



Monthly organization meeting protocol

February, 2016

Meeting occurred 7.2.2016, 19:00 CET

Written 8.2.2016 by Crise



Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Members in attendance..... | 2 |
| Preface | 3 |
| 1. List of items for the meeting..... | 4 |
| 2. Email to EFF..... | 4 |
| 3. Investigation into shifting the website into a VCS | 5 |
| 4. Website content updates and forum upgrade | 6 |
| 5. Organization IRC channel..... | 6 |
| 6. HTTPS conversion..... | 6 |
| 7. Re-branding of the blog | 6 |
| 8. Additional items..... | 6 |
| 9. Items for the next monthly meeting..... | 7 |



Members in attendance

- Pretorian / Fredrik Ullner
- cologic
- Crise
- iceman50
- poy



Preface

This document is intended to be accompanied by the full meeting minutes that should have been provided alongside the document itself. The aim of this document is to be as much of an objective summary of the contents of the meeting as possible.

This document pertains to one of the monthly scheduled meetings for 2016 as agreed upon by voting in annual organization meeting in January of the same year. The timestamps on the accompanying meeting minutes are accurate to the time zone of GMT+2, due to the geographical location of the meeting's secretary.

These meetings are more informal in nature and as such do not follow the same rigorous process as the annual meetings. For the sake of simplicity a chairman and secretary shall be named at the start of each meeting and for this month Pretorian acted as the chairman and Crise acted as the secretary for the meeting.

Distribution: dcnf <at> dcbase.org, <https://www.dcbase.org/meetings/>, <https://forum.dcbase.org/>



1. List of items for the meeting

A list of items to address from the previous meeting:

- E-mail to EFF shall be drafted, ready to send (or, possibly, have been sent)
- Investigate shifting website to a VCS for storage (includes presentation of options)
- Website should contain board member list and total member count
- Website should contain calendar and upcoming meetings
- Update of the forum software
- Investigate setting up an IRC channel
- Further HTTPS conversion management
- Address re-branding of the blog

2. Email to EFF

Pretorian presented the enclosed proposal for the email to be sent to EFF and various content and grammatical corrections were discussed (see full meeting minutes). Notably poy brought up amending the proposal to reference the equivalent US organizational formats US "501(c)(3)" or US "501(c)(6)" and adding a description of the organization itself along with its intended activities.

Hi,

I'm representing Direct Connect Network Foundation (DCNF) (www.dcbase.org), a non-profit organization that aims to improve information and resources in the file sharing and chat network Direct Connect (DC), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_Connect_\(protocol\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_Connect_(protocol)).

DCNF aim to provide a legal framework and information to its users and the developers on what they can and cannot do. The organization is based in Sweden (subject to European law) but has services in France and the US, with members in various European countries and the US.

DC developers have previously followed EFF's "What Peer-to-Peer Developers Need to Know about Copyright Law" (<https://www.eff.org/wp/iaal-what-peer-peer-developers-need-know-about-copyright-law>) as a basic frame of reference when it comes to legal matters. However, this only scratches the surface when it comes to an organization, and what its members might do.

We have a few questions that we'd appreciate if someone at the EFF could answer;

- A. Can DCNF members help a person infringe on a copyright (e.g. by downloading a movie they don't have a legal right to download) without putting the organization itself in legal danger? What are the potential legal ramifications?*



- B. *Can DCNF board members do this and what are the potential legal ramifications?*
- C. *Can DCNF accept or provide support/services to projects that are managed by people that are known to have violated/infringed upon an item in the EFF's recommendation list?*
- D. *Whose laws are the organization subject to? The organization is registered in Sweden, so it has obvious European laws it must abide by. But there are servers/services in France (also EU law) and in the USA.*
- E. *Is the organization automatically required to abide by a certain country's laws because a person from that country becomes a member?*
- F. *If DCNF accept or provide support/services for a project, is the organization subject to the laws wherein the project's server resides (e.g. if the project stores source code on a South African server)?*
- G. *Does it matter for the organization which software license a project may use? E.g., GNU GPL vs US law.*

Afterwards Pretorian asked cologic to write a grammatically corrected version and promised to amend the contents of the email with the discussed additions.

3. Investigation into shifting the website into a VCS

Crise brought up the dominant market position of git as a version control system and discussion took place, once again, on the advantages and disadvantages of using a locally deployed solution or a SaaS approach to managing the repository. Notably three service providers were discussed: GitHub, BitBucket and GitLab.com.

Crise noted that due to concerns on the repository potentially containing private information the free offerings of GitHub and BitBucket would not suffice for the needs of the organization. Additionally cologic pointed out that the benefits of the SaaS approach and in particular the importance of something like GitHub's brand recognition would depend entirely on the expected use of the repository (ie. updates to the website) external to the organization's members who would not otherwise have access to the server itself.

The goals of migrating the website to use a version control system, as outlined by Crise, are first and foremost to be a self-contained backup system, relying on the decentralized nature of a version control system such as git, and secondly allow decoupling website contributions from the access to the actual server the organizations web services are hosted on.

The actual interaction between the web server and the repository, as briefly noted by Crise, could be executed through GitHub style web hooks or cron jobs on the server side.

In closing, of the three SaaS services discussed, GitLab.com with the open migration path to the free locally deployed version of their software (GitLab CE) seems to have edged out the others and poy requested accounts for the organization to be created on their service for further inspection. No final decisions were made and the final scope of the website and the use of the repository in this manner seems to remain somewhat unclear still.



4. Website content updates and forum upgrade

At this point the meeting was moved to the FreeNode IRC channel #dcnf due to technical difficulties and poy took over announcing of topics from Pretorian who was having connectivity issues for a while. The full meeting minutes include unabbreviated additional discussion on this subject. Due to these technical difficulties, caused by attacks towards the host of the hub and the organizations website, becoming a pattern Pretorian brought up the possibility of taking further action.

The website now contains a list of board members and the supplementary board members as well as the total member count of the organization in the FAQ section of the website. Calendar of upcoming organization meetings was also added on <www.dcbase.org/meetings/>. The forum software was also updated to the most recent version.

5. Organization IRC channel

IRC channel #dcnf was created for the organization by Pretorian on FreeNode IRC network. Additionally a registered nick was also created for the organization for potential use with the web server.

The purpose of the channel is to serve as a fallback to the organizations DC hub. Due to events outlined in section 4 the channel was used for the remainder of this meeting, additionally the web client was banned from the channel after the meeting by iceman50. iceman50 also brought up the importance of getting “cloaks” for the members of the organization. This is done through manual process and requires a registered nick. More information: <<https://freenode.net/faq.shtml#cloaks>>

6. HTTPS conversion

cologic has worked on providing full https access to organization’s web services. The certificate has to still be set to regenerate every 90 days through a cron job on the server in order to keep functioning normally.

7. Re-branding of the blog

Pretorian has worked on rebranding of the blog, links now point to https variants of organizations resources. Unsure if further changes, such as changing the blogs actual name can be done with the current setup.

8. Additional items

An excerpt of recent hub history is now available as history.txt on the organizations web site accessible as <<https://www.dcbase.org/hub/history.txt>>. Pretorian said he’d make sure the script facilitating this would be a part of adchpp in the future. This allows people, when the hub isn’t being attacked, to read the last 5000 lines chat, if any.

Pretorian requested poy to check that +about and +rules are operational on the organization’s hub. MOTD should also be updated on the hub and Pretorian promised to handle that.

Pretorian reminded the members about the due membership fees for the year of 2016.



Additionally the need to act on the attack towards the organization was reaffirmed, see the beginning of section 4.

9. Items for the next monthly meeting

Due to the disorganized nature of the meeting, caused by the technical difficulties, no formal summation or announcement of items for the next meeting was made to close out this meeting.

However, from the discussion in the meeting and this document, the following items can be set aside for the next monthly meeting.

- Follow up on email to EFF and potentially discuss response, if any
- Create accounts and projects for the organization on the GitLab.com service for further progress on using git with the organizations website.
- Discuss the attacks towards the organization, any actions taken, and the immediate impact this is to have on meetings.
- Follow up on the remaining tasks on the HTTPS conversion of the web services.
- The chat MOTD along with commands +about and +rules should be operational and updated on the organization DC hub.

This list is not final and any additional items may be submitted to the organizations email address in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for March 6th, 2016 19:00 CET. All future currently scheduled organization meetings can be seen at <<https://www.dcbase.org/meetings/>>.