Software Underground

Board Meeting

28 February 2023

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 16.00 UTC on Tuesday 28 February 2023. Quorum is 5.

Chair: The chair is Matt Hall.

Regrets: Chance, Rowan (late)

Present: Dieter, Matt, Jo, Brendon -- no quorum, no decisions

Visiting: None

Previous meeting

Previous meeting minutes are on GitHub:
https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/blob/main/board

Meetings are not currently being recorded.

Community

We are currently about 300 weekly active members, with about 80 posting roughly 100 to 200 public messages per day. Last Thursday was over 500 (first time in a long while), but yesterday was only 34. We still have about 60% DMs. The membership has been roughly level since about April 2020, but the number of posts is definitely down since about May 2022. It would be nice to see an increase in the number of people posting. Please help:

- @-mention people who might be able to contribute
- respond to people's #hello posts with a wave or more
- ask questions and share interesting non-random things

Tamires Soares was deactivated (all 3 of their accounts) for asking about software cracks, sharing unlicensed material, passing off content on their Github, and generally making a nuisance of themselves. Matt communicated with them by email to explain. (I actually

suspect that they are connected with an industry scam but I have no idea what to do with that suspicion.)

Dennis was deactivated after sharing their resume for the 10th time at least, despite having been asked several times not to. As usual, they said "So sorry" and I haven't heard from them since.

Remarks:

- **No quorum, this was information only.**
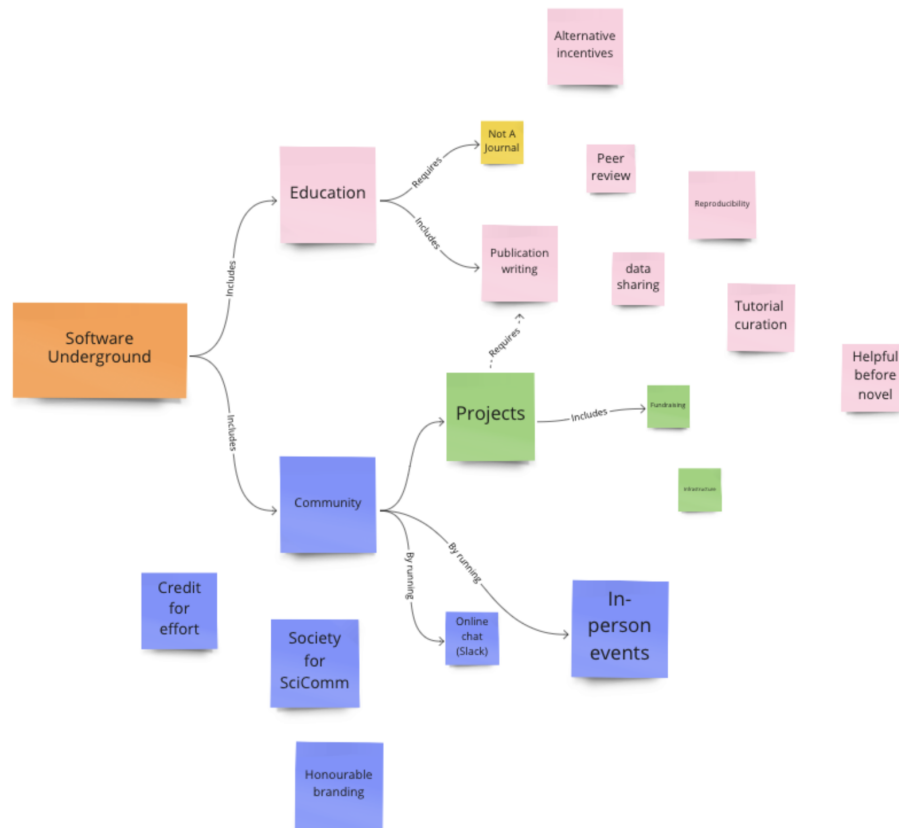- **On the whole, we felt these episodes ended reasonably.**

Board

We proposed dishing out roles on the board. See Slack conversation.

Rowan: Community, Events, Outreach/Support, Funding/Partnerships/Grants, Next Things. Matt has seen other organizations with people working on Members & New Members, Content (website, Github, social media), and Finance & Administration. Dieter and Jo remarked on the importance of keeping tasks rooted in the community's perceived needs. For example: keeping slack awesome and improving it; events: meetups, Rendezvous, Transform; the un-journal.

Jo shared a mind-map:
https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/bHBwVUFHSzVBVnh4QUNwN2ZkNzFrRUFLTXpt VXo0U0JmY3kwdjNVeHVRdVlCRnNma0Z4M2RpeEtLWTJsYjN2T3wzNDU4NzY0NTQ0 ODc1NzkzNjQ2fDI=?share_link_id=847851218698

Things that jump out from these views:

- Community: keeping Slack awesome is a priority.
- Events: TRANSFORM is next, meetups of all kinds could use encouragement.
- Unjournal: a small band of enthusiasts exists already.

These should probably all form teams, with meetups of their own. Small meetups on a regular basis go a long way. Whenever we hold such things, we typically have 2 or 3 members spontaneously engage; a small team of 3 can do a lot.

How can the board catalyse these teams without burning people out?

Remarks:

- **Deferred this conversation.**

AGM

Propose to do the AGM on **Wednesday 26 April** or **Thursday 27 April**.

Remarks:

- **Will post proposals to the channel for feedback and a decision.**

Transform

Propose to do Transform the week of **5 June (week of EAGE). Week before? Week after?**.

Remarks:

- **Will post proposals to the channel for feedback and a decision.**
- **We had a long discussion about where the FOSS community is at, both in Swung, in Equinor and other companies, in academic institutions like TUDelft, and in general. We think it has reached a new level of maturity: many projects, lots of overlap, highly variable quality and levels of maintenance, many more digitally literate people creating things. How can TRANSFORM play into the new challenges we face now?**
  - **organizing and writing tutorials, education in general, videos**
  - **docs, technical writing, documentation frameworks**
  - **FAIR: findable, accessible, interoperable, reproducible (and sustainable!)**
  - **merging libraries that do similar things**
  - **sprints not hackathons**
  - **environment management and dev ops**
  - **support models: developer relationships, coordination, planning, community development**
  - **funding projects**
  - **using developer time on projects**
  - **sharing projects in a useful way, especially MATLAB-like GUI building, GUI/app options, Dash/streamlit etc, CLIs and TUIs, APIs, libraries for developers, WebGL etc.**

Field Camp

Matt has a draft proposal in review with some colleagues and should be able to share for general comments later this week.

Remarks:

- **None, info only.**

Any other business

None.

Parking lot / next meeting

These items will go into the next board meeting(s):

- We still need to update the tech spreadsheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mNAGEgQNvfZem5zY38u9etn2O0aFWbE2zJLcMEdiL4Y/edit?usp=sharing

- Check the status of receipt for Swung membership/donations (so it can potentially be deducted / charged to the employer like the membership of other professional societies).

- pyOpenSci is restarting and wants to work with SwUng. Leah Wasser is leading it and on SwUng.

- June 2023: check that the Slack switch-off of channel announcements was the right move.