Software Underground

Board Meeting

28 May 2021

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 16.00 UTC on Friday 28 May. Quorum is 5.

Regrets: Steve, Luisa

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

Visiting: None.

Previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting are on GDocs here > https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HzRgxv_7eXWFPScuVzu6SIA4Fp37_0l2yhFm80ggzlM/edit

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

Remarks: None

Annual filing

We have filed taxes; now the annual filing is underway.

Remarks: None

Pride month: June

Proposing a logo switch on website, social media:

Remarks:

- **Dieter: check against dark theme**
- **Matt: Also Slack**
- **Matt: logos on https://swu.ng/logos or https://softwareunderground.org/logos**
- **Filippo: great idea but I have a couple of comments about them:**
  - **The one on the right is a bit too dark… would it be possible to try to reduce the width of the black lines?**
  - **For the one on the left, would it be possible to add a black border all around the colored shape? I think this would make the colored logo stand out even more! Something like this:**

Update: Northern Lights CCS data challenge

Matt, Chance and Luisa have not yet met with Valeria after TRANSFORM.

Remarks: None.

Openness and licences

Intern

For a while we've been thinking about how we can better support the projects that make up 'the stack'. There was a suggestion in the kitchen conversation at the end of TRANSFORM that a big part of it is probably funding developers. There was a suggestion to send out a questionnaire to the maintainers to see if they'd be interested in a temporary shared developer, eg an intern, to help with codebase maintenance, community development, etc. (As opposed to coding scientific functions).

Draft questionnaire: <coming soon>

There are several potential partners for hiring such a person:

- https://www.outreachy.org/— has the added advantage of doing the hiring. We have to provide USD6500. Internships run December to March. Process starts in

August. The selection process is via 'contributions' and sounds like it could be quite busy for the mentor(s). (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outreachy)
- GeoLatinas https://geolatinas.weebly.com/
- Earth Science Women's Network https://eswnonline.org/

I propose that a good short-term solution is to work through Outreachy, asking GeoLatinas and ESWN to support/amplify in the search for candidates.

See also the next item.

Remarks:

- **Filippo: This is also a great idea. Comment: why not ask first on Slack?**
- **Dieter: what exactly is Outreachy? NGO, corp, etc?**
- **Jo: How transparent is outreachy and do we really want to relinquish this adminstration component to them? They have a lot of large sponsors. Would we be better off approaching our own sponsors with a view to them matching our funds to do this ourselves? How much is Outreachy actually doing for us?**
- **Matt: Outreachy also takes care of legal aspects of hiring in these countries. Alternative (via Steve P after last meeting) is letsdeel.com, which is a commercial wage portage company, but they seem expensive (based on 1 conversation Matt had with rep, eg USD700/mo for Switzerland).**
- **Dieter: are we asking for a person to define their own project, or would we define the scope? Chance: maybe an applicant could choose from various tasks, so they have some flexibility?**
- **Jo: Outreachy selection process [of asking applicants for contribs] sounds a bit exploitative (free labour). Matt: It does a bit.**
- **Jo: we should be careful not to stomp on the business models of members / partner companies — eg recreating technology or service products that they offer. Jo: Then again, it could free up other companies / organizations to do more elaborate things.**
- **Chance: can Swung members apply? Dieter: Yes, open to anyone.**

Developer summit

In a conversation between Matt and Leo Uieda recently, Leo suggested a developer summit. This would be an informal meet-up to discuss matters of interest to project maintainers — and a channel for the Intern conversation (for example).

We have settled on 14 June for the first event, and now need to sort out an agenda. First thing is to cover the Intern question, above.

Remarks:

- **Matt: it's happening in the #dev-summit**
- **Generally supportive. Board invited to channel.**
- **Filippo: awesome idea!**

Technology audit, decisions, Curvenote

Raised in April:

Technology audit needs formalizing:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mNAGEgQNvfZem5zY38u9etn2O0aFWbE2zJLcMEdiL4Y/edit?usp=sharing

What's the decision making process?

Should we sign up for 8x8 Meet instead of running our own Jitsi? This frees up Filippo and donates to the project.

Remarks:

- **Dieter: move Curvenote to the top of next time, when Steve is here.**
- **Dieter: can each technology have a 'champion' that takes it on? Matt: proposes new tech, looks at competitors, keeps tab on cost.**
- **Jo: 'infrastructure working group'. Matt: so this group could be all the champions. Perhaps people can self-select. Right now it's Matt, Filippo and Steve, basically.**
- **In summary: Plan is to stand up a working group of self-nominated admins at least for critical tech and hopefully all of it. Channel?**
- **Filippo: it would be great to, as a first step, get a quote for 8x8 service. Inquire about not-for-profit pricing too. From May 2022, we won't have AWS credits anymore so for sure a solution will need to be found then. On the Jitsi forum, there is a section for "paid work". Another idea could be to hire someone to manage the Jitsi deployment.**

Any other business

Please raise it.

Next meeting

You should have received an invitation for June and July?

Remarks:

- **Filippo: I won't be able to attend the June 24th meeting because I will be on vacation (I might be able to connect but I won't know till the last minute)**
- **Filippo: Unfortunately, also the July 22th meeting might not work for me. I am attending a wedding on Friday 23rd and I will most likely be traveling on Thursday evening.**
- **Jo: Let's definitely get to the anti-racism item next time.**

Parking lot / next meeting

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

- We're signing up as a Curvenote Team, cost about $300/yr? How many team members do we have?
- It's a year since we looked closely at race issues, let's review how we are doing. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DKmKoEl5Q1Trp7TncryqtEpbPRdOQKh3/view