

# What Does the Kubernetes Steering Committee *Steer?*

*Bob Killen, Google*  
*Nabarun Pal, VMware*





**Bob Killen**  
Program Manager, Google  
*Minneapolis, MN, US*



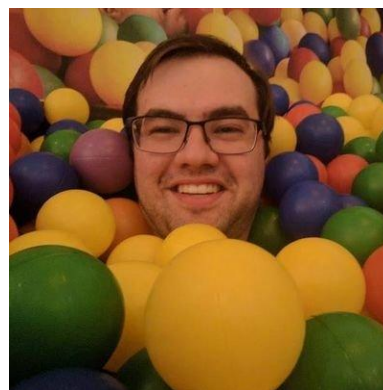
**Tim Pepper**  
Principal Engineer, VMware  
*Portland, OR, US*



**Carlos Tadeu Panato Jr**  
Staff Engineer, Chainguard  
*Berlin, DE*



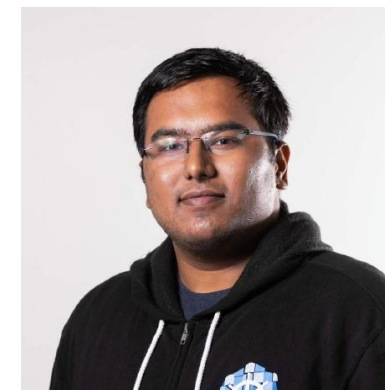
**Christoph Blecker**  
Platform Architect, Red Hat  
*Kelowna, BC, Canada*



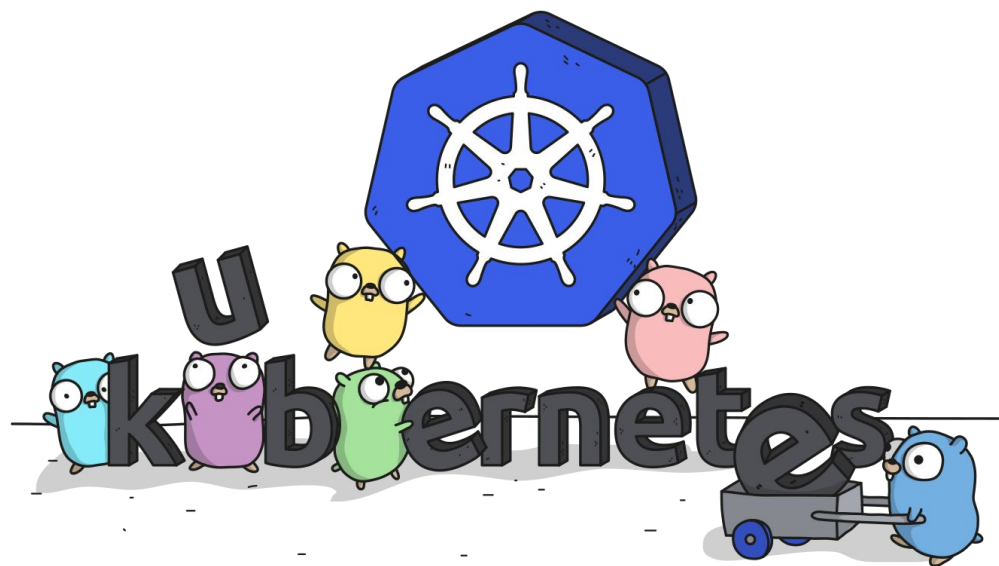
**Benjamin Elder**  
Senior Engineer, Google  
*Sunnyvale, CA, US*



**Stephen Augustus**  
Head of Open Source, Cisco  
*New York, NY, US*



**Nabarun Pal**  
Senior Engineer, VMware  
*Bengaluru, IN*



#6 OSS project by developer activity\*

#5 project by Pull Requests\*

\* [Ref: CNCF Velocity Report](#)

## Community Stats (April 2023)

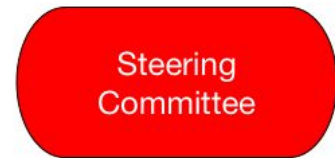
<b>Contributors</b>	78,000~
<b>Org Members</b>	1800~
<b>Repos</b>	345
<b>Community Groups</b>	36

Source: [devstats](#)





# Kubernetes Community Governance Model



Steering Committee



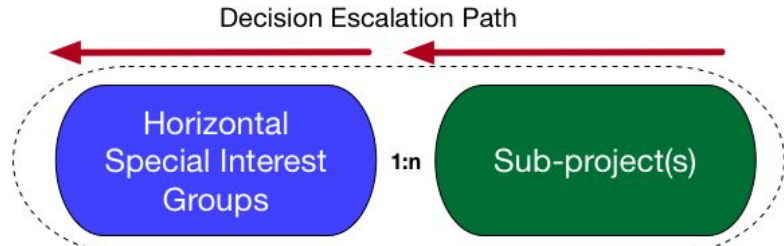
Sub-committees

- Project-level governance
- Binding/final arbitration
- Management of sub-structures
- Security process management
- Manage project-level policies such as the Code of Conduct



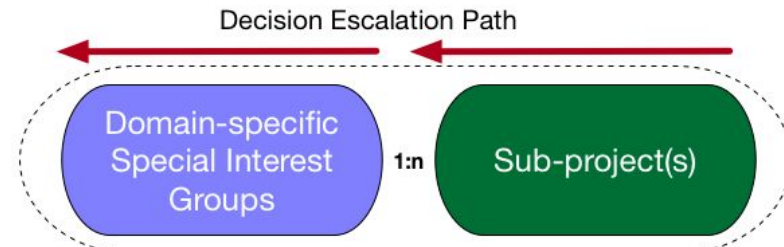
Working Group

- Organized to solve a **specific problem** then **dissolve**
- Cross-SIG collaboration around a specific effort
- Does not own code
- Can spawn sub-projects in participating SIGs
- Define and address gaps



- **Permanent** until deprecated by the Steering Committee or voluntarily dissolved
- Project-level concerns
- More strategic, less tactical
- Subject-specific policies, e.g. release, documentation, testing, architecture

- **Permanent** until deprecated by the SIG or voluntarily dissolved
- Can be code, documents, or processes
- Sub-project lifecycle management

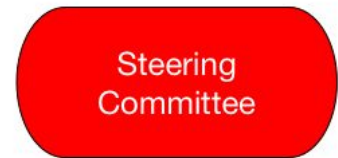


- **Permanent** until deprecated by the Steering Committee or voluntarily dissolved
- Feature/Roadmap management
- Testing triage
- Issue management and triage
- Communication to sub-projects, other SIGs and the community
- Risk and dependency management
- Release representation
- Documentation
- Arbitration of sub-project conflicts
- Release-level planning
- Tactical subject-specific policies, e.g. storage implementation, network policies

- **Permanent** until deprecated by the SIG or voluntarily dissolved
- Code ownership (OWNERS files, code quality, PR management, etc.)
- Test ownership
- Issue ownership
- Sub-project "product" lifecycle management



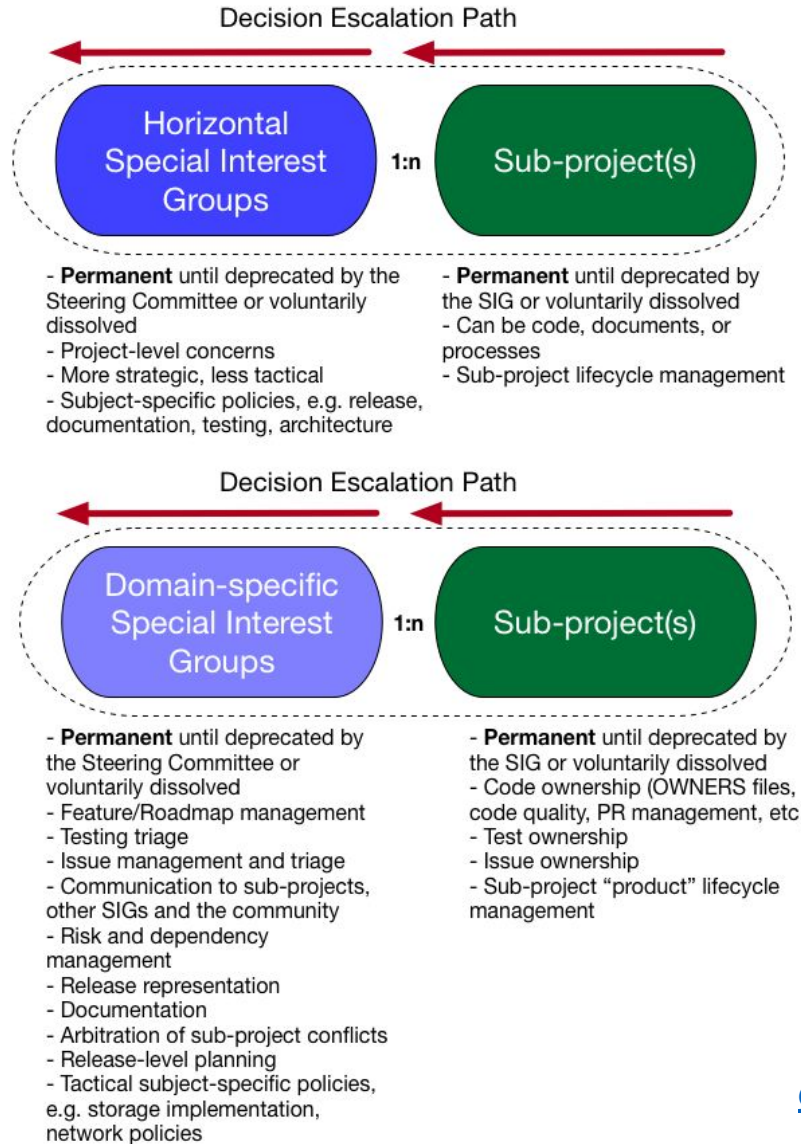
# Kubernetes Community Governance Model



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## TL;DR

- 3 types of groups
- Special Interest Groups
  - Horizontal (project wide) or Vertical (domain specific)
  - Has own charter that outlines SIG scope, responsibilities and governance
  - **Owns** code
- Working Groups
  - Coordinates efforts across SIGs
  - Short lived, designed to be spun down once exit criteria is met
  - Does **NOT** own code
- Committees
  - Have **VERY** specific governance mandates & responsibilities
  - Do not have open membership

# What does steering do?

*“The Kubernetes Steering Committee is the governing body of the Kubernetes project, providing decision-making and oversight pertaining to the Kubernetes project bylaws, sub-organizations, and financial planning. The Steering Committee also defines the project values and structure.”*

[git.k8s.io/steering/charter.md](https://git.k8s.io/steering/charter.md)

# What does steering do?

- Through the chartering review process, delegate ownership of, responsibility for and authority over areas of the project to specific entities.
- Define, evolve, and defend the non-technical vision / mission and the values of the project.
- Charter and refine policy for defining new community groups, and establish transparency and accountability policies for such groups
- Define and evolve project and group governance structures and policies.
- Act as a final non-technical escalation point for any Kubernetes repository.
- Request funds and other support from the CNCF (e.g. marketing, press, etc.)
- Define and enforce requirements for community groups to be in good standing such as having an approved charter.

[git.k8s.io/steering/charter.md](https://git.k8s.io/steering/charter.md)

# What does steering *really* do?



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# What does steering *really* do?

Plan for the long term  
sustainability of Kubernetes

# Support & protect contributors

Contributors who take on leadership or privileged roles in Kubernetes put themselves at higher legal risk.

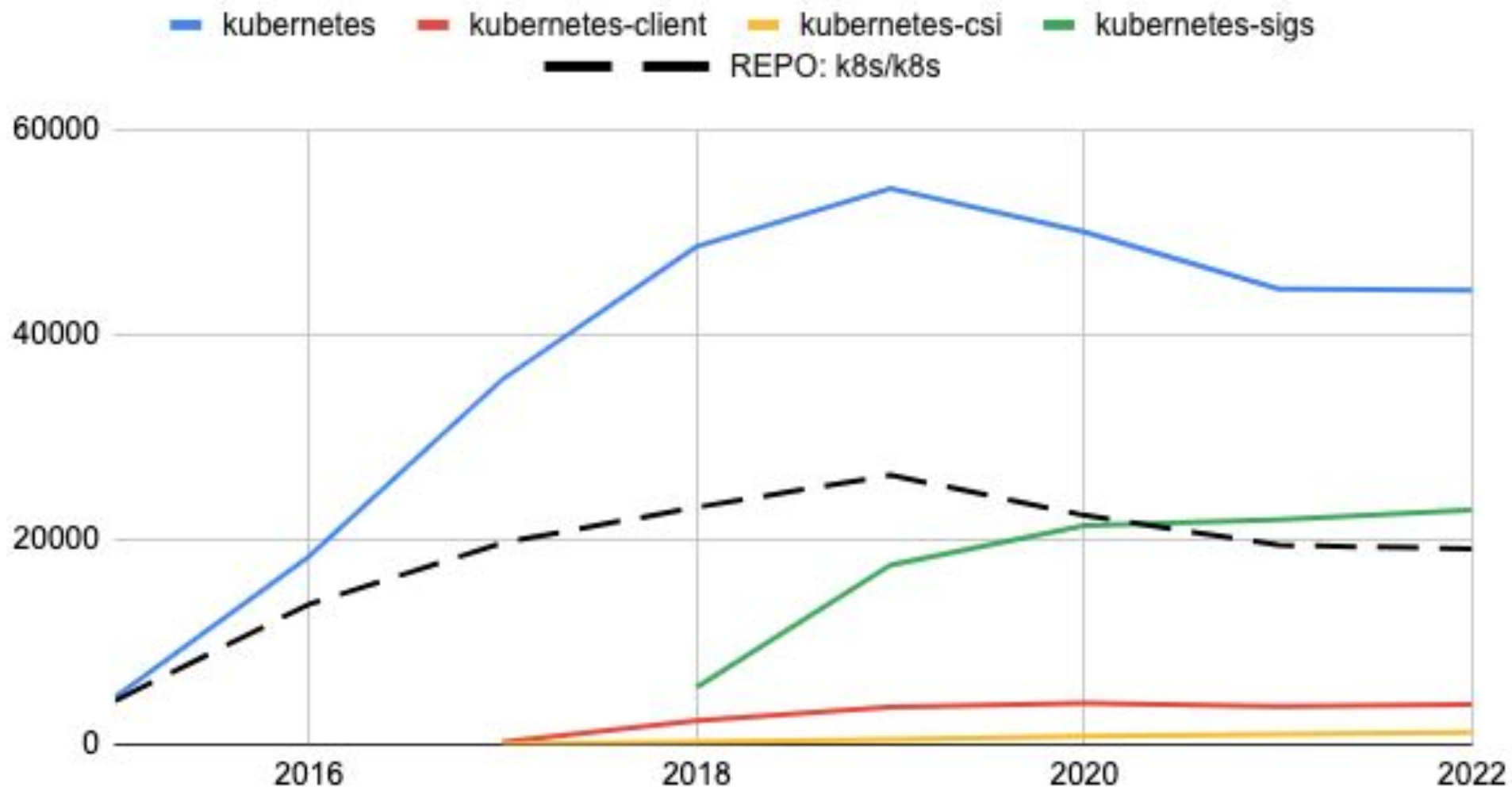
- [Dealing with Legal Affairs in Kubernetes \(kubernetes/steering#240\)](#)
- [Updating Export Control Guidance \(CNCF/foundation/#290\)](#)
- [DRAFT: Jurisdiction Policy for CNCF Code of Conduct Incident Resolution](#)

Provide Visa support for substantial contributors

- [Formalize Visa support letters \(kubernetes/steering#258\)](#)

# Project Health

## Non-bot Accounts acting on Kubernetes organizations





# Leadership Pipeline

## Chair & Tech Lead Split ([kubernetes/community#7160](https://kubernetes/community#7160))

- Chair & TL role are frequently conflated with each other
- Encourage SIG/WG leaders to better distribute load + bring on additional leads

## Subproject Leads

- Role has existed unofficially for years
- Acts as a stepping stone to SIG/WG leadership
- Named roles are easier to 'justify' to an employer

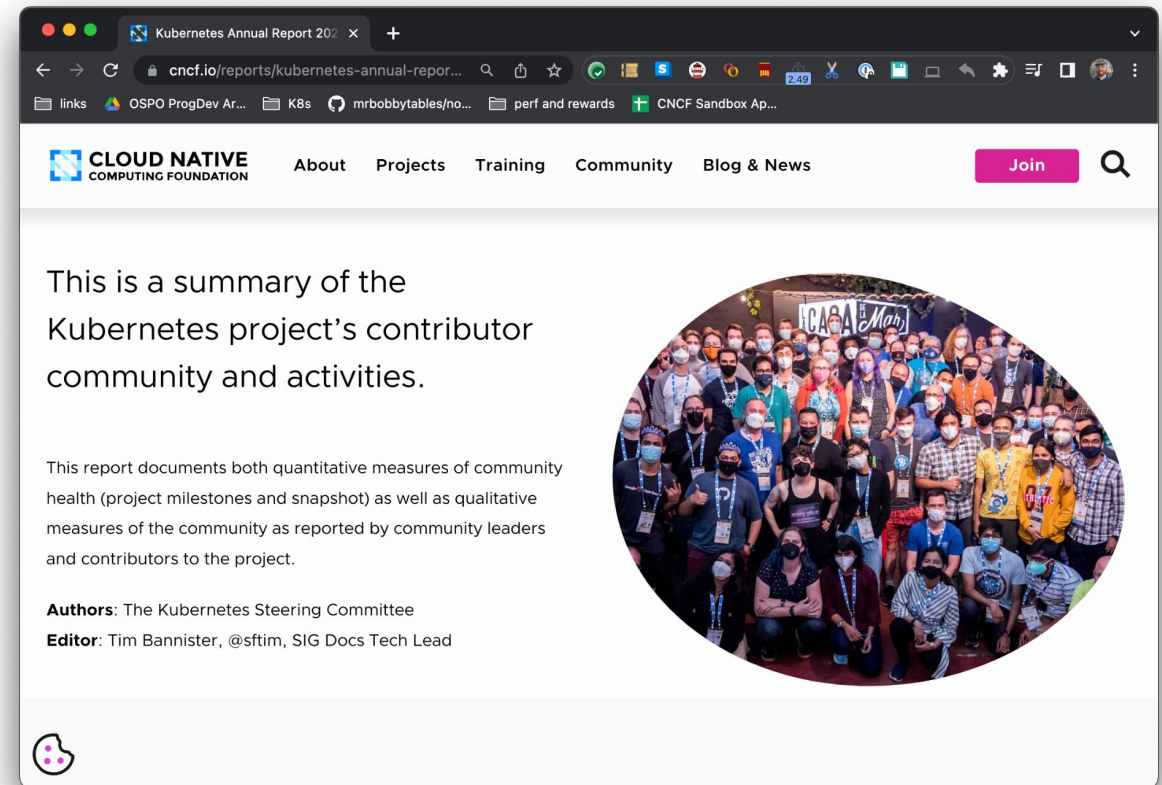


# Engaging Organizations

Becoming an approver, takes time;  
sometimes *years* of consistent  
contributions.

Very few contributors can make that  
commitment without employer  
support.

Annual Report showcases SIG/WG  
big wins and highlights areas that  
need help.



[git.k8s.io/steering/reports](https://git.k8s.io/steering/reports)

# Q & A

# Where To Find Us

- Public slack channel - #steering-committee
- Mailing List
  - Public - [steering@kubernetes.io](mailto:steering@kubernetes.io) ([archive](#))
  - Private - [steering-private@kubernetes.io](mailto:steering-private@kubernetes.io)
- Meetings - First Monday at 9:30am PT
  - Please send an email to the mailing list if you want something to be discussed
- File an issue in [kubernetes/steering](#)