



# QGIS PSC Meeting 7 November 2016

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## Present

- Andreas
- Anita
- Jürgen
- Paolo

## Apologies

- Tim Sutton
- Richard Duivenvoorde

## Video / Audio Channel

- Hangouts text chat

## Previous meeting minutes

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1iGxx7N587CxGiXGIVlvrBFW7tVXltY4XXbVogWYJbsg>

## Next meeting

## Agenda

- **All: Roundtable:** activity updates (3 minute report back per person)
- Moving issues to issues.qgis.org (Richard, needs help of Jürgen)
- Updates on QGIS3 migration; proposal from Matthias
  - Fundraising for v3 development → quotes for planned work **TODO ???**
    - **Tim write a blog article - DONE**
    - **Tim get Matthias' hit list of key things that still need to be worked on to include in the above articles**
    - [https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0\\_api/issues/52](https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0_api/issues/52)
    - [https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0\\_api/issues/44](https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0_api/issues/44)
    - [https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0\\_api/issues/42](https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0_api/issues/42)

- [https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0\\_api/issues/28](https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0_api/issues/28)
  - [https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0\\_api/issues/8](https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0_api/issues/8)
  - [https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0\\_api/issues/66#issuecomment-256330862](https://github.com/qgis/qgis3.0_api/issues/66#issuecomment-256330862)
  - **QGIS Server**
  - **QGIS Composer (Nyll already planning a drive for this?)**
  - **Tim write to country user groups asking them to do a funding drive to support development for 3.0**
- Yves Jacolin, French v3 Code Sprint
  - <https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/wiki/Code-Sprint-QGIS-3-Lyon,-end-2016>
    - PSC participation?
      - Jürgen: no
      - Andreas: probably no (need to check)
      - Anita: no
      - Tim: no
- Paolo expressed concerns about readiness of plugins for 3.0
  - We need to collate experiences (eg. Richards recent notes to the mailing list and api break guide below) to provide a migration document
  - [http://qgis.org/api/api\\_break.html#qgis\\_api\\_break\\_3\\_0](http://qgis.org/api/api_break.html#qgis_api_break_3_0)
  - Try to set aside some funding for porting key plugins to QGIS 3.0 (Andreas: I would do the asking for funding last, when the blog post was written and everything around with clear plans)
- Refloating the certification idea (see email thread in annex 1 below)
  - Tim proposed to build the certificate issuing site as outlined below and we can see if it takes off well
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- Voting on the charter changes by voting members → **TODO Tim**
- **Two final tweaks to the charter:**
  - **PSC members will giving up their voting membership when they enter into the PSC - DONE**
  - **Exiting PSC members will need to be nominated and elected into the voting membership corps if they want to be instated as voting members - DONE**
- Invitation for the annual general meeting (AGM) → **TODO** (Tim and Andreas)

## Roundtable

Andreas:

- New sponsors: ARTOGIS (silver)
- Renewed sponsors: Sourcepole (bronze)
- The layer tree API redesign from Martin Dobias will be supported by QGIS-CH and QGIS-DE

- The Widget GUI/CORE separation (Matthias Kuhn) will be partially supported by QGIS-CH. About 2k € missing. Still looking for sponsors.

Anita

- Created 2.18 splash and related material
- Still working with 3.0 logo working group - waiting for designer feedback
- Updated sponsors banner

Jürgen

- 2.18 release and packaging

Tim:

- Worked on 2.18 changelog

Paolo:

- Checking and approving plugins

# Annex 1 - Certification

## Message from Phillip Davis:

Tim, after much thought and polling of GeoAcademy participants, I would like to propose a win-win idea with the QGIS project. As you know, there's been much talk about the need for some sort of formal FOSS4G industry certification. Arnulf Christl tried for a decade to achieve acceptance with his Metaspatial Institute and abandoned the idea in frustration. I think we have an excellent opportunity to create a first of its kind certification for QGIS as an exemplar of what could become further certification in PostGIS, Grass, etc.

My concept is pretty simple and straight-forward: the GeoAcademy will train QGIS users using our online certificate of five QGIS courses. Graduates of the program who meet a minimum standard, such as 85 average, could qualify to apply to the QGIS Project for a certificate, such as QGIS Desktop Proficiency. You and your team would control and issue the certificates, for some fee you decide and collect. The GeoAcademy would simply provide the training and assessment of the graduates. We would work independently and there would need to be nothing more legal between us than a process whereby we provide you the names of potential certificate applicants. Our academy would be offered at a nominal cost of \$1,000 USD for the entire program + \$40 for Discovering QGIS. I know of no other offering as comprehensive for such a low price leading to any sort of college degree, much less industry certification.

Our GeoAcademy plans to offer our certificate program beginning in January 2017. It is a limited-enrollment, cohort-based offering of 25 students max per cohort would participate in a series of five three-week long courses of 32 contact hours each. At the conclusion of the 16 week period and 160 contact hours, the graduates will have covered all five units of Kurt's Discovering QGIS book and its 35 project labs. They would additionally complete their own independent project, based on student learning outcomes outlined in the Discovering QGIS book. Qualified instructors, like Kurt and Lene, will lead the courses, so I feel confident in stating the quality of the instruction, and graduates, will match any in the world. The majority of survey participants who expressed interest in the GeoAcademy are already Master's level graduates.

I have thought long and hard how best to bring FOSS4G education to the masses, in remote locations, globally and build a sustainable model for continuation as QGIS matures and improves. I think the GeoAcademy+QGIS Project collaboration could serve as a model to others. It would be my hope we can work together to increase QGIS and FOSS4G adoption in industry and governments by providing an industry-recognized training and certification process at an affordable price.

I hope you will join Kurt and Lene in a live discussion on the pros and cons of the proposal.

Cheers

Phillip Davis

## Thoughts from Tim:

I proposed that we do a simpler variant of this to get started. The idea would be that we host a certification page very similar to the commercial support providers page which lists all certification providers and to what level they provide certification. Each provider would need to be approved by the PSC or a certification team lead (or maybe Lene as community team lead?). The approval would be for a specific kind of certificate e.g.

Provider Logo	Provider Name & description	Certification Level
GeoAcademy Logo	GeoAcademy provides an in depth course of 160 contact hours blah blah blah. See website for more description.	QGIS Professional
Bobs GIS School	Bob's school provides these 3 day training courses in QGIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to QGIS</li><li>• Advanced QGIS</li><li>• Using QGIS with relational databases</li></ul>	QGIS Technician
etc	etc	etc

From our side we would have three main activities:

- **Verifying certified training providers.** I propose that we just use a simple social approach for now. In future we can require that providers bring out a validator who can review the training course materials and sit in on the training course. This could be done at the provider's own expense (including covering professional hours and travel expenses of the adjudicator). Once verified, the training provider can be added to the above list.
- **Build a certificate issuing platform** (simple django app) that allows issuing of certificates and maintains a registry of all certified QGIS practitioners which we can host on a public page. That way even if someone fakes a certificate, they would not have the double verification of having their name listed on the practitioners page. Certification providers would be given a login to the platform and could self issue certificates (by providing name, surname, email, certification level) for each course alumni.
- **Generate invoices automatically on a regular basis** (part of the above django app). We would send out monthly or payment threshold based invoices to the service provider

that would be paid into the QGIS bank account. This can be automated via the above app.

I think the above approach is pretty simple and for starters will allow us to get something in place pretty quickly. We can always iteratively improve on it as time goes by. We could find regional course approvers once we have built up a trusted cadre of service providers. If someone misbehaves we simply revoke their access to the certificate issuing platform until the issue is resolved (or permanently if needed).