



RSpace open-source office hour 2025-03-05

Attendees

See below

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Community floor
- Tour through the RSpace GitHub project
- Upcoming projects
- AOB

Notes

Welcome and Introductions

Tilo Mathes (RSpace Product Manager and Open Source Lead) welcomed everyone to the first open source office hour for the RSpace project.

Participant Introductions

Participants introduced themselves, their affiliations, and their interest in RSpace:

- **Tilo Mathes** - Product Manager and Open Source Lead at RSpace
- **Sari Perdana-Decker** - Data Steward at the Max Rubner Institute, preparing to start RSpace testing
- **Laura Standaert** - Key contact at Ghent University, a RSpace customer providing training and support
- **Fabian Monheim** - Computer scientist responsible for ELN technical integration at FLI Jena, interested in the iRODS interface
- **Tobias Gottschall** - Data engineer for NFDI4bioimage at Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology in Magdeburg, created a sample tracker extension for RSpace
- **Fraser McInnes** - Software engineer at RSpace focusing on backend, involved in open sourcing preparations and chemistry work
- **Leyla Dellabiancia** - ELN Application Manager at Leiden University, interested in chemistry feature development
- **Socrates Varakliotis** - Data steward at University College London (UCL) Advanced Research Computing department, has done API integration work
- **Sergej Zerr** - IT architect for research data infrastructure at Bonn University, managing ~600 RSpace users
- **Harald Kusch** - From University Medical Centre in Göttingen, data manager interested in life science data formats
- **Ramon D'Agosta** - Support and DevOps lead at RSpace, architected the Docker repos for the open source version
- **Rob Day** - Sales and product design at RSpace, focuses on user experience and product workflow

Community Floor

Sample Tracker Extension

Tobias Gottschall raised a question about his sample tracker extension for RSpace:



- Created extension for tracking samples using QR/data matrix codes in the RSpace inventory
- Asked whether the RSpace team would implement this functionality or if he should implement it himself with the open source code
- Noted his design emphasizes simplicity and speed (minimal clicks)
- RSpace team agreed to schedule a separate follow-up discussion with their designer and product folks
- Video demo of the extension was shared in the chat for participants to review (<https://cloud.gerbi-gmb.de/s/jTW4748jxsW5DSW>)

Enterprise Contracts Question

Leyla Dellabiancia asked about how open source changes will affect enterprise contracts:

- Rob Day explained that the best features developed by the open source community will be incorporated into the main branch
- Enterprise customers will receive these improvements through regular updates
- RSpace is transitioning from license-based contracts to service contracts

Tour through the RSpace GitHub Project

Tilo gave a tour of the RSpace GitHub presence:

GitHub Organization Page

- Central hub with description, links to mailing lists
- Has Code of Conduct for contributors
- Links to main repositories and developer documentation

Main Repositories

- **RSpace Web:** Main repository for developers to build RSpace
- **RSpace Docker:** For those who want to quickly run the latest version

Wiki and Documentation

- GitHub Wiki serves as central information hub
- Community projects page highlights external contributions
- Community events page will include notes from this meeting

GitHub Projects

- **RSpace Development Project:** Tracks tickets currently being worked on
- **Road Map:** High-level overview of ideas and topics in development
 - Organized into Now (0-6 months), Next (6-12 months), and Later (12+ months)
 - Size indicators using emojis (trees for large projects, branches for smaller ones)

Contributing

Tilo explained how to contribute:



- Create issues on the RSpace Web repository
- Use templates for bug reports and feature improvement requests
- Security vulnerabilities have a separate reporting channel (not through GitHub)

Upcoming Projects

Key projects RSpace is currently working on:

- **Integration with Galaxy** and compute workflows (Q2)
- **Open Source Chemistry** to replace commercial plugins, enabling single codebase maintenance
- **Tech Stack Renewal** to improve accessibility and usability
- **Early Registration of Persistent Identifiers** in the research process
- **Support for Instrument Workflows**

Tilo noted that since going open source in Q2, they have been maintaining two versions (open source and commercial), but with the replacement of commercial plugins like chemistry, they hope to maintain just one codebase in the future.

AOB (Any Other Business)

- Next Open Source Office Hour tentatively scheduled for May 7th
- Registration link is already available
- Meeting notes will be shared on the Community Events page

Meeting concluded with thanks to all participants.

Action points and follow ups

- ☐ ResearchSpace to follow up with Tobias re integration of sample tracker
- ☐ Tilo to provide collaborative meeting notes in a more accessible format next (e.g. GitHub).