2018 LLVM Foundation Board of Directors Application

This is an application to serve as a board member on the LLVM Foundation Board of Directors. The LLVM Foundation is a nonprofit that supports the LLVM Project. We support the LLVM community by helping it to grow, foster community interactions, work to keep LLVM development productive through infrastructure, and work to ensure the long term health of the LLVM project.

The LLVM Foundation has established 3 main programs to help us in our community growth and education efforts: Educational Outreach (LLVM Developers' Meetings, documentation, workshops, instructional videos), Scholarships & Grants, and Women in Compilers & Tools. We host much of the infrastructure (website, mailing lists, etc) supporting the LLVM Project. Please read our public documents for more information, available here (http://foundation.llvm.org/documents/).

The Board of Directors consists of 8 members serving 2 year terms, which then elect the next set of board members. In terms of time commitment, the board typically meets every month for 2 hours and every board member should plan on attending each meeting. At times a board member will take lead on a particular issue, doing the background research needed, forming a proposal, bringing to the Board for productive discussion and vote. Board members are expected to monitor the board mail lists to address time critical issues or continue discussions between board meetings. Board members should plan on attending at least EuroLLVM or the US LLVM Developers' Meeting. In addition to the regular meeting, board members are expected to participate with and drive efforts aligned with the mission and three programs above. Officers of the Board (Secretary, Treasurer, President) have additional duties and time commitments.

We are looking for people who are passionate and enthusiastic about LLVM and its various sub-projects, and want to help it grow. Note, however, that the LLVM Foundation does not set the technical direction for the project. As such, we are particularly interested in people who will bring non-technical contributions to the board, particularly if they align with the mission and three programs mentioned above or improvements to the LLVM infrastructure.

In order to improve transparency and capture the credentials of the newly elected board, the applications of the newly elected board members will be made public once board membership is finalized. The new board will begin their term on August 12, 2018.

If you are interested in being considered as a future board member, please complete the following application by July 30 (11:59PM PDT).

Email address *

[REDACTED]

Name (First and Surname) *

Hal Finkel

Please summarize relevant contributions to the LLVM Project. These can include things such as patches, code ownership, bug reports, mailing list posts, blog posts, volunteering at LLVM events, organizing LLVM social events, contributing to the developer meeting paper committee, etc.

I've worked on LLVM for nearly seven years, have made nearly one thousand commits to LLVM itself, Clang, and other LLVM projects. I'm the code owner for our pointer-aliasing subsystem, the PowerPC backend, and over many years, have made a significant effort to review patches across the project. I've organized the LLVM in HPC workshop for the past five years (and organized some social events), and I've served on the program committee for EuroLLVM and the US Developers' meeting. I've worked extensively with new contributors, both companies and individuals, to help them navigate our community and learn our best practices. I now lead the compiler-technology group at Argonne National Laboratory and nearly every member of my group contributes to the LLVM project.

Why do you want to be on the LLVM Foundation board of directors?

The LLVM project forms a critical component of the software ecosystem across a huge fraction of the modern computing space (in HPC and beyond), and in addition, is an important part of teaching compiler technology. The health of the LLVM community is, therefore, of critical importance to the technology industry, and the LLVM Foundation works toward providing the necessary glue that makes the community a community (e.g., by arranging for highly-productive in-person meetings, sponsoring travel to ensure that people can attend those meetings, engaging with the academic community, and more). Nevertheless, there's more to be done. Our outreach to the academic community needs to be improved, and correspondingly, we need improved documentation and teaching materials around LLVM. The Foundation can sponsor and coordinate activities that improve the quantity and quantity of this material. In addition, the community's productivity can be improved by improved infrastructure (e.g., for automatically monitoring performance, by having a higher-coverage test suite, and so on), and the Foundation may be able to assist efforts which improve these areas. There are a number of ongoing efforts, such as the relicensing effort and the github migration, that I'd like to (continue to, in the case of relicensing) facilitate.

What experience or skills can you bring to the board? Which of the above programs could you help drive forward?

I wish to help drive forward our programs in educational outreach and infrastructure support. Regarding educational outreach, in addition to my mentorship of LLVM community members over many years, I have experience organizing academic workshops (including the LLVM in HPC series), and teaching a masters-level compilers course (at the University of Chicago - MPCS). I have connections in the academic world as well as in industry. Over the next two years (and beyond), I'd like to work on improving our educational programs and outreach, in part by developing programs to improve our documentation and (and, on the infrastructure front, testing). In addition, efforts, including the relicensing effort and the github-migration effort, I'd like to help drive forward.

We value diversity and representation of the various interested groups working on LLVM and using it. Do you consider yourself representative of a minority group, underrepresented geographic region, etc?

No

Which program are you most interested in supporting?

- ◉ Educational Outreach
- ○ Women in Compilers & Tools
- ○ Grants & Scholarships
- ○ Infrastructure Support

What is your second choice program to support?

- ○ Educational Outreach
- ○ Women in Compilers & Tools
- ○ Grants & Scholarships
- ◉ Infrastructure Support

How many hours a week can you dedicate to LLVM Foundation business?

Board members are expected to dedicate time to meetings and to the programs.

3-5

Are you interested in a specific position on the board?

Please review position duties here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/14PZ-Mu2mQ0msUoh-SKZXFMQaC1rYHSZdb1N6cRT66mI/edit?usp=sharing

- [ ] President
- [ ] Secretary
- [ ] Treasurer

Are you willing and able to help fundraise for the LLVM Foundation?

We rely on donations to fund our programs and need board members to help find new sponsors and donors.

Yes

Is there anything else you would like to add for the board to consider?

During my tenure on the board, I've helped with Foundation matters, for example, updating our sponsorship document (and, as one would expect, providing feedback on a host of other Foundation activities). If elected to serve another term, I expect to focus on educational-outreach activities and infrastructure matters.