

I have a for myself quite important announcement to make and want to give all of the chance to read it. In the past two days I contemplated whether to continue as mod or not. You perhaps can already guess where this goes.

But because I asked some of you about their opinions and experiences on several things I think you all deserve to get an insight as to why I made that decision.

First something about myself though. Currently I have no work. I just got expelled from the local University for failing a single mandatory course. We have quite strict rules here when it comes to passing or not passing a course. I can't deny it's my own fault, it definitely was. If I were more active in my first semester I'd have passed it easily. But due to a mistake on my side it came back late in the third semester and pretty much hit me out of nowhere. I thought that I'm able to take an extra semester to do the courses I failed in my first semester. But that wasn't the case. I had to do them alongside everything else in my third semester and 1.5 month before the due date I realized that. The requirements were to be successful in 3 courses and mind you, I managed to pass 2. It wasn't enough for the third one unfortunately and I got expelled.

This sounds terrible now - and it really isn't nice - but I have the opportunity to continue my studies in a very similar field and almost take all my credits with me. But for that I need to wait around 4 months till I can go study again.

Due to the fact that we are a social state I get money from the state for a very basic living till I study again. But only for as long as I can prove that I have some sort of work or are trying to find one.

So I tried to get in contact with DBL and offered services such as User Experience Design and Software Engineering. I've a "degree" in design and self study software engineering since ~2 years myself. Unfortunately it really is hard to get an answer.. It almost seemingly is as there is no interest in paying the people that pretty much work for you. I wasn't asked anything about my work or skills, I only got a placeholder like "I will talk to the team about this". Since then I'm pretty much getting ignored.

But despite that, because to their credits it was clear that moderating is an unpaid work from the beginning, I slowly get the feeling to be stagnating in my own projects. And without any reward I'm not going to give up my own projects.

I think you moderators do an incredible job and I want to personally thank Mel, Aly, Aethy, Natan and Blake (in no particular order). Also Ken because you were pretty much always transparent and available. The ones I haven't had much contact with such as Erlite and Eggsy probably also do a very good job.

Although I had troubles with the one or another, that was to be expected from someone new in the team and unexperienced with the way you work. I also want to apologize again for the unnecessary trouble I've caused in the past 3 days.

Trust me it wasn't easy to do that decision and I believe DBL can have a great and bright future. But with the current transparency and way things are communicated I don't see myself being a part of that. Please not albeit there have been issues between communication between us simple moderators (referring to the incident with Aly), that is not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about communication with the higher ups.

E.g. That are things like Luca not being Open-Source or rather no one can do updates except Tonkku, the Webhooks, where money goes, no answer in direct messages although you are clearly active and overall a slow and painful communication and rather lacking experience moderating.

That opinion wasn't only created by my own experiences with DBL, but also by asking previous moderators and current moderators for their opinions. Those partly also had the feeling that you do a lot of work, that could easily be made more pleasuring, but without any reward.

Feel free to contact me again when you have some kind of offer, although at this point I doubt it, I'd be pleased to be convinced otherwise. Because if there was some kind of reward and I could get the feeling to improve things and involve myself, but also to continue evolving myself,

I'd be open to talk about it and work together with you.