



Matthias Köppe <matthiaskoeppe@gmail.com>

## Trust, Accountability, Authority, Legitimacy, etc. (Fwd: Abuse of maintainer privileges on github)

2 messages

**Matthias Koeppe** <mkoeppe@math.ucdavis.edu>  
To: sage-conduct <sage-conduct@googlegroups.com>  
Cc: William Stein <wstein@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Hi sage-conduct committee:

In our last Zoom meeting, one of you asked me for my trust in the committee in handling its duties.  
I expressed back then already that this has become very hard from the actions and words of the committee.

I have seen no sign that the committee has taken any steps to fix the many flaws that I have pointed out: The lack of the most basic understanding of the issues; the uneven and obviously adversarial enforcement and communication; the abuses of power [really, people, you are removing me from org ownership?]; overall, the existential disrespect expressed toward me.

To the contrary, after what has happened since, I have to say that I consider the trust irreparably broken, and I consider the committee as a whole illegitimate. Sadly, a squandered opportunity for the project, but the project will recover.

I strongly suggest for the committee as a whole to step down and make way for a newly elected committee that is able to live up to the needs of the project. I suggest June 30, that's a nice round date.

1. Trust: The Sage community (reminder, that includes me!) extended trust to the current members of the committee by their votes in the election for sage-conduct. It is trust that was extended to you based on your past presence in the community. Note that in this election, candidates did not provide any candidate statements.

2. Accountability: Given the constraints provided by necessary confidentiality, how can the committee be accountable to the community?

3. Authority: No, authority of the committee in an open project is not established by authoritarian use of power and doubling down on it.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Julian Rüth <julian.rueth@fsfe.org>  
Date: Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 2:55 AM  
Subject: Re: Abuse of maintainer privileges on github  
To: Matthias Koeppe <mkoeppe@math.ucdavis.edu>  
Cc: sage-conduct <sage-conduct@googlegroups.com>

Dear Matthias,

We hid your comment at  
<https://github.com/sagemath/sage/issues/38182#issuecomment-2157095210>

that comes across as overly dismissive. Dima created a separate issue to voice his concerns, and we believe that this is legitimate.

On the other hand, it is not appropriate for you to remove the abuse marking from your own comment. This is an abuse of your github privileges arising from your status as an Owner of the Sagemath organization. As a consequence, we are removing you as an owner until Friday July 5, effective today.

The SageMath Code of Conduct Committee

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Dr. Matthias Koeppe . . . . . <http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~mkoepp>  
Professor of Mathematics

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**Matthias Koeppe** <mkoepp@math.ucdavis.edu>  
To: sage-conduct <sage-conduct@googlegroups.com>

Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 4:35 PM

I forgot to say:  
I'll bring the abuses by the committee to the community's attention at the end of next week.  
[Quoted text hidden]