Zcash Foundation Grant Q4-2017 Submission (issue #5)

https://github.com/ZcashFoundation/GrantProposals-2017Q4/issues/5

Motivation and overview

I have been running the Zcash Community website and the Zcash Community chat for a while now and before that I ran another website dedicated to mining Zcash. I knew that the Zcash team was small and had their hands full with launching Zcash so I took it upon myself to create a site where the users could find the latest news about the Zcash and Alpha test stages, and to write tutorials for people to learn. Later, I re-Launched Zcash Community.com to contain all the information about Zcash I could find to help new users get started. I also noticed that in the Zcash Slack channel there were concerns about the huge influx of new users and the fact that Slack was very expensive to preserve History and not really designed to be an "open-door" public chat. So I spoke with the development team and evaluated several open-source options for a "Slack like" chat that anyone could join to ask questions about Zcash in a friendly and inviting atmosphere. We settled on Rocket.chat and I moved it to sub-domain of the main Zcashcommunity website and we have been using it ever since.

I am glad to be a part of the Zcash Community and I enjoy watching Zcash codebase mature as well as helping Zcash users. It is my hope that my small contributions will help new and experienced users empower themselves with the promise of Zcash: a truly private internet currency.

Technical approach

The Community Chat and Website and already fully functional and I have managed to have less than 10hrs of total downtime for the year that I have been running them. 8 of those hours were from a mis-configuration caused by the host server one day and the other time is updates and customizations.

Team background and qualifications

I am a self-taught computer geek who has been doing light programming and HTML since I was in high school, my Bachelor's Degree is in design where I also learned graphic design. I don't have formal computer science education but I have taught myself enough "to be dangerous"

Evaluation plan

Easy to evaluate: if it's up, it's working! :)

Security considerations

I have enabled several security-hardening features to the main websites wordpress installation and the Rocket Chat to resist intrusions and I have ensured that both the main website and chat have DDoS prevention, which I have only had to take action on once on during an attack in July of this year. That attacked was mitigated without any downtime.

Schedule

The chat and site are available now, 24/7/365

Budget and justification

I do not run Paid Advertisements on the Zcash Community website and I do not permit Spam or Advertising in the Chat. I understand (as others have suggested) that there may be persons interested in paying for their product or service promoted on the site and/or Chat but I don't believe that "pushing" one service/exchange/wallet over another is in the best interest of the average Zcash user. So as I mentioned on the Github Issue: https://github.com/ZcashFoundation/GrantProposals-2017Q4/issues/5 I will keep the site and chat free of bias or paid advertising.

Site and Chat expenses are as follows:

Hosting for main Zcash Website that sees approx. 96k pageviews and 50k unique visitors per month- dedicated VPS- 4GB-$60 per month

Rocket.chat Host and Server - $80 per month

Registration for zcashcommunity,com & sub-domains - $12 annual

Cloudflare DDoS prevention - $20 per month

I know that amiller and tromer inquired about man-hours for maintaining/updating/moderating/administration of the chat and sites. I wouldn't feel comfortable claiming that I spend more than about an hour a week (very seldom more than that) working on these resources in my free time.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free for ask any questions or clarifications if needed.