QGIS PSC Meeting 6th Dec 2022

Present

- Marco
- Jürgen
- Alessandro
- Anita
- Tim
- Andreas
- Régis

Guest Participants:

- Matteo (first 60 min)
- Ulisse (first 60 min)
- Paolo (first 60 min)
- Vincent (first 40min)
- Saber (after 75min)

Excused:

-

Chair: Marco
Secretary: Anita

Video / Audio Channel

https://meet.jit.si/QGIS-PSC

Previous meeting minutes

20221108-QGIS-PSC-Meeting-08-Nov-2022

Next meetings

See calendar

17:00 -18:30

Tickets

https://github.com/qgis/PSC/issues/

Agenda

Budget discussion
Background:
https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-developer/2022-December/065332.html

- Matteo feedback from IT user group:
  - Main concern: cut to grant programme which is important way to give back to our dev community
  - Grant program is seen as a way to onboard new contributors. Anita's answer is that it is clearly stated that grant is available to existing contributors
- Marco's answer:
  - Docs identified as pressing issue;
  - Grant programme funds can be increased on short notice if more funding can be secured
  - Grant programme in the previous years also had an explicit focus on improving project infrastructure rather than implementing new features
- Re point on social dumping
  - Very competitive salary for many regions of the world where QGIS is used
- Vincents points
  - How was doc budget decided
- Tim's response
  - Based on available budget.
  - Note by Anita: The list of open issues on the docs repo is huge, overwhelming to volunteers, therefore we want to get as many hours of help as possible
- Vincent
  - The processes (of deciding which company provides the human resources / serves as qgis.org proxy) need to be more transparent, particularly use of tenders to be able to choose best offer from multiple companies
  - Vincent is against having employees of QGIS.org (even with a proxy) and rather would like a similar process as it is done for the bug fixing effort. In clear, a call for contribution, but not hiring people for this in the name of qgis.org (directly or proxied by a company)
- Marco's answer
  - Assumptions: nobody else would want to deal with the bureaucracy anyway; getting things done
  - Possible improvements should be looked into
- Ale addresses a way forward:

- - Open call for doc writers (Similar to to Google summer of code)
      - Have to be supervised by an established contributor/company
    - Andreas proposes to take the next month to run this call with the current budget for full time 12 months
    - TODO Marco: send out the call for doc writers
- Regarding hourly rates
  - Anita suggests to have the same hourly rate for expert doc writers as for developers
    - +1 Anita
    - +1 Marco
    - +1 Ale
    - +1 Jürgen
    - +1 Tim
    - +1 Régis
    - +1 Andreas
  - 2-3 companies asked for inflation adjustment
    - Andreas suggests 120 € up from 110 €
      - +1 Anita
      - +1 Andreas
      - +1 Tim
      - +1 Marco
      - +0 Ale
      - +0 Jürgen
      - +0 Régis
    - Suggestion to increase the sustaining member rates
      - Might send out the wrong signal
      - Better to increase the number of sustaining members
      - Tim comments that other orgs in our place get dedicated "sales" people
      - Saber asked if we have actively contacted potential sustaining members
        - Marco's answer: we need to work out the language / message to go to big companies and ask them for money
        - Saber mentioned that contributors to previous crowdfunding campaigns may be open to becoming sustaining members
      - Marco suggests to set a measurable goal to increase funds
  - Ale noted that GDAL has much higher rates (North American standard) and OSM adjusts salaries based on contractor residence
    - https://www.hotosm.org/salaries
    - https://developers.google.com/open-source/gsoc/help/student-stipends
    - https://www.hotosm.org/updates/hots-journey-through-salary-transparency/

- Raising extra funds
    - TODO Anita: prepare a message to ask for money on social media (Twitter, Masto) and in the QGIS Feed, maybe mention the "missing amount" from the budget if we want to keep the bugfixing and grants unchanged.
- Guests (Matteo and Paolo) confirmed agreement with the path forward
- TODO Andreas: go ahead with voting on the budget (since call for doc writers is an independent issue)

Marco: Running AGM / elections / votes
- Marco suggests to have someone like OSGeo CRO to free up more time for strategic work

HF in NL
- We now have a proposal by Raymond:
    - April 2023
    - hackfest (+ user conference if possible - NL user group is working on it)
    - at a school
    - for 120-200 attendees
    - Qs: Can QGIS help cover potential budget gap, up to €14k max?
- TODO Marco to ask them to fix the week in April -> done

Régis:Security Discussion
Postponed
There will be a security working group meeting next week

Next meeting on Jan 10th

OLD Agenda

Marco: Announce HF in NL?
- Once the organizers have a date, we'll announce it so that as many people as possible can attend
    - No venue yet; dates can be fixed once a venue has been confirmed
- Tim: reached out to Raymond who proposes second half of April 2023
- Tim: We asked Raymond if we can host the user conference too? Raymond is looking into it but it adds complications in terms of venues etc.
- Raymond will work to have the date set by 1 December so we can make announcements etc.
- TODO: Marco, find out why Lutra/Oslandia didn't join this year
- TODO: Marco Bernasocchi reach out to Rossella for a template of todos

Marco: Donations in CN
- TODO: Andreas Neumann check and answer
- https://stripe.com/blog/global-launch-of-chinese-payment-methods

Marco: Voting platforms/AGM
- Replacing google forms due to usability issues (on the side of the voters)
    - Limesurvey (experience: Harrissou @ French local instance; also: https://limesurvey.osgeo.org)
    - Loomio (experience: previously used by PSC, currently used by OpenGIS)
- Marco proposal is that we look into a better voting system with these criteria:
    - Secrecy of votes and also public votes where needed
    - Support for different kind of votes and decisions
        - PSC Decisions
        - Approval of minutes
        - AGM elections
        - Grant programme
    - Automation of calculation of results (PSC voting, AGM, grant programme, ….)
    - Support for publication of results of votings
    - No self-hosting
    - Candidate platforms:
        - Loomio
        - LimeSurvey
- TODO: Marco will look into the platform options and return in the next meeting with a proposal

Marco: Winter cleanup meeting
- Find a date for an extra session to clean up the old agenda
- Marco proposes to work on it asynchronously during the next month and tag anything that can be removed.

Anita: reserving accounts on
- Currently: https://fosstodon.org/@qgis
- Alternative instances: Mapstodon.space ? (not recommended since there's only a single guy maintaining it), Mastodon.social?
- TODO Anita: look into bridging the twitter account and Mastodon, e.g. with moa
- TODO Marco: check with OSGeo about instance

Anita: Documentation effort
- **Anita talked to Otto and Philip:** Philip is available to support junior contributors (e.g. via Serena & Victoria) to answer questions and ensure timely review of their PRs, i.e. through having a fixed QGIS docs PR review day (probably Thursdays)

- **Harrissou's message [QGIS-Developer] Documentation repository looking for developers regarding two types of issues:**
  - **Code/Setup**
    - 1. Create a github action to automatically assign labels to issue reports generated from merged pull requests in code repo, to help us quickly triage. See [#50562](#) and [#7826](#)
    - 2. To the generated issue reports, we also have to assign the milestone, that is the next LTR we will document it in... An automatic assignment would also be great. See [#782](#)
    - 3. If the move away from Transifex is not yet on the radar, a github action to regularly pull unfinished translation files would be welcome. See [#7827](#)
    - 4. Help setup the release branches to allow automatic merge when tests pass. See [#7837](#)
    - 5. Fix text frame width in the pyQGIS API documentation. See [#36](#)
  - **Writing**
    - 1. how to configure [python path](#) from within QGIS or custom application: See [#6179](#) and attempts to fix it at [#6306](#), [#7139](#) and [#7140](#)
    - 2. methods and tools to debug code/plugins: see [#7836](#)
    - 3. as usual, review of [current pull requests](#) is still welcome
- There's a lack of volunteers and commitment of by developers
  - Tim offers developer time to fix the code/setup issues; same could be done for writing (i.e. hiring a person via Kartoza)
  - Alessandro mentioned that devs should be required to provide the documentation (or at least all necessary info to compile the documentation)
  - Harrissou explains that there are many old issues that need triage. The new issues are generally in good condition.
- Most urgent needs from Harrisou:
  - Someone to help review incoming PRs to documentation repo
  - Developers behavioral changes to help triage documents
- TODO Tim: start the process of hiring a (junior) documentation writer, e.g. with help from Serena, Victoria

Marco: Mac packaging status

Current solution:
- is proven to require a lot of work to maintain
- based on old un-maintained tool-chain (originally for QField/Android)
- fully rely on QGIS maintainers (custom-made)
- the current approach is a dead-end

Renewal work
- Offered for 2022: 5 days for maintenance + 1 day notarization
- spent 13 days

Work is here: https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Mac-Packager/tree/ci-v2
- updated deps with a few additions: currently not building (still not fully building)
- brought the build of deps on CI, but it takes more than 6h, also tried with caching (currently not working)
- private libraries are now available in https://github.com/qgis/qgis-private-sdks with a release, and used in main repo
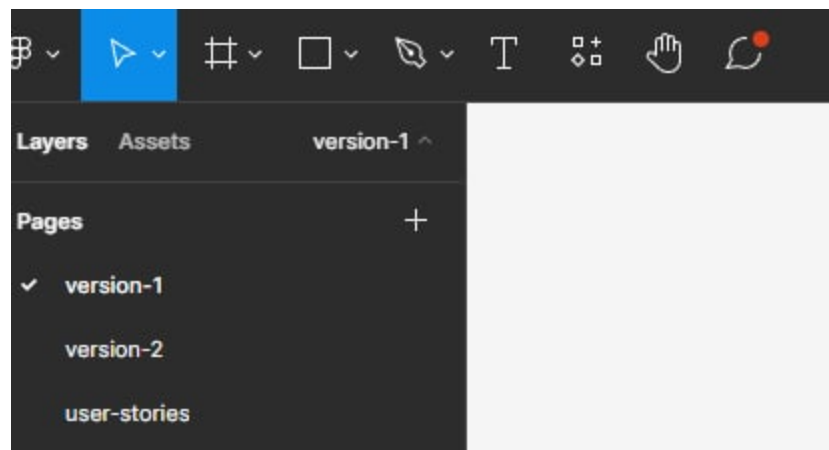- brought build of QGIS to the CI (not yet finished)

Related work:
- QField approach: **vcpkg** (does not cover Python - would need to be investigated) https://www.opengis.ch/2022/09/20/how-we-build-qfield-for-many-platforms-a-look-behind-the-curtain/
- https://www.lutraconsulting.co.uk/crowdfunding/macos-qgis/

Andreas: extra budget meeting
- Preparing the 2023 budget
- TODO: Andreas. Ask core devs if they have anything in the pipeline that needs to be taken into account (e.g. Qt6, Python, Qt improvements, infrastructure, etc.)
- Meeting on Nov 22, 17:00

Tim: Status of Web site rejuvenation efforts
- **Part 1: Auto builds using GitHub Action**
  - Juergen: We think everything is ready, need a final validation
  - Tim: Get Dimas to check on the payment system with stripe
  - Tim: Repoint the DNS to the new site once final checks are done
  - Juergen: Currently static test host is offline - we need to check why
- **Part 2: New Look and Feel for main site**
  - https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Website/issues/1030
  - https://www.figma.com/file/bHHUUVZ1fbQMtwSmtCSXYN/QGIS?node-id=0%3A1 check version-2:

  -

- ○ Ethan offered to add a dedicated chat room on Revolt for the website redesign effort → would be nice to have

Tim: Status of QGIS 'intern' developer for web infrastructure
- ● Andreas please confirm budget available: 7.5k for website update (this year, could be more next year); and there are 5k for changelog (projecta) improvements
- ● Tim received first CV and did first interviews (neither candidate accepted)

Marco: engaging with ESA & Co
Postponed to next meeting

Marco: Voting members
Postponed to next meeting

Régis : mailing list / revolt / chat discussion
> https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-developer/2022-November/065207.html
- - Long term issue but critical, we lost the central place to discuss
- - Gnome project also had this issue (and many others) and chose Matrix + Discourse + sync with existing mailing list. Revolt/Discord where discarded

Proposal : discuss and reaffirm which are the official discussion place and which ones are community driven.

Régis: one unanswered mail in the security mailbox
- ● Typical corporation looking for security documents
- ● Should we add a FAQ or dedicated webpage for these recurring questions listing all security related known ressources ?
- ● https://qgis.org/en/site/getinvolved/faq/index.html
- ● https://docs.qgis.org/testing/en/docs/user_manual/appendices/qgis_desktop_network_connections.html
- ● TODO Régis to follow up on the unanswered email
- ● TODO Marco to follow up with security working group re next steps (cc Régis) -> done

Andreas: KDAB and Qt
- ● Go head with 1+3
  - ○ 1. Improvements to the Qt SVG generator to support some non-SVG tiny functionality, specifically translation of QPainter clipping paths to SVG clip paths
  - ○ 3. "opt-in" flag to get ordered XML outputs
- ● Ask Nyall re 2
  - ○ 2. Potential enhancements to Qt Webkit framework, or could Qt WebEngine be enhanced
- ● Wait for more info re 4

- ○ 4. Prepare a roadmap for adding support to Qt6 for the CMYK color model to QImage / QPainter / QPrinter and related classes

Andreas/Tim: Continue Vision discussion from the hackfest
- Will be continued in the upcoming weeks
- Legacy version: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-bh6gP3m2LrsuAEJ5eZM7uTjXNv5roRlA1sc8eN0Gxw/edit
- Hackfest Firenze 2022 version: (link???)

Marco: Security
- Need to follow up with the security working group

Andreas: KDAB and Qt
- KDAB considers CMYK development high risk, since the Qt company may not want to integrate it into Qt
- Currently waiting for more insights from KDAB later this week

Alessandro: Put names & logos of public administrations on the website if they fund features
- Existing solution: https://qgis.org/en/site/forusers/visualchangelog326/index.html (only link, no logo)
- TODO: Alessandro to check back with the contacts at the public administrations if the existing solution (+logo) is enough
- Alessandro suggests to integrate "notable contributions from public administrations" (e.g. more than n contributions) in the Changelog or on the front page
  - ○ Tim raised concern how to automatically determine "notable contributions" from available info

Andreas: Follow-up contributor meeting @ FOSS4G
- 10-12k costs for the contributor meeting so far
  - ○ TODO Paolo to ask the Italian user group for some sponsorship
- Two requests for travel support: 1x flight and 1x train tickets
  - ○ TODO Andreas to ask them to write a blog post about the contributor meeting
- Paolo suggests to reconsider attaching our contributor meetings to FOSS4G to be more focused and avoid being restricted to their choice of venue and time

Tim: Barriers to participation in the QGIS project. Tim Raised the issue that we are not recruiting young core contributors to the project at a good rate. We think there are many factors that contribute to that: A feeling of inadequacy when looking at all the experts in the project, a lot of rules and procedures that new contributors need to deal with and a generally overwhelming feeling that we think makes it hard for young / new people to join the project in a participative way.

- Ale proposed running 'getting started' sessions on the QGIS open days as a series of videos that can also be in YouTube playlists that can be followed sequentially by people learning
- Anita suggested that we ask Amy to coordinate and host these sessions

Nyall: KDAB and Qt:

1) Nyall raised the possibility of us contracting KDAB to make upstream Qt6 fixes to resolve serious issues with exporting layouts as SVG (images dont have cropping lines so the polygons bleed over the edge of the layout. KDAB estimates 5-6 days of effort.
2) Nyall secondly raised the need for CMYK support in Qt6. This is needed for professional map production. KDAB estimates funding in the six figure range. We would need to arrange a cross project crowdfunding exercise to fund this, but we feel.
3) WebKit / WebEngine. QGIS is using Qt WebKit which was dropped in Qt6. The QtWebEngine (only option in Qt6) cannot be run in the same application as Qt3D. We also rely on webkit for rendering html elements in high quality in layouts. WebEngine does not support making high quality exports. We need to find out the cost of making webengine perform to the same level as webkit since webkit will not be available.
4) XML ordering: Qt randomizes the order of XML so it is hard to use QGIS projects in source control. Can we ask KDAB to fix this upstream? E.g. write attributes in alphabetical order. Currently this randomness is considered a performance and security feature so Nyall is proposing they add a flag in the API.

Andreas: We propose to go ahead with item 1 above as we have already the budget for it and use some of our budget to investigate costings for items for items 2-4
- Tim: +1
- Jürgen: +1
- Anita: +1
- Marco:
- Andreas: +1
- Alessandro: +1

Nyall: Qt6 Migration status: The work is going well and QGIS is functional but we do not have any PyQt6 support. Nyall is asking that we get Sandro from Sourcepole to create fedora packages for the dependencies so that Nyall can run python tests and work on checking python

support. Fedora is proposed for purposes of being able to run CI workflows on. We need to similarly ask the KDE team to build needed dependencies for Debian (and thus Ubuntu). With the fedora builds we could also do mingw builds.

- Qca
- QTKeychain
- PyQt6
- One other???

It is estimated that Sandro will need 2.5 days to do the Fedora packages

New Website: Tim and Anita have been working on the new website.

Translations: We are looking into switching to weblate since we do not meet their free project criteria anymore. Jürgen is busy testing out OSGEO weblate. Tim proposes to use Transifex on a paid plan for dynamic translation of the 'hub' (top level pages) and then we use weblate for the rest.

\\Anita/Andreas: Numfocus application
- NumFocus already funds GDAL: https://numfocus.org/sponsored-projects
  (This seems to be GDAL's application form:
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bc5jdpCe1axdyBHxbJnun7e0DTyDoZI_eFYgJYnOhB8/edit based on https://gdal.org/development/rfc/rfc80_numfocus_relationship.html)
- Application date for round 3 is October 15.
- It could be a way to approach more US donors since NumFocus is a registered non-profit there. According to the GDAL docs, they take 15% off the earmarked donations for running NumFocus

Andreas/Nyall: Fedora packages
- Nyall suggested to ask Sandro Mani to work on PyQt packaging in Fedora

Notable contributions page on the website
- For public administrations that do notable indirect contributions (both features and bug fixing): collect the "funded by" strings from the PRs for each release and if they are > x we offer the choice to publish their link and logo on a dedicated section of the website
- This system would be reserved for public administrations/institutions only to avoid turning it into cheap advertising for private companies.

Junior web developer: PSC agreed that we will go ahead with hiring a junior full time web developer. This will be done by proxy through Kartoza with QGIS covering the salary cost for that person. That will avoid the QGIS.org needing to deal with staffing issues. Will be for a 1 year trial basis, with the idea to continue in the future if the approach works well. Tim will

supervise the person / hiring / firing etc. and ensure they are tasked and productive. The PSC budget already contains an estimated 15k to cover this.

Cats: PSC semi-unanimously voted for digital cats to be the new mascot of QGIS :-)

Marco: Ubuntu CI update grant
- All agree
- TODO: Andreas to inform Nyall about acceptance

Marco: US server
DONE: Marco Bernasocchi ask Richard for status ->
- I have root access to the server
- We should indeed decide if it is OK to put stuff on there, but on the other hand, downloading QGIS can be really cumbersome/slow!
- Earlier we talked to the Dutch Linux User Group (well known for their ftp-mirrors for all Linux distros). They also offered us a mirror.
- But I think Juergen is just not so interested/prefers to handle it on the current 3 servers.
- Jürgen: more servers don't help, we need geo-based allocation of downloads for stand-alone installers (currently round-robin i.e. random assignment). (Everything should be fine for OSGeo4W because users can pick which server they want, if we had a server near the user)
- Feedback from Richard: The problem with Cloudflare is that they regularly cache all old installers, flooding our servers in the process; Richard is planning to fix this by separating current installers from old ones and tell Cloudflare to only serve current ones. Richard does not have an ETA for this yet - he would like someone to work on it with him.

Andreas: reported Website issue
- Should consider updating Bootstrap → TODO: Tim to look into it and respond

Anita: South america QGIS Certification Application
TODO Marco: follow up with involved parties to get a better understanding

Marco: QGIS chile (company)
- Marco sent mail but no response yet

Alessandro: Manual tests
- Infrastructure exists https://github.com/qgis/QGIS-Enhancement-Proposals/issues/180

- Open issue: writing more tests and actually performing the manual tests requires more time
- Allesandro: I have asked Alex Neto and Giovanni about the test cycles, they mentioned that they didn't' have time to run the tests this release. They also mentioned that the time available from the packages ready to the packages released was not sufficient. I think they need to talk to Juergen to organize the test cycles for the next release. Also, they are preparing a spreadsheet where the activities will be logged for the PSC feedback.
    - Jurgen had contact. Alex tested the packages before release
    - Alexander said they did run the tests on each patch release.
    - They are adding new tests
    - Some volunteers are helping with Mac tests

Marco: QGIS Portugal
- Organization (ESOP) is interested in supporting QGIS.ORG (somehow, unclear yet).
- Alessandro: follow-up -> Giovanni will look into it
    - No pressure there

Long-term issues

Andreas: Approaching larger sponsors who support FOSS4G
- **TODO Marco:** try to identify promising contacts and reach out to them as chair
- **TODO Marco**: follow-up on Google 10 most important C++ projects

Gatekeepers, Community roles draft
TODO Marco: still ongoing at [here](#)

TODO marco: follow-up vision meeting → [Goals of QGIS](#)

TODO: invite Tim to one of the next PSC meetings
To follow up on **Tim's idea "Young staff."** Tim suggests reserving 20-30k € (annual salary) for a person in a less-developed country that could work on bug fixing, maintenance, documentation, …
Could be proxied/employed f.e. through Kartoza.
- Alessandro suggests picking only people who are already contributing on a voluntary basis to the project and are not motivated by money only - at least for development and bug-fixing work. For infrastructure work it is different - it is the boring work that people don't tend to do on a voluntary basis.
- Marco suggests focusing paid staff on working on project-related tasks that are not directly related to QGIS Desktop/Server.

- Anita suggests identifying tasks that could be done by such a paid staff and then discussing this suggestion with the community → **TODO Tim** to create a shortlist and post it to PSC list

Voting platform
- Old discussion never concluded
- We have an non centralized solution that is hard to track:
    - Google forms for community votes are hard to follow and take time to create
    - ML discussion on votes is nearly nonexistent
- Resolutions copying to website is neglected (last copy in June by Anita)
- Marco: re-suggest centralizing all voting to a single **loomio** instance (as OSGeo-board is doing - https://www.loomio.org/g/kdSmIwxu/osgeo-board)

Conclusion: create PDFs of the Google Docs to put on the wiki (if possible) or the website → Tim will ask someone from Kartoza

Update: 2021-10-05 unfortunately this approach does not work / https://github.com/qgis/QGIS/wiki#psc-meetings is not up to date

Update 2022-02-01   Anita: I ping Tim every once in a while to update the lis