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# Guiding Kubernetes: The Steering Committee's Role in Project Evolution

Maciej Szulik, Defense Unicorns



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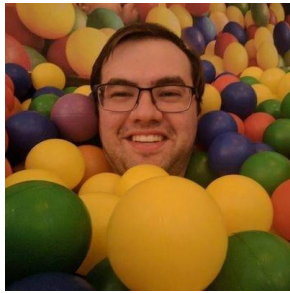
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**Stephen Augustus**

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



**Benjamin Elder**

Senior Engineer, Google  
*Sunnyvale, CA, US*



**Sascha Grunert**

Principal Engineer, Red Hat  
*Germany*



**Patrick Ohly**

Principal Engineer, Intel  
*Bonn, Germany*



**Antonio Ojea**

Senior Engineer, Google  
*Redondela, Spain*



**Maciej Szulik**

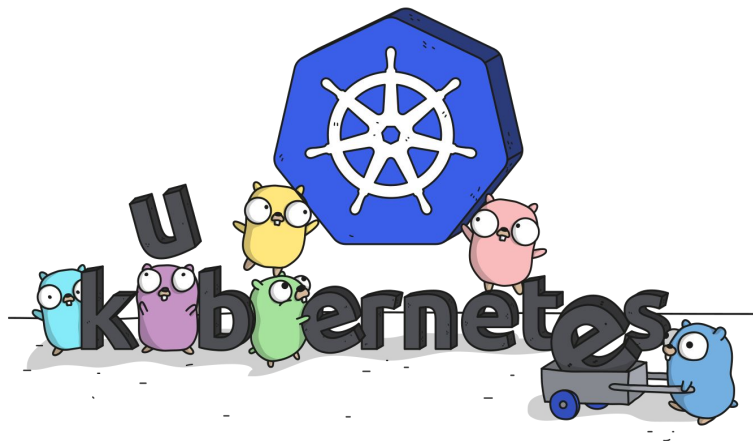
Staff Engineer, Defense Unicorns  
*Poland*



**Paco Xu 徐俊杰**

Lead of Open Source, DaoCloud  
*Shanghai, China*

# We are BIG!



#4 OSS project by developer activity\*

#5 project by Pull Requests\*

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

## Community Stats (Nov 2024)

<b>Contributors</b>	91,900~
<b>Org Members</b>	1240~
<b>Repos</b>	366
<b>Community Groups</b>	32

Source: [devstats](#)

# What does steering do?



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*The Kubernetes Steering Committee is the **governing body** of the Kubernetes project ...*

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

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# What does steering do?



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*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.** ...*

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

# 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)





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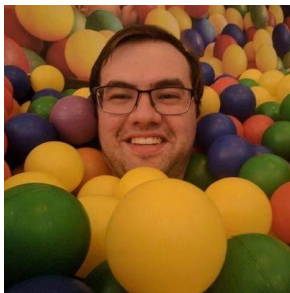


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# Updates

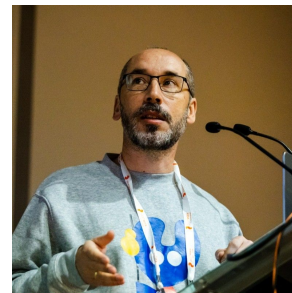
# New steering members



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



**Sascha Grunert**  
Principal Engineer, Red Hat  
*Germany*



**Antonio Ojea**  
Senior Engineer, Google  
*Redondela, Spain*



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**“If I have seen further,  
it is by standing on the  
shoulders of giants”**

Isaac Newton

# The questions

1. Looking back at the **past decade** of k8s, what are **the most significant achievements of our community** (can be both positive and negative)?
2. What was the **most challenging aspect** while you were an **active SC** member?
3. What **advice** would you give to current and future **SC members**?
4. What are your **predictions** for the k8s community in the next decade?
5. Anything else you want to share?



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# Community

“Growing contributors from  
**all around the globe**”



Nikhita Raghunath

“(...) making slack the **world’s largest open source community** hub on the internet (...) to host **180k members** (...)”



Paris Pittman

“(...) the way **shadow programs** have grown in more than just the release team (...)”



Paris Pittman



Joe Beda

(...)the **community was more than just code**, right? And I think this is something that's been hugely successful for Kubernetes.

“(...) the **general growth in all dimensions** of the project has been nothing short of astounding. (...)”

“The KubeDays and 10k attendee KubeCon's now spanning Europe, North America, China, India.  
It is absolutely **absolutely amazing.**”



Tim Pepper





Clayton Coleman

**“Our community is about people trying to make technology** - don’t lose sight of either end, but bias towards making sure **people get the chance to make contributions.”**



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# Technical challenges

“The **explosion of the ecosystem** and **widespread adoption** of kubernetes is next only to Linux.”



Dims



Timothy St. Clair

“(...) **about 1/2 of the internet depends** on you... no pressure ;-) (...)”



Brian Grant

“Kubernetes **will adapt to run the workloads of the next decade.**  
(...) The ecosystem of tooling and integrations around Kubernetes **can benefit all kinds of workloads** and supporting diverse workloads enables platform consolidation.”



Derek Carr

“(...) the Kubernetes community will continue to provide a **stable platform** for those interested in **distributed computing**. (...) **it will evolve to fill any gaps** to meet the unique workload demands of the future.”

“(...) the community collaboration and governance template the project built around has **proven durable**.”



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# Non-technical challenges

“Being **the only woman** for a while and **not having my voice heard**. This was more **taxing** than I ever could have imagined based on situations that arose.”



Paris Pittman



Tim Hockin

“**Steering is hard work**, and it's not always FUN. But it is important and our community deserves **dedicated leaders**.”



Brendan Burns

“I think **most challenging** thing was figuring out what we wanted to do and how we should go about doing it (and documenting it).”

“There was literally **no blueprint** (...) we did was **ask lots** of people in open source (and elsewhere) **lots and lots of questions.**”





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# Sustainability



Dims

“Come up with a **minimum needed plan** that can **last for a long time**. (...) It's going to be tough.”

“Please **make succession plans**. Know your own time in the community will be bounded, so do what you can to **leave it sustainable and in better hands** than you inherited from.”



Nikhita Raghunath

“The biggest challenge in the community today is around **sustainability** and how we can **encourage employers** to **fund contributors**. Without this, the future looks awfully bleak.”



Lachie Evenson

“The **community is bigger** than any one country, politics, race, creed, gender, or religion. “

“The **community IS the strength** of Kubernetes. **We need to do all** that we can to **protect it and foster** it's growth.”



Christoph Blecker

“Computers can be infuriating, but they are straightforward to understand.  
**Humans are incredibly complex**, and the relationships between them even more so.”



Tim Hockin

“Decide what's really important to you - what about Kubernetes **do you love** and **want to protect**, and what do you think **needs help?**”

# Where to find us

## 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 Wednesday at 9:00am PT



## Kubernetes SIG Meet and Greet Lunch & Learn

tomorrow at 12:30pm, L1 Halls A-C + 1-5