



QGIS PSC Meeting 19th Nov 2019

Present

- Andreas
- Paolo
- Marco
- Anita
- Tim
- Jürgen

Video / Audio Channel

<https://zoom.us/j/932887626> (wasn't zoom canceled?)

"My subscription will still be valid for our November meeting" Tim on Oct 16th

Previous meeting minutes

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qeXinguVrNTuRucdqm86Fcunks3UHpEtRi-rO73Dc7o/edit?usp=sharing>

Next meetings

3rd December 20:00 Central European Winter Time

TODOs from the QGIS.ORG Calendar

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17N9j6s7IWZlzxPJXZbgo2z1qADWrOu6Avt7DIN8rFVk/edit>

- November (Marco): Add representatives of new user groups to the voting member pool
- November (Marco): Organize nominations of candidates for community voting members

- Reports for every area: grants, special funds, travel grants, ...pcav suggests to appoint a responsible for the communication in each area, chasing people around and regularly reporting to the community
- Autumn (Anita): Publish outcomes of the grant proposals
BUT multiple proposals have not finished yet

New agenda items

Filling vacant PSC seat - status?

- **TODO Marco:** call for nominations (deadline: end of November 2019) to fill the vacant seat and organize election see:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BwB7I34xf21R6pyoAlVHpdoc-_7AY5phAnq7k7BwcPg/edit#responses
- No new country user groups → no new voting members
- Proposed to combine general PSC nominations with electing replacement for Richard
- PSC members willing to be re-elected:
 - Anita agrees
 - Jürgen agrees
 - Andreas agrees
 - Paolo agrees
-

Spend approx 15k € until end of the year

- Due to tax reasons it would be good not to accumulate profits by the end of the year.

Financial situation:

- Budget with current numbers:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I_xXVE8RGBNFnJGoBhdLYO4MVm8DICRudhM1DRINSq8/edit#gid=0
- Accounting:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VOt4RFJk7LaTAnEGmQ2VB1DZT8Q9lor-b_uBAVP8YQ/edit#gid=351919521
- See thread starting at
<https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-psc/2019-November/007850.html>
- Several ideas how to spend this money came up:
 - Improve our infrastructure (e.g. Stripe integration), see
<https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-psc/2019-November/007851.html>
 - Spend more on bug fixing - see also
<https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/issues?page=1&q=is%3Aopen+is%3Aissue+label%3ABug+label%3ARegression>
 - Spend more on documentation
 - Researching and setting up Windows CI -
<https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-psc/2019-November/007876.html>

- Spend more on Qt5 improvements
 - **Andreas**: previous improvements already paid for
 - **Paolo**: we should ask those who dealt with them to give us a report
 - **Marco**: feedback from Matthias is good, will get more specific details and share to the mailing list

Feedback and reporting for grants and funding:

- **Paolo**: we should have a better approach to monitoring grants etc. and ensuring that we get adequate feedback
- Current responsibilities:
 - Grant planning: Anita
 - Grant assessment / payments: Andreas
 - Grant reporting: Anita
 - Hackfest travel grant requests: Andreas
 - Hackfest travel reporting from grantees: Tim (chase)
 - Funded bugfix planning: Andreas
 - Funded bugfix reporting (changelog): Andreas
 - Specific funding requests: PSC vote
 - Specific funding feedback: Funded prerequisite should reporting on the work done and pass Tim to feed onto the blog
 - Community management: Marco
 - Votes: Marco
 - Github: Marco/Tim
- **Discussion point from Paolo**: we should run as much funding through the grant programme and use PSC discretionary funding as possible. General feeling was that discretionary spending is useful in some cases for special projects but in general having as much of our funds run through the grant programme (e.g. having two grant programmes per year instead of one) would be better. Paolo volunteers to help with additional grant calls.
- Paolo also proposed labelling some grant proposals as 'special recommendation' from the PSC
- Anita: approx 1-2 months time for grants from planning to publishing results
- Andreas noted that in some cases grant work is not completed in the financial year
- To address the immediate issue of budget surplus, Paolo proposes to pre-pay bug fixing to developers and then grant proposal early in the new year
- **Proposal**: Paolo proposes to spend €7.5k bugfix in advance, so to get rid of the surplus; next year less money will be invested in bugfix, so we have more resources for grants
 - **Votes**
 - Marco +1
 - Andreas +1
 - Jürgen +1
 - Tim (abstain)

- Anita +1
 - Paolo +1
- **Proposal:** Paolo suggests to do two grant sessions, possibly one in April and another in October; we should also gently pushing towards completing the projects within, say, 6 months;

Votes

- Marco 0 "Note end of year is full of work for companies"
 - Anita +0 "Grants running over the calendar year complicates accounting"
 - Tim +0
 - Jürgen 0
 - Andreas 0
 - Paolo
- **Proposal:** Andreas suggests to spend €7.5k funding on infrastructure and projecta improvements (stripe integration, rehost plugin feed and changelog, API docs in Github pages, ...) as a special PSC project

Votes

- Marco +1
- Anita +1 "to reduce workload caused by manual handling of payments, server outages"
- Tim (abstain)
- Jürgen +1
- Andreas +1 (thinks that this is important work that should be done relatively soon)
- Paolo +0 (prefers to recommend it among grants)

Investing our profits from the training certificates

- It would be useful to re-invest that money into improving training material and try to lobby universities to use more FOSSGIS in their curricula (perhaps starting from next year). Consult with Kurt and Hans on this matter.
- This is not a real proposal now. Just put it up for discussion.

Documentation strategy adjustments - status?

- **Paolo:** <http://changelog.qgis.org/en/qgis/section/list/> - Tim demonstrates training lesson worksheets with information on the subject, data to downloads, screenshots, questions and answers. Content is structured with RST markup.
- **Tim:** Proposing that we modify the platform to also allow submission of externally prepared training resources so that we can have a central place to gather QGIS related training materials

KDAB QT work

- <https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/issues/30787>
- <https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/pull/30930> Upstream qt issues
<https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/pull/30930#issuecomment-515371162>
- KDAB dev was contracted to help work out issues

HANA provider status

- **Marco** reports that there's been a call with SAP but it's not cleared up yet, they expect free development work

Ongoing TODOs

- **Windows-only plugins**

Previous discussion:

<http://osgeo-org.1560.x6.nabble.com/QGIS-Developer-Windows-only-version-of-a-QGIS-2-18x-plugin-tt5394159.html#none>

Issue summary:

- **Binaries in plugin** - majority in community don't approve
- **Platform specific plugins** - most in community don't seem to mind (Paolo strongly objects to "proprietary OS only" plugins e.g. ones that run only on Windows or Mac)
- **Plugins requiring proprietary binaries** - Paolo strongly objects
- **Plugins fetching binaries post installation** - Paolo OK with cases where binary being fetched is built from FOSS and the plugin will work on all platforms

TODO: Marco to set up voting for the above issues using google forms

Topics for next time:

- **Marco: Crowdfunding platform for QGIS.org** (ignition tech)
- **Marco: QField**
- **Budget item for qgis.org website refresh?**

OLD agenda items

Marco: QGIS on android QField

- Last discussed in June: “**Mobile apps on qgis website**”
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pUGN5FfUQladPRH2OLPGDjTE6UVtIAvVqZcKn7xlgtM/edit#heading=h.la263tdgxkvi>
- Andreas: I am in favor of deprecating the Android version. It confuses users and it is basically unsupported anyway. It also crashes a lot.
- Andreas: I would also be in favour of making “QField” an “official” QGIS project. Yes, it’s up to OpenGIS - it is my suggestion ;-). I don’t think we need a separate PSC. It can be under the normal QGIS.ORG PSC - just like QGIS server. The OpenGIS employees and other committers need to be ok with the move to QGIS.ORG.
- I guess one advantage of QField being under QGIS.ORG, is that it could also apply for grants
- Open issue: publisher in Google Playstore currently is OpenGIS. Changing organization to QGIS / OSGeo would cause a loss of download stats & rating → bad for app status
- Andreas: I would also prefer the OSGeo key, but not at “any price” ;-)
- **TODO Marco**: read up if it’s possible to change publisher / developer in PlayStore without losing stats
- **Roadmap to QField becoming an official QGIS project**
 - Source code moving to QGIS.ORG GIT repo
 - Handing over project “oversight” to QGIS.ORG and QGIS PSC
 - Change the link on download page

Marco: QGIS Server docker in official QGIS hub repo

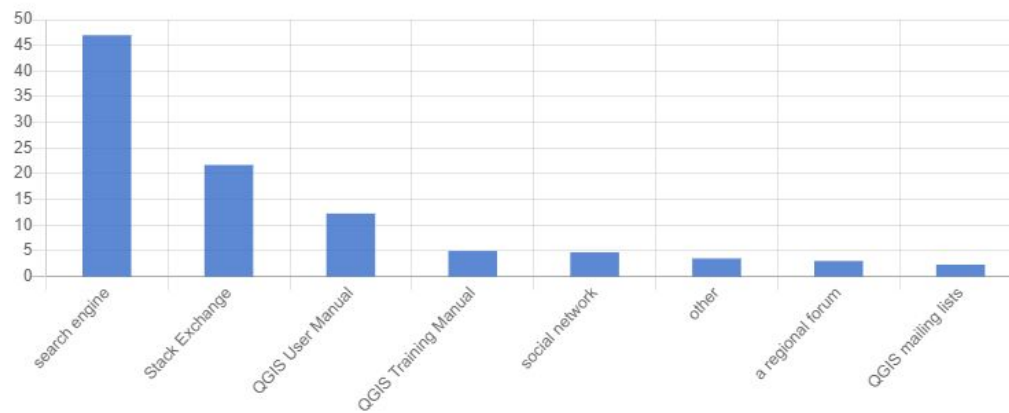
- **In progress: Marco** to ask current maintainers of different images if they would be prepared to maintain an official image. We should explain that we are planning to select between the popular docker server images and that they may not be the successful one.

Anita: user question of Sept (on documentation)

- The evaluation of responses is currently ongoing. We received over 800 responses. Results will be published on the blog.
- Here's the CSV export of all answers, including the free text field:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nf7sdzyv4x2jsx0/QGIS%20Question%20of%20the%20Month%20%282019-09%29%20-%20all%20versions%20-%20English%20%28en%29%20-%202019-10-13-12-05-26.csv?dl=0>

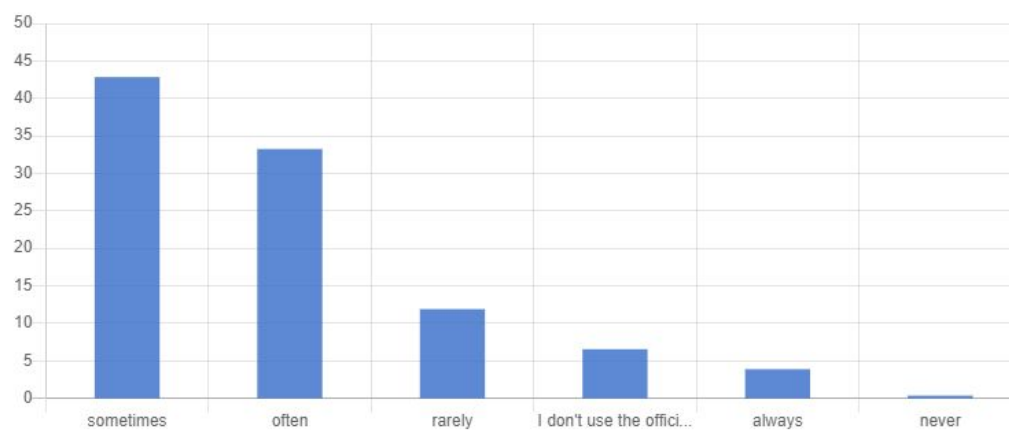
What is your first source of information on how to use QGIS features or solve problems?

TYPE: "SELECT_ONE". 820 out of 824 respondents answered this question. (4 were without data.)



If/when you use the official QGIS documentation to learn how to use QGIS features or solve problems, does it answer your needs?

TYPE: "SELECT_ONE". 814 out of 824 respondents answered this question. (10 were without data.)



- [Documentation discussion from Cameron Shorter](#)
- We discussed
 - Concentrating on English only
 - Concentrating on listing features
 - Allowing users to add detailed tutorials and videos as “comments”
 - Move to Markdown (maybe using pandoc?)
 - **TODO Tim:** Contact Harrisou and discuss
 - Goal: Support direct editing on github in markdown and results published directly

Tim & Paolo: INSPIRE SUPPORT

Dear all,

as follow-up of the workshop on "Improved client support for INSPIRE data" held in ISPRA on July 8-9, please find attached:

- A summary document that contains an overview of the test approach and a summary of the results for each of the products tested
- An updated version of the spreadsheet containing failed tests that we collectively compiled in Ispra [1].

The issues in the spreadsheet have already been assigned an INSPIRE priority (High, Medium, Low) that indicates the level of importance the fixing of the issue has for the INSPIRE community. We would like to have your feedback (by 11 October) regarding the importance that the resolution of the issue has for you as Software providers and the difficulty of the fixing.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to fill in the "SW Product Priority" (F column) and the "Difficulty of Solution" (G column) assigning a High, Medium, Low level. If possible, provide us also with an estimation of the needed workload in the "Estimated workload" (I column). This will allow us to identify the most important outstanding issues that have the higher possibility to be solved as they are also significant from the SW point of view / are easy to solve.

Taking into consideration the meeting discussions, we also filled in the "Next steps SW Product" (H column) and we would appreciate any feedback from your side on whether you already have any news / you think these steps are indeed feasible in the short/medium run.

Kind regards,

Stefania

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[1]

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nHW2QCTDyCLf2_5fdtHiwwwAMuFVwyQt/view?usp=sharing

- http://plugins.qgis.org/plugins/gml_application_schema_toolbox/ this one?

Tim & Paolo: Metadata:

- Tim, Nyaall, Tom, Angelos, and a number of people interested in metadata
- Proposal is to promote the development of a metadata abstraction library
- TODO: Tim to write to OSGEO raising the idea

Tim & Anita: Feed

- **TODO Anita:** add next user question to <https://feed.qgis.org/admin>
- Ideas
 - Add future blog.qgis.org posts
 - Advertise developer / user meetings
 - Cat pictures! :-)

Andreas: Status of accepted Grants 2019

- See https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1DwFBOiTKI_ncoQF_GX7yGd21eTWbcDyU
- We should try to make sure they are completed and paid by the end of the year.
- **TODO: Andreas** to ask devs about the status.
- Accepted proposals and their status:
 - Profile and optimise the QGIS vector rendering code (N. Dawson):
 - "Rebalance" the labeling engine and fix poor automatic label placement choices (N. Dawson)
 - Reuse core functionality to provide DB manager features (A. Pasotti): done and paid
 - Snapping cache improvements (H. Mercier): still in the works
 - Fix problems in larger 3D scenes (M. Dobias): still in the works
 - Open documentation issues for pull requests

Andreas: Indeed donation (US \$ 10k) arrived. Would be nice to write a blog post about it and encourage other companies to do the same.

- **TODO:** Andreas to write blog post proposal about indeed donation.



HANA provider status?

- **TODO Paolo:** ask Marco

In Progress: Vision document

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-bh6gP3m2LrsuAEJ5eZM7uTjXNv5roRIA1sc8eN0Gxw/edit?ts=5cff5f9e#heading=h.4hvy87cjuibv>
- Idea: crowdsource ideas? → next user question
 - What is your vision for QGIS.ORG?
 - What should be the goals of QGIS.ORG?

Tim: Paid PR Queue maintainer funding drive

- Draft message from Tim's email:

Dear QGIS Users. We are so excited to bring you this new release of QGIS, packed with amazing features and capabilities. Many of the new features you see in QGIS are paid for by individuals and companies who want to support the QGIS platform by improving its feature set. QGIS is a labour of love, built by a team of dedicated and highly skilled contributors who support and maintain, the core project. QGIS funds a minimal part of the work they do through paid bug fixing sprints, our grants programme and funded documentation writing. However, the vast majority of work that goes into maintaining the core QGIS project is unfunded and relies on the dedication and commitment of our volunteer corps. With the growth of the project, these volunteers are under increasing time pressure to manage all the issues, review all the incoming features and support our many users.

The QGIS Project Steering Committee is launching a new funding campaign to support our first full time, fully funded QGIS project maintainer. We have a fund-raising target of EUR 150,000 to make this happen. This money will be used to firstly ensure that someone can review all of the amazing new features and fixes that are submitted to QGIS through our Pull Request queue. Secondly, any additional available time from our paid maintainer will be devoted to fixing bugs with a focus on improving the stability of QGIS on all platforms, which many of you have told us is your number one priority! If you are able to support our campaign, please click the link below!

- Use a subscription-based system? E.g. Patereon, Stripe, or similar
 - Need to communicate specific goals
 - Documentation Drive
 - Bugfixing Drive

- **TODO Tim:** draft next version
- **TODO Tim & Andreas:** Make a landing page for the funding campaign with subscription and campaign sign up
- Something like
https://donate.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:LandingPage&country=IT&uselang=it&utm_medium=sidebar&utm_source=donate&utm_campaign=C13_it.wikipedia.org

Tim & Marco: QGIS Server docker in official QGIS hub repo

- Status: there are multiple docker containers out there but no official one from QGIS.
<https://hub.docker.com/search?q=qgis-server&type=image>
- There is a good one by ???Gem???. Marco could ask them to make their work the official one.
- **TODO: Marco** to ask current maintainers of different images if they would be prepared to maintain an official image. We should explain that we are planning to select between the popular docker server images and that they may not be the successful one.

Jürgen: Contributions from third parties

- Missed Policy change? <https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/pull/30734> (HANA provider)
<https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Enhancement-Proposals/issues/151>
- **Jürgen:** Test suite is fragile and only works reliably on Travis where all the non-working tests are blacklisted
- **Jürgen:** providers are not core, so we don't have test requirements for them
- **Jürgen:** the licensing might still be a major issue
- We still have old stuff hanging around
https://issues.qgis.org/projects/qgis/wiki/Contributor_Guidelines
- "As of November 2007 we require all new features going into master to be accompanied with a unit test. Initially we have limited this requirement to **qgis_core**, and we will extend this requirement to other parts of the code base once people are familiar with the procedures for unit testing explained in the sections that follow."
<https://www.qgis.org/en/site/getinvolved/development/qgisdevelopersguide/unittesting.html>
- **Paolo:** Proposal - take all documents together, condensate in one page, and start discussing on that one to have a revised policy by the end of the upcoming Contributors Meeting
- **Tim:** We need a page connected with the QGIS.org statutes that clearly lists all community policies. Policies can be proposed and agreed or rejected at our AGM

