LLVM OFFICE HOURS

Kristof Beyls
LLVM dev 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?

• We started office hours a few months ago.
CURRENTLY 10 HOSTS, DOCUMENTED AT HTTPS://LLVM.ORG/DOCS/GETTINGINVOLVED.HTML  
#OFFICE-HOURS

<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 talks; and other general LLVM-related topics. Arm/AArch64 codegen. LLVM security group.</td>
<td>Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9:30am CET, for 30 minutes. ics</td>
<td>Jitsi</td>
<td>English, Flemish, Dutch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alina Sbirlea</td>
<td>General questions on how to contribute to LLVM; women in compilers: MemorySSA, BatchAA, various loop passes, new pass manager.</td>
<td>Monthly, 2nd Tuesdays, 10:00am PT/7:00pm CET, for 30 minutes. ics gcalf</td>
<td>GoogleMeet</td>
<td>English, Romanian</td>
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<tr>
<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 Eastern, for 30 minutes. ics gcalf</td>
<td>GoogleMeet</td>
<td>English, Norwegian (not fluently)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannes Doerfert (he/him)</td>
<td>OpenMP, LLVM-IR, interprocedural optimizations, Attributor, workshops, research, ...</td>
<td>Every 2 weeks, Wednesdays 10:30am (Chicago Time), for 1 hour. ics</td>
<td>MS Teams</td>
<td>English, German</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobias Grosser</td>
<td>General questions on how to contribute to LLVM/MLIR, Polly, Loop Optimization, FPL, Research in LLVM, PhD in CS, Summer of Code.</td>
<td>Monthly, last Monday of the month at 18:00 London time (typically 9am PT), for 30 minutes.</td>
<td>Video Call</td>
<td>English, German, Spanish, French</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INITIAL EXPERIENCE BY HOSTS...

Newcomers looking for how Clang is organized. Experienced folks to reconnect and discuss community

A great way to see what kind of struggles newcomers have with getting involved. Technical difficulties, social ones, etc.

Many newcomers stick around in the community and are successful. When I see someone from office hours submitting a patch and going through the review process with confidence, one hour invested easily gives back multiple hours of benefit.

Many hosts have few or no people dialling in

A lot more advertisement is needed to let newcomers know about the existence, and help them overcome anxiety to actually call in

What is the value of “office hours” (a specific person) versus “online sync-ups” (a specific topic)?
**INITIAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Room for Improvement**

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**HUGE POTENTIAL!**
HOW CAN YOU HELP FOR OFFICE HOURS TO REACH FULL POTENTIAL?

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

• Don’t be shy of calling in to an office hour
  • The hosts are looking forward to you joining

• Help advertising
  • Use Discourse/Discord more?
  • Word-of-mouth
  • Twitter/other social media?
  • Advertise at non-LLVM-specific conferences?
  • Blog posts
    https://blog.llvm.org/posts/2022-10-27-office-hours/

• Share your ideas at the round table this afternoon.