for approval, but the board needs to read these documents so that wWill be discussed during "swung day" which needs to be scheduled.**

Board positions

We may soon have an opportunity to turn over two places on the board.

Remarks:

- **All good, we will aim to vote in the next meeting.**

Any other business

- Please drop it here.

Next meeting

- **Thursday 30 June at 16.00 UTC.**

Parking lot / next meeting

These items will go into the next board meeting(s):

- Propose half-day working session on general and specifically board outlook for the year and up to next AGM. Some time in June. (Happen before June Board meeting)
- In June we should review the Plausible decision and see how that's going.