Introducing... tCRIL!

tCRIL: The Center for Re-Imagining Learning

March 2022

What is tCRIL?

- Non-profit organization formed by 2U's acquisition of edX
- Steward of the Open edX platform and software ecosystem
- NOT controlling the software direction unilaterally
    - Building consensus with the community

Meet The Team

Adolfo Brandes

Software Jedi
Current focus: Frontend Engineering
Working group(s): Frontend,
Build-test-release,
Community
Open edX experience: 7 years

Sarina Canelake

Engineering Manager
Current focus: Community Engineering
Working group(s): Community WG,
DEPR WG
Open edX experience: 5 years

3 beautiful, perfect cat sons

Percy, Rupert, & Simon

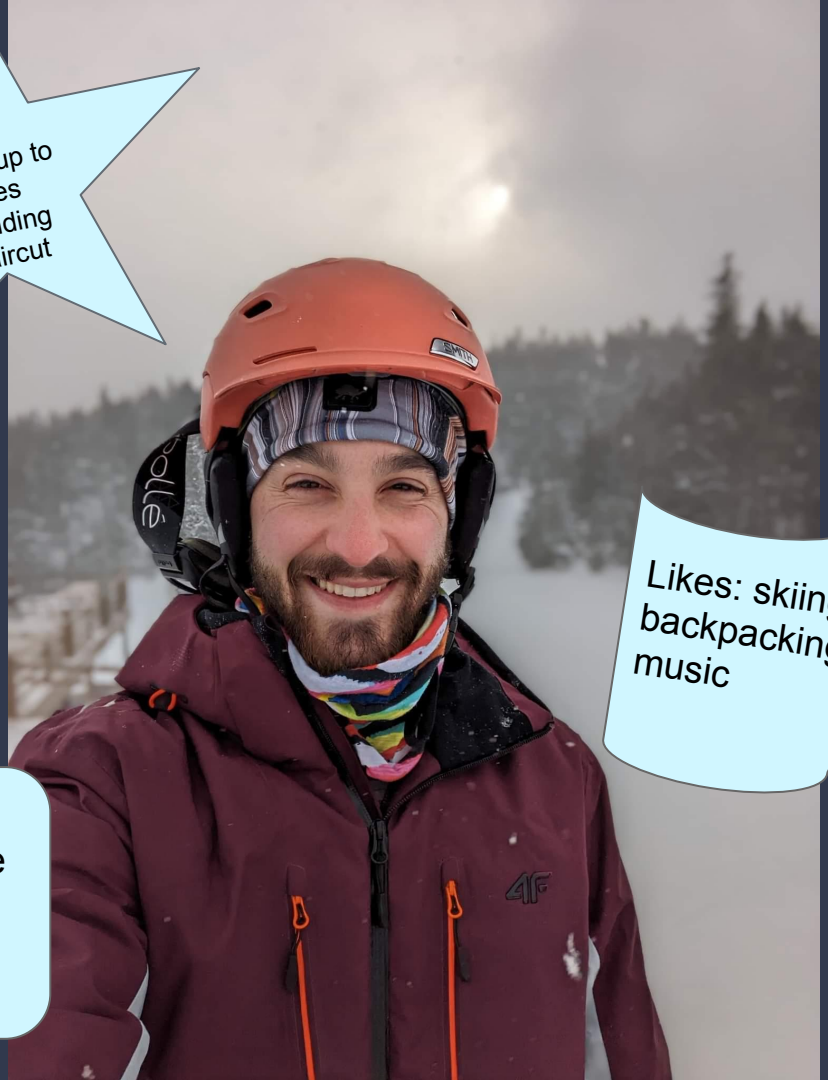
Enjoys eating anything she hasn't tried before, and anything spicy

Decorates her home with Halloween & Christmas lights every year (mostly dinosaurs)

Kyle McCormick

Senior Software Engineer
Current focus: Developer experience
Working group(s): Build-Test-Release
Open edX experience: 4 years

Height varies up to 4 inches depending on haircut



Likes: skiing, drumming backpacking, seeing live music

Has been to the easternmost point in the US, which would be a cooler fact if he didn't live in New England

Jenna Makowski

Senior Product Manager
Current focus: Community Roadmap; Product/market research
Working group(s): Product WG (coming soon!); Marketing WG
Open edX experience: 2yrs (if prior role as an edX partner counts!)

Born+bred Cleveland / Believeland
(But lives in Denver)

Loves to run up mountains and down canyons

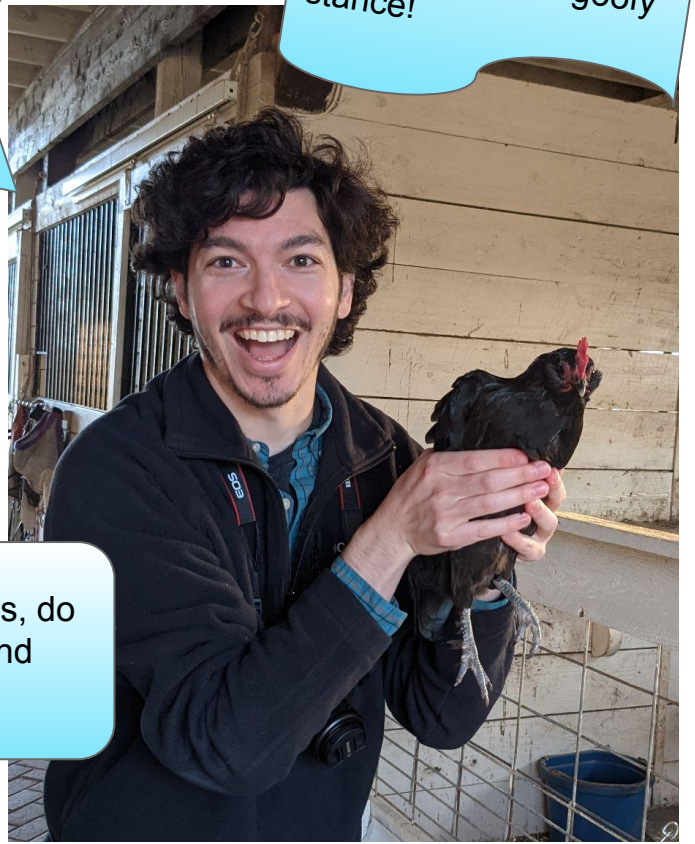
Tends to spend vacations volunteering on organic farms in Maine or building trails in New Mexico

Carlos Muñiz

Software Engineer
Current focus: Deprecation & Decoupling
Working group(s): Transifex WG
Open edX experience: 0.25 years

Loves Karaoke and dancing Salsa!

Boxes in an orthodox stance but rides skateboards in a goofy stance!



Can walk on his hands, do a standing backflip, and juggle!

Dave Ormsbee

Software Architect
Current focus: Arch, Learning Core, Standards
Working group(s): CC, Data, DEPR
Open edX experience: 10 years

Grew up in Hawaii!
Lives in Connecticut.

I can blow two-foot diameter bubbles using just my hands and dish soap. (Yes, I am the father of a young child.)

Enjoys data modeling, performance tuning, and giving snarky technical presentations.

Feanil Patel

Software Architect
Current focus: Decoupling, Docs
Working group(s): DEPR
Open edX experience: 8 years

Has a 5 year old

Loves to throw complicated theme parties with temporary art.

Bought a multi-family home with 5 friends during the pandemic.

Ed Zarecor

VP of Engineering
Current focus: (TOC, Project Governance, Conference)
Working group(s): DataWG
Open edX experience: 9 years

Me gusta el jamón

Enjoy coaching and playing soccer

I love travelling with my wife and two teenage children – they'll still spend time with us if quality food is on offer.

What are we up to?

In broad strokes…

Goal	Product Strategy	Project/Initiative	Project/Initiative Scope
To make Open edX a true community-driven platform by increasing community ownership, involvement and contribution.	**Product Strategy: Simplify the platform**	***Drive Tutor Adoption***	Improve Tutor such that it can entirely replace the current Open edX Devstack. This work will simplify the Instance install process.
		Contributions to Deprecation Work	Strategic selection of DEPR projects that enable 1) meaningful pairing of tCRIL with the community to advance DEPR work and 2) guidelines for sustainable community empowerment going forward
	Product Strategy: Leverage tCRIL to optimize community work	***Documentation Overhaul***	Overhaul Open edX Documentation to smooth and optimize community onboarding and workflows.
		Build and Maintain a Comprehensive Community Roadmap	Build and maintain a comprehensive Open edX Roadmap that provides transparency into all current work, planned work, and wishlist projects for Open edX across the community. This includes all major community contributions, blended development projects, tCRIL-led projects, and 2U-led projects.
		Define tCRIL Services for the Community	Define and clarify a list of tCRIL Services provided to support the community.
	New Initiatives	***Instance Survey***	Conduct a market research and survey initiative to gain deeper insight and metrics into the landscape of current Open edX Instances globally. Aim to present findings at the Open edX Conference in April.
		Develop a "New Initiative" business case or spec for at least one new product initiative	Complete market/community research, discovery documentation and "business case" for at least 1 completely new initiative (pain points solved, trade-offs). Develop replicable process/template.

tCRIL Goals, Strategies, and Initiatives for 2022

Roadmap Alignment

Jenna

Challenge: There has never been a central space to track all current, planned and desired work on the Open edX platform.

Goals of the Open edX Community Roadmap:

1. To comprehensively document all in-flight across the Open edX ecosystem.

2. To capture early stage projects that may not be planned but are in the pipeline.

3. To generate, document and prioritize ideas for future development and investment.

Looking forward: In the next 6-12mos, we'll be able to answer questions like:

- What features can we expect in the next Named Release?
- What areas have been collectively prioritized for investment?
- We would like to invest in Enhancement X. Is anyone else investing there?
- Has work on Issue Y been completed?
- We would like to see work on Idea Z but cannot take it on now (or alone). Are there partnership opportunities available to advance it?

Developer Experience

Kyle

Challenge: Open edX development is difficult because the platform and its developer tools are complicated.

Goals:

1. Drive adoption of Tutor as the unified, extensible, easy-to-use development environment for Open edX.

2. Simplify the platform by strategically contributing to deprecation and removal efforts.

Looking forward: In the next 6-12mos, we hope to…

- Support migration from Devstack to Tutor.
- Smooth out the Tutor experience.
- Enrich the Tutor plugin ecosystem.
- Help with assorted DEPRs & refactorings, like:
  - Bok-Choy
  - Old Mongo
  - problemset & videosequence
  - edx-platform’s common/lib
  - etc.

Documentation Overhaul

Feanil

Challenge: Finding the right documentation at the right time is hard or impossible.

Goals:

1. Make it easier to find the right documentation at the right time to solve the problem.

2. Build a process for maintaining documentation over time.

Looking forward:

- Collecting user input to design a sustainable documentation strategy.
- Doing an audit of current documentation.
- Building out a structure for the new documentation tree.

Upcoming Work on the Frontend

Adolfo

Challenge: To continue the work on decoupling the frontend(s) from the monolith while also making them extensible.

Goals:

1. Configuration 2.0: one shouldn't have to rebuild an image to change micro-frontend configuration.

2. Theming, branding, and pluggability: we need to bring MFEs up to the standard of customizability expected by the community, including the ability to extend them without forking.

3. Standardization: the near complete freedom in the development of individual MFEs has come around to bite us: a still-flexible but stricter middle-ground must be found.

Looking forward: Over the next 6-12 months, we'd like to have:

- A frontend roadmap built with the help and approval of the community, with OEPs and ADRs governing individual items;
- Vibrant community participation in the Frontend Working Group;
- Significant progress in implementation of the features that'll enable better configuration, theming/branding/pluggability, and standardization;
- At least one MFE implementing static type checking with either Flow or Typescript.

Thank You!

Questions?

Ask on Discourse!
See us on Confluence!
Say Hi at the Conference!