QGIS PSC Meeting 14th Feb 2023

Present
- Marco
- Jürgen
- Anita
- Andreas
- Alessandro

Excused:
-

Chair: Marco
Secretary: Anita

Video / Audio Channel
https://meet.jit.si/QGIS-PSC

Previous meeting minutes
📄 20230103-QGIS-PSC-Meeting-10-Jan-2023

Next meetings
See calendar

17:00 -18:30

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

Agenda

Marco: Voting results:

- Budget is approved

Marco: Call for companies for doc writer & web dev
https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-psc/2023-January/009946.html
- Only one expression of interest to the EOI: Kartoza
- Next step: inform the voting members that we will contract with the company that responded to the EOI (cc PSC mailing list)

Marco: highlighting recurring payments of donors
https://lists.osgeo.org/pipermail/qgis-psc/2023-February/009955.html
- Good example: https://fund.blender.org
- Need to determine how the stripe / Paypal integration could be done (previously done by Richard) → another TODO for the paid web developer
- Details to be decided when we have the new website
- TODO Alessandro: answer Alexandre

Marco: Call for funds status
- See Crowdfunding gauge
- First university member has joined. We'll contact more universities and gov agencies
- Finnish gov agencies, meeting to discuss the signed agreement
- qgis-fr user group is finally able to do the wire transfer for 8000 € - 2 years of promised support coming from the french user days. That was epic.
- TODO Anita: write an update on the call and extend deadline to end of March

Regis: QGIS FR days
- The next qgis fr days are going to happen the 13 and 14 th of March in Clermont Ferrand. Unfortunately, no streaming is possible this time.

Marco: OSGeo funding request
- Marco: ask for €5k for user conference & contributor meeting support

Andreas: How to allocate additional funds from the crowdfunding drive to the budget?
- Bring back grant programme to €30k
- Rest goes to bug fixing programme
- TODO Andreas: make a budget proposal
- Alessandro notes that there are some tricky bugs that haven't been addressed in recent bug fixing rounds (e.g. Windows network drive bugs freezing/crashing the browser)

User conference in 's-Hertogenbosch
- TODO Anita: ask Raymond
    - if they need help with advertising the conference (https://uc2023.qgis.nl/)
    - Do contributors need tickets to the conference?

Andreas: Release schedule and quarantine rule for backports
- LT version is released only every 3 months after the first 3 months of an LT version
- The quarantine rule means that backports first need to go into the latest release first, for at least one release, before they can be backported to the LT version
- TODO: raise the issue with the developer mailing list

Andreas: Benevity registration on request of an Apple employee
- Registration is done and seems to work

Marco: KDAB status?
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Marco: AGM preparations
- To be started in march
-

OLD Agenda

Marco: Pricing idea Tim
- Align prices with sustaining membership levels (to https://qgis.org/en/site/getinvolved/governance/sustaining_members/sustaining_members.html#qgis-sustaining-memberships
- Payment should be annually
- Replace "Donate" with "Become a sustaining member"
- Add reference to government orgs (currently it reads only targeted towards companies: Startups, Growing Team, Enterprise …)
- https://qgis.github.io/QGIS-Hugo/download/download/
- TODO Anita: Create issue with above change requests

Marco: Website status
- Pushback expected if new website is English only
  - Maybe auto-translate: https://qgis-github-io.translate.goog/QGIS-Hugo/?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=fr&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=wapp
  - Or Deepl
  - TODO Anita: ask French and Spanish native speakers to evaluate the auto translation quality → still TODO

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

Marco: Announce HF in NL?
- 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: 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.

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/

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/Tim: Continue Vision discussion from the hackfest
- Will be continued in the upcoming weeks
- Legacy version: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-bh6gP3m2LrsuAEJ5eZM7uTjXNv5roRIA1sc8eN0Gxw/edit
- Hackfest Firenze 2022 version: (link???)

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

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.

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