



QGIS PSC Meeting 8th April 2019

Present

- Jürgen Fischer
- Paolo Cavallini
- Andreas Neumann
- Peter Petrik
- Marco Bernasocchi
- Anita Graser
- Richard Duivenvoorde
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Excused

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Video / Audio Channel

<https://zoom.us/j/932887626>

Previous meeting minutes

https://docs.google.com/document/d/11rjKqsg4-JqmoGKS8vf_Rb3z3287KkEU4w_C2mwyihQ/edit

Next meetings

06 May 2019 - 20h00 Central Europe Time

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/17N9j6s7IWZlzxPJXZbgo2z1qADWrOu6Avf7DIN8rFVk/edit>

New agenda items

Grant proposals

- Is it time to start call for grant proposals?
- TODO Anita: prepare call with target QGIS 3.10 or open proposals (bud get: €20k)

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/qgis/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
- ~~TO DO~~ 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 ?

OLD agenda items

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/18tJk4-98IAex6JDexngJBayFG2l65yE4>
- <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_BaG0leg8TDT0pM/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/1kwtcjlgAxM3tbsxzdRT8T-YKiYv-KZMrUQXzkEVdQo/edit>
- Financial auditing report:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1atc0Yqa8bGJpNLMCrIWBvyuGWpgRe9Xa?usp=sharing>
- 2019 budget:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I_xXVE8RGBNFnJGoBhdLYO4Mvm8DICRudhM1DRINSq8/edit#gid=0

A Coruña meeting:

- approving travel support requests:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FkqzjRWInTS2AVxSpJM-UtkRafPYUqQOMlvjIzkzIY/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/mac-os-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? 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

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)