LLVM OFFICE HOURS

Kristof Beyls
EuroLLVM 2022
TOP 3 ISSUES HINDERING INCREASED ENGAGEMENT IN AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LLVM COMMUNITY

As gathered from 450 attendees of the 2021 LLVM dev meeting:

1. Sometimes people aren’t receiving detailed enough feedback on their proposals.
2. People are worried to come across as an idiot when asking a question on the mailing list/on record.
3. People cannot find where to start; where to find documentation; etc.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uORjOwuSG_M
ONE OF THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: “OFFICE HOURS”

• What is it?
  • Have people with some experience in LLVM or a specific area make themselves available.
  • Term comes from – I think – Anglo-Saxon academic system: professors making themselves available at given time for any student/any question.
  • I think of it as an “Ask-my-Anything” by experienced LLVM contributors/users.
  • An opportunity to talk 1-1 with other LLVM people without needing to travel to a developers meeting.
  • “There are no stupid questions”
  • A form of mentoring?

• Is this the best name for the concept? – let me know your thoughts
# Office Hours

A number of experienced LLVM contributors make themselves available for a chat on a regular schedule, to anyone who is looking for some guidance. Please find the list of who is available when, through which medium, and what their area of expertise is. Don’t be too shy to dial in!

Of course, people take time off from time to time, so if you dial in and you don’t find anyone present, chances are they happen to be off that day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>In-scope topics</th>
<th>When?</th>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>Languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristof Beyls</td>
<td>General questions on how to contribute to LLVM; organizing meetups; submitting</td>
<td>Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month</td>
<td>Jitsi</td>
<td>English, Flemish,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>talks; and other general LLVM-related topics. Arm/AArch64 codegen. LLVM</td>
<td>at 9.30am CET, for 30 minutes. ics</td>
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<td>Dutch</td>
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<td>security group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alina Sbirlea</td>
<td>General questions on how to contribute to LLVM; women in compilers: MemorySAA,</td>
<td>Monthly, 2nd Tuesday, 10.00am PT/7:00pm</td>
<td>GoogleMeet</td>
<td>English, Romanian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BatchAA, various loop passes, new pass manager.</td>
<td>CET, for 30 minutes. ics gcal</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Aaron Ballman</td>
<td>Clang internals; frontend attributes; clang-tidy; clang-query; AST matchers</td>
<td>Monthly, 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00am</td>
<td>GoogleMeet</td>
<td>English, Norwegian</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern, for 30 minutes. ics gcal</td>
<td></td>
<td>(not fluently)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannes Doerfert</td>
<td>OpenMP, LLVM-IR, interprocedural optimizations, Attributor, workshops, research,</td>
<td>Every 2 weeks, Wednesdays 10:30am</td>
<td>MS Teams</td>
<td>English, German</td>
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<tr>
<td>(he/him)</td>
<td>…</td>
<td>(Chicago Time), for 1 hour. ics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobias Grosser</td>
<td>General questions on how to contribute to LLVM/MLIR, Polly, Loop Optimization,</td>
<td>Monthly, last Monday of the month at 18:00</td>
<td>Video Call</td>
<td>English, German,</td>
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<td>FPL, Research in LLVM, PhD in CS, Summer of Code.</td>
<td>London time (typically 9am PT), for 30 minutes. ics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish, French</td>
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EXPERIENCE SO FAR

• Very low cost for hosts to make themselves available.
  • If no-one dials in, you can just continue doing other work.
  • If someone does dial in, there is substantial value in the conversation for the host too.
• Very few people dialing in so far
• What can we do to achieve more conversations to actually happen?
  • Advertise the existence of Office Hours.
  • Chicken-and-egg: was waiting for more critical mass to make more noise about it.
  • Please share your ideas at the round table this afternoon.
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

• Volunteer for hosting an office hour
  • Not necessary to be a deep expert in a specific area

• Don’t be shy in calling in to an office hour
  • The hosts are looking forward to having a conversation

• Help advertising
  • Word-of-mouth
  • We should probably use Discourse
  • Make LLVM Office hours clearly visible on llvm.org home page?

• Share your ideas at the round table.