QGIS PSC Meeting 6th May 2019

Present

- Marco (20:05)
- Andreas
- Richard
- Paolo
- Anita

Excused

- Jürgen

Voting present

- Tim

Video / Audio Channel

https://zoom.us/j/932887626

Previous meeting minutes

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10oZxr18jvMcnwSlJZQz1wnTU-5lsKGQrYatDQIjU9XE/edit?usp=sharing

Next meetings

03 Jun 2019 - 20h00 Central Europe Time
01 Jul 2019 - 20h00 Central Europe Time

TODOs from the QGIS.ORG Calendar

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

New agenda items

Anita: Grant proposals
- Blog post draft is ready:
  - https://qgisblog.wordpress.com/wp-admin/post.php?post=2129&action=edit
  - Most notably: Based on community feedback, this year, we will not accept proposals for the development of new features. Instead, proposals should focus on polishing of existing features and infrastructure improvements.
- Application form is ready: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DwFBOiTKI_ncoQF_GX7yGd21eTWbcDyU?usp=sharing
  - Updated information - please review:
    We have budgeted EUR 20,000 for the grant programme. The target version is QGIS 3.10.
    This year, we will not accept proposals for the development of new features.
    Therefore, Proposals should focus only for polishing existing features or improving the QGIS project infrastructure.
    Some examples of the kinds of topics you could propose are:
    * Updating and improving documentation
    * Improving API documentation
    * Curating the pull request queue
    * Bug fixing
    * Rewriting and improving a part of the code base
    * A security review of QGIS
    * Updating and improving QGIS.ORG web infrastructure
    * Helping new QGIS devs to get started with improved developer documentation and utilities
    * etc.
    The closing date for applications is Sunday, 2 June 2019.

Andreas:
- **Request from QGIS Colombia** about having a "virtual" account at QGIS.ORG for bug fixing and smaller developments. They would pay a certain amount each year to be earmarked for specific bug fixes and smaller improvements. Similar to the setup we have with the Italian QGIS user group.
  - If ok for Andreas then it is ok. Whenever he feels it is too much work he can stop the offer.

- **MacOS packaging:** Apple developer ID (account). Peter Petrik asks about status. Feedback from OSGeo? Jürgen asked OSGeo, but seems like it 2-factor authentication is linked with Larry and it is not so easy to log in to the developer program.

- ○ Link to OSGeo SAC: https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/SAC lists "Larry Shaffer (Apple Signing Certificates)"

- Proposal from Alessandro, Matthias and Nyall to work on the **start screen infrastructure**, incl. news feed, etc. https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Enhancement-Proposals/issues/102 Proposal was sent to PSC private list on April 9.
  - Fund full proposal:
    - ○ +0 Anita
    - ○ +0 Paolo
    - ○ +1 Marco
    - ○ +1 Andreas
    - ○ +1 Richard
    - ○ +1 Tim
  - Fund proposal without templates:
    - ○ +1 Anita
    - ○ +1 Paolo
    - ○ +0 Andreas
    - ○ +0 Marco
    - ○ +0 Richard

Proposal Richard: to assign 2 dev days to Alessandro for plugins site
> +1 Andreas
> +1 Anita
> +1 Paolo
> +1 Richard
> +1 Marco
> +1 Tim

TODO Richard: contact Alessandro

Decide on criteria about acceptable expenses (Paolo).

Marco:
- **Mobile apps on qgis website** (advertise QField and Input instead of QGIS on Android)

  Ideas for rules for advertising projects associated with QGIS (like QGIS mobile or web clients):
  - Public git repo (preferably under QGIS.ORG umbrella)
  - Accepts pull requests from others and is not controlled only by one single company (how to define this? E.g. by allowing core committers from other organizations)
  - GPLv2+/BSD/MIT licence
  - Abide to QGIS Code of Conduct

- Has an open PSC or is under QGIS PSC
- Healthy attitude towards its community

- **Start Redmine to Github issues migration (https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Enhancement-Proposals/issues/141) (Marco advises to start it)**
  - +1 Marco
  - +1 Anita
  - 0 Paolo
  - 0 Richard
  - +1 Andreas
  - +1 Tim

OLD agenda items

QGIS Welcome Page
Alessandro is waiting for Nyall's part of the offer

Trademark
- Has anyone made contact with https://qgis.academy? - No contact so far.
- TODO Paolo: contact them. Mail sent, waiting for a reply.

Mac OS packaging and infrastructure
- Previous crowd funding: € 4.100 out of € 8.500 that were targeted
- In Dec 2018, PSC voted to cover server (approx. 600 US$) + Apple Developers certificate costs (99 US$)
- Ongoing QEP: MacOS Packaging System
- Potential options mentioned by Peter:
  1. Keep the current approach with volunteers to drive the packaging process. No funding from QGIS.org.
  2. Budget for X$/year for packaging for each platform. This way we can slowly over the years improve packaging and implement proposed QEP. The question is how the money will be allocated to developers. Maybe have voted maintainer for the package+platform for a year? (Note by Anita: There is a budget, see Andreas' response to the QEP below)
  3. Try to do QGIS driven crowd/business funding of this motion to get some initial funds for kick-off of the project

4. Encourage developers to apply for QGIS grants for such infrastructure tasks. (Note by Anita: We already had successful OSGeo4W update proposals (€ 4.000) in 2018 and 2016 (6000€))
- Andreas' response on the QEP: "We have a **budget of 9k EUR for packaging in 2019**. In my opinion there should be at least 3k EUR available for MacOS packaging out of this "packaging budget". As far as I understand it, this should more or less fill the gap that the MacOS crowdfunding campaign didn't manage to collect (not completely, but almost)."
- **Next steps (lead: Peter):**
  - Use 3k from current packaging budget to move the current process to qgis.org
    - Paolo +1
    - Anita +1
    - Jürgen +1
    - Richard +1
    - Marco +1
    - Andreas +1
  - Apply for grant to implement continuous integration and other long-term goals
  - Change invoicing of the MacOS server to send it directly to QGIS.ORG

Jorge's Github work
- **Ongoing:** https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Enhancement-Proposals/issues/141
- Proof of concept: https://github.com/qgib/QGIS/issues
- Jürgen: categories are still missing (but they are working on it)
- Still harder to find tickets that are related to each other / certain categories compared to Redmine
- There are many categories (about 100), but mainly 20 have a larger number of tickets related → idea is to reduce the nr of categories
- Apparently the concept of compulsory labels (e.g. for QGIS version, ticket type, etc.) is missing from GH; they can be replaced by templates
- ~~TODO~~ Marco: Ask Jorge to summarize status & signal us when we should vote on it DONE: https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Enhancement-Proposals/issues/141#issuecomment-480955844

Other sysadmin stuff
- Plugins.qgis.org … http://qgis5.qgis.org/ (more work to do)
- https://docs.qgis.org/3.4 (now translatable)

For the next PSC
- Welcome page on qgis desktop: updates
- Improved manual testing (framework from Boundless)
- Possible QGIS Social Contract
  - https://www.debian.org/social_contract <= input ?

Cleaning up bug tracker queue
Giovanni suggests to mass-close 2.x tickets. People can re-open if the issues are still valid.
Regis suggests to mention the mass-closing in the end-of-life blog post.
TODO Paolo: write end-of-life blog post

QA: Better Testing for QGIS and release cycle
Giovanni: Automated testing should be introduced. Also of GUI parts. Until now, testing relies solely on manual, voluntary work.

Alessandro suggests to introduce integration testing also involving the GUI parts. Could be semi-automated or fully-automated. Boundless has experience with this. There is a testing plugin from Victor that could be used. Denis Rouzaud is also testing it.

Jürgen: this is a timing issue. There is no time left in the current release schedule for testing. Alessandro suggests to introduce a testing period. We need to make sure that LTR wouldn't be broken seriously

Example: WFS client is currently broken. Might be related to network stack and authentication. People are getting deadlocks, hangs and crashes - also in the LT version.

Alessandro: some tests could be fully automated, some semi-automated. There would be a script the user has to follow and compare expected and actual result. Involves verification by a user.

Alessandro suggests to start with the fully-automated version first and later the semi-automated. System runs in docker. Could be run in Travis or separate infrastructure.

Alessandro can set up an example as a start. Can be reviewed by others. Not sure if volunteers can contribute it - it is Python based, so it should be possible for others to contribute.

Alessandro: other idea would be to set up a webpage with tests to run things manually by users, also as a way for them to learn new things - maybe based on the training manual. Needs dedicated community members.

Giovanni: it took 2-3 weeks of testing at Boundless for several versions and two operating systems.

Jürgen: perhaps 6 weeks of testing, 4 weeks for general bug fixing, 2 weeks of cool-down phase where extended testing is done and only really critical things fixed.

Proposal: to take 2 weeks away from development time and stick to the 4 month release schedule. This would extend bug fixing and testing time to 6 weeks. The last 2 weeks would be cool-down phase.
PSC vote:
Andreas: +1
Anita: +1
Paolo: +1
Richard: +1
Jürgen: +1

Alessandro: manual tests would be another issue that needs a dedicated test team. We can distribute the work a bit between different people testing certain areas.

Richard: couldn't companies support this effort better, also with responsibility?

Infrastructure upgrade
Paolo: there are frequent problems on the plugin site infrastructure.
Richard: create dedicated physical machine for plugins.qgis.org

Richard: Django application is also very old. There might be security and compatibility issues.
Andreas: we use a lot of critical infrastructure at Kartoza web servers. Should discuss if we can move some of it to QGIS.ORG on Hetzner. → first do the renewal of the plugins.qgis.org site and then in a couple of months revisit this issue to see if it is feasible to move everything to QGIS.ORG as Hetzner.

Richard: would like to simplify things, if possible. Only very few people understand the Django app.

Jürgen: what happens if we upgrade Django?

Richard: a lot of Django plugins (not QGIS plugins ;-)) will break because of dependencies.

Proposal: move the plugin website to a physical machine, at the same time updating all the software and simplify the application as much as possible, with the aim to having it more maintainable. We start as a volunteer project, can allocate resources if necessary.
PSC vote:
Paolo: +1
Anita: +1
Andreas: +1
Jürgen: +1
Richard: +1

Trademark questions

1. Can we use the name QGIS-Pro NL for our version of QGIS?
2. Can we use the url http://qgis-pro.nl for the same purpose?
3. Can we create a training website by the name: http://www.learning-qgis.com/

Answers:

1. No, but you can create a yourcompanyname-qgis package;
2. No. We will not approve any uses that suggest that the community version is not "pro"!;
3. It's a contentious issue, we'll need more discussion about this.

Problem: there are already websites like this, e.g. http://qgis-tutorials.mangomap.com/ and https://www.qgistutorials.com/en/docs/learning_resources.html (not commercial)

Andreas: suggest not to use a product name that makes the official QGIS community version look inferior (e.g pro, enterprise, etc.)

Paolo suggests to engage the voting members in the discussion about using the QGIS trademark in (commercial) website URLs

TODO Paolo: write answer to company requesting QGIS-Pro NL DONE

Listing of companies in the Commercial support page

Proposal: ask voting members if we should remove companies that don't support QGIS. (Those companies could still become sponsors)

TODO: Paolo and Andreas will come up with a proposal/discussion for voting on AGM.

Welcome page improvements

Idea: add the official blog to appear on the welcome page, next to recent projects. In addition, a top-row would be introduced with direct links to important content, like documentation, how to contribute, etc.

Matthias and Alessandro will provide a proposal.

Mailing list for voting members

Paolo would prefer to create a mailing list for reaching out to voting members and for them to allow discussion.

DONE: Jürgen to create a mailing list for qgis-voting-members

Anita: Statement on acceptability of plugins that only work on certain platforms

- Original thread:
  http://osgeo-org.1560.x6.nabble.com/QGIS-Developer-Windows-only-version-of-a-QGIS-2-18x-plugin-tc5394159.html
- Matthias Kuhn's latest email to PSC list:
  http://osgeo-org.1560.x6.nabble.com/Fwd-Windows-only-version-of-a-QGIS-2-18x-plugin-tc5397510.html
- Paolo already answered on the PSC mailing list:
  http://osgeo-org.1560.x6.nabble.com/Fwd-Windows-only-version-of-a-QGIS-2-18x-plugin-tp5397510p5397532.html

Proposal: we strongly prefer multi-platform plugins, but we accept **exceptions with due motivation.**
Paolo: we should stick to our principle

Anita: No results from the Feb user question (on featured plugins) yet
TODO Anita: will check the results (once Carlos Rivas provides access to the collected answers) against our list of featured plugins.

Board / PSC elections
- Minutes of last AGM (2018)https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/18tJk4-98IAex6JDexngJBayFG2I65yE4
- https://qgis.org/en/site/getinvolved/governance/psc.html#the-board "Board members will serve for a two year term." → No election necessary in 2019!
- Link to the statutes:
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FcChHYgoI4FlURrZRYBjD8kB6IBW_BaG0Ieg8TDT0pM/edit#heading=h.6pwe0mhptcch
- Option 1: everyone stands for reelection in 2020
  - +1 Andreas
  - +1 Paolo
  - +1 Marco
- Option 2: three members stand for reelection in 2019
  - +1 Anita
  - +1 Richard
- **→ We go with Option 1!**
- **There will be one more community voting member. 3 groups added (Colombia, Spain, Romania), 2 removed (Georgia, New Zealand).**

Finances:

- Financial report:
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kwtcjIgAxM3tbsxzxdRT8T-YKiYv-KZMrUQXzkEVdQo/edit
- Financial auditing report:
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1atc0Yqa8bGJpNLMCrlWBvyuGWpgRe9Xa?usp=sharing
- 2019 budget:
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I_xXVE8RGBNFnJGoBhdLYO4MVm8DlCRudhM1DRINSq8/edit#gid=0

A Coruña meeting:
- approving travel support requests:
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FkqjzjRWlnTS2AVxSpJM-UtkRafPYUqQOMlvjIzkzlY/edit#gid=1896805420
- Will ask Rosa and Jorge what they plan to contribute or did in the past for QGIS

AGM invitation and content.
- Annual report
- Invitation, incl. change of the charter (sustaining members instead of sponsors)
- Proposal for change in our charter (see new section 6)

User question January "Have you ever contributed to improving QGIS?"
- Results
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V_NWg0qTdL_T7ZccaG1sSdFafgTBm3GTX6fASMoAhg0/edit?usp=sharing
- **TODO Marco**: Talk to Matthias about implementing information about how to contribute to the project in the "recent projects" screen. We could also include polls in that recent projects screen.

    ○
Marco Question: there are some pseudo user groups what do we do?
- https://twitter.com/qgisghana → TODO Marco: contact
- https://twitter.com/qgismada → TODO Marco: contact
- https://twitter.com/QGISMadagascar → TODO Marco: contact

OSGeo Budget request by Angelos (OSGeo projects)
- "This year, the board is discussing about assigning a starting budget of 2000$ to all graduated projects who have reported to the board the last 12 months (see https://git.osgeo.org/gitea/osgeo/todo/issues/11) ….
  We would like to ask you to help us with budget proposals to assist your project. This will help us set aside a realistic amount of funding.
- **Idea:** WFS test environment (Regis)

- **TODO** Anita: ask Regis & provide feedback to OSGeo
  - http://test.qgis.org/ogc_cite/wfs_110/latest/report.html - **DONE**: budget requested!

Lutra / Mac
- **Ongoing** https://www.lutraconsulting.co.uk/crowdfunding/macos-qgis/
- **In progress: Tim to** discuss with William about official packages that should be linked from download.qgis.org
- Annual Apple Developers certificate cost of 99 US$ → **TODO**: get OSGeo certificate from Larry / try if the one we use for Windows build is usable/the same?

QGIS.pro
- Andreas contacted them → they changed their address to http://qgispro.geosysnet.de but the **product name is still just QGIS.pro → keep pestering them**, announcing that we'll take it to public channels if they don't respond

TODO Marco: Discussion around github to gitlab migration and issue tracker
- Andreas: put 10k into the 2019 budget for supporting that work, but we would need consensus and a plan **→ Still pending discussion with Marco, Denis, Jürgen, ...**

TODO Marco: QGIS Releases (following up various people asking me about this)
What would you think about:
Q1: only 2 releases per year (asked by some devs) to provide more development time between feature freezes → **TODO Marco**: discuss with core developers
Q2: LTR for two years instead of just one (asked by users) to reduce the overhead of installations in industry / government environments
Andreas: Discuss ways to improve quality in QGIS. Give users and developers a break from the new feature flood in order to have more time for fixing issues
- Users in general think that the features in QGIS are mostly good enough or better than what they need, but they would prefer to have a more stable release
- Some ideas to improve quality:
  a) Enlarge the period of bug fixing in each cycle. E.g instead of 3 months of new feature development and 1 month of bug fixing have 10 weeks of feature development and 6 weeks of bug fixing
  b) Switch from 3 releases per year to two releases per year and each release would have a two month feature freeze for bug fixing. So per year it would be 8 months developing new features and four months bug fixing.
  c) One upcoming release (e.g. 3.8) would not allow for new features, but only fixes and small improvements (e.g. usability enhancements) are allowed
- Comment Andreas: personally I would prefer option b).
- Or else: we could spend all of our bug fixing financial resources only on the LT version? I it is just a question - not sure if it is good? - the downside is that devs would probably be not so keen on spending many days only on one release for bug fixing, while otherwise it

==highlighted==could be a more continuous process … - maybe we should ask devs what they think about it and not decide it now.==

- **TODO Andreas**: talk to devs (on PSC mailing list) about idea to put (financial) focus on LTR
    - Ask the devs whether there are ways to make bug fixing more efficient (also from a budget point of view)
- Andreas: I personally wonder what the percentage between QGIS.ORG funded bug fixing and bug fixing funded through support contracts is in general? Of course there is no answer to this - I am just wondering if we have an idea?

Infrastructure
- **changelog.qgis.org** has no SSL certificate, but it is a critical part of our infrastructure
    - Would SNI be a solution?
      https://wiki.apache.org/httpd/NameBasedSSLVHostsWithSNI
- https://www.qgis.org/en/site/about/sponsorship.html → should link to sponsors homepage, not to changelog website (that has no additional information)
- **TODO** Richard: will try to do a reverse proxy (with letsencrypt) on qgis2, pointing to kartoza's projecta site. Projecta is too much in flux currently, so running our own instance is not yet feasible.

TODO Richard (maybe at hackfest with ismail):
- Bring back url in sponsorlist https://github.com/kartoza/prj.app/pull/996
- Remove amount paid
- Randomize Commercial list
- And https://github.com/kartoza/prj.app/pull/997 → **TODO:** discuss with Ismail at the hackfest!

Website
- **TODO: Richard** to follow up again with Régis and http://test.qgis.org for OGC testing results (and/or other? Landing page to travis etc?) (not yet done)

Server migration (QGIS1/osgeo)
- **TODO Richard** : only procmail/MTA/Paypal -> qgis2 or wait for Stripe … (not yet done)
- **TODO Richard + Tim** : need to review our backup strategy (not yet done)