

2019-01-07 - eXist Community Call

Schedule

- Monday, January 7, 2019, 3:30-4:30pm Europe Central (CET)
 - 14:30-15:30 UTC / 6:30am US Pacific (PST) / 9:30am US Eastern (EST) / 2:30pm UK (GMT) / 22:30 Malaysia (MYT) - timeanddate.com

Outstanding/Completed Actions

- [Action tracker](#)

Previous Call's Agenda

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I-3W6jfJ2ZdF8F6rG_JpnPt-Lh23DaNZfEtEch6nec0/edit?usp=sharing

How to join the call

- <https://hangouts.google.com/call/jJRipjbRq1civ9IbB-TvAEEE>

How to join the chatroom

- [HipChat](#)

Plans to attend

- Joe Wicentowski
- Adam Retter - Evolved Binary
- Duncan Paterson
- Wolfgang
- Peter Winstanley
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Regrets

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Present

- Joe Wicentowski
- Adam Retter - Evolved Binary
- Duncan Paterson
- Wolfgang
- Peter Winstanley
- Luca Guariento

Absent

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Agenda:

1. Notetaker selection (please type notes in "Notes" section below, not in the agenda section)

2. Introductions of new attendees (if necessary)
3. Approval of Last Week's Minutes (as official record, any objections?)
4. Topics for discussion¹
 - a. Preparations and plans for upcoming releases:
 - <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/milestones>
 - i. Target date for next release of 4.5.1 (patch), 4.6.0 (minor) and/or 5.0.0-RC6 (RC for next major release): January 21, 2019
 - b. Announcements
 - i. [Note: Claudius' attendance to be confirmed] Plan to migrate Claudius's crypto library to eXist-db organization on GitHub. Claudius, please introduce the project!
 - c. Review of Action Tracker - see [link](#). Please review all open actions assigned to you, and see where you could pitch in. List actions that need particular discussion:
 - i. JW: A-181207-1 - JW - Update atom-editor-support to require 4.0.0.
 1. <https://github.com/eXist-db/atom-editor-support/pull/5> merged, but haven't released the new version
 - ii. JW: A-181207-2 - JW - Update public-repo to treat abbrev as alias, allowing lookup by previously-used abbrevs - e.g., doc and exist-documentation.
 1. WIP - left this before the holidays, was close, aim to finish soon
 - iii. DP: A-170717-1 - WM - Where are we on active support and reproducible builds for the new Dashboard apps?
 - iv. DP: A-171127-1 - WM - Can we tackle this in a timely fashion now that 4.0.0 is out?
 - d. Outstanding PRs (please esp. note any hotfix-worthy issues)
 - i. (125 days) Status of XQSuite tests? <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/pull/2140>
 - ii. (81 days) Lucene Index predicates <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/pull/2169>
 - iii. (47 days) Transaction Manager <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/pull/2306>
 - iv. (43 days) Copying an XML Resource <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/pull/2310>
 - v. (40 days) Blob Store <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/pull/2314>
 - e. Outstanding Issues
 - i. (107 days) fn:not fails <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/issues/2308>
 - ii. (88 days) Context Map <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/issues/2205>
 - iii. (40 days) ft:get-field issue: <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/issues/2312>

¹ Please check the list of ideas for future calls to see if you would like to propose from that list: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WTtgR_RGOEkC8C9F-SCJNyuGG5hTHLkj1Gdq-v-HBRY/edit?usp=sharing. See all notes from previous calls at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4NLNdpw86LPc2JsV294NDFtTjQ?usp=sharing>.

- iv. (26 days) WebDav permissions
<https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/issues/2342>
- v. (3 days) Range Index is ignored
<https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/issues/2363>
- f. General Discussion
 - i. Development of eXist-db is decaying:
 - 1. PR's are not being reviewed
 - 2. PR's are not being merged in a timely fashion
 - a. Developers are frustrated and breaking rules, e.g. merging of own PRs.
 - b. WM: having an extensive suite of stress tests would definitely help in giving us more confidence when reviewing PRs and thus speed up things. But except for me, nobody seems to actually write or run jmeter tests. To manually run tests costs half a day every time though. Can we put a focus on Duncan's efforts and compose a proper suite of stress tests which give us a reliable baseline? It should have top priority.
 - c. WM: some PRs depend on other PRs and open issues. At the moment [2140](#) is blocking a lot of stuff, but to merge it we have to solve the failing tests, which is really tedious. Help needed.
 - 3. Apart from 1 or 2 developers, other core developers are ignoring:
 - a. GitHub Issues are only ever increasing.
 - b. Mailing list is struggling for good answers. Replies are often days after the question. Many questions unanswered. Apart from occasionally Wolfgang, eXist Solutions staff seem to ignore (WM: for community meetups, please always refer to individuals, otherwise it's completely unclear who you mean).
 - c. StackOverflow. JW does a great job here, but not many others seem to help.
 - 4. The situation needs to improve - discuss!
 - a. If we can't manage PRs and reviews... should we regress back to the dark ages of direct commits and breaking the build?
 - b. If we can't answer issues, should we remove the issue tracker?
 - c. WM: everyone is frustrated and it doesn't help if the few core devs assign PRs and issues to each other without further communication - the list is just growing and we get nowhere. I propose we set a clear goal each week with respect to which PRs or issues should be addressed and try to achieve it until next week, staying

in contact about what is being done. Don't see any other way to move forward.

- ii. JW: We should probably prepare a calendar for the community calls, especially with the new alternating start times for the community call. Ideas? DP: agreed, we should also post the google docs template for calls ahead of time, so folks can fill stuff in, during normal working hours.
- iii. AR: Community call should go back to being weekly. Dp: +1. WM: +1
- iv. JW: I noticed the nightly builds are out of date -
- v. DP: We should consider something <https://opencollective.com> (preferred) to get more folks to submit PRs and work on issues, alternatives <https://www.bountysource.com> , <https://flattr.com>,
- g. Any Other Business
 - i. DP: needs WM to place his GH_TOKEN on Travis (it currently using DPs) for <https://github.com/eXist-db/atom-existdb>
 - ii. WM: where are we with respect to replacing hipchat? I personally don't mind which chat, but would like to remove hipchat.

Minutes:

Chair

- JW

Note Taker

- JW

Notes (please add/edit)

- New attendees
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- Last week's minutes
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- Upcoming releases
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- Announcements
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- Action tracker
 - A-181207-1: JW to release the app and add it to the plugin as a PR.
 - A-181207-2: WIP
 - A-170717-1: Joern: What is the status of the dashboard app replacements? There are open issues for the dashboard app replacements that haven't been answered. Are they ready to be included in an RC for 5.x? The apps needs tests before they can ship in the final version, so okay to go into the RC without tests (to assist in the writing of the tests).
 - A-171127-1: WM: let's keep this on the agenda, will do this when able.
- Open PRs
 - Re: <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/pull/2169> (now in <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/pull/2367/files>), WM shares AR's concerns

about memory. AR and DP requests that WM review or at least let the submitters know the status since they are first-time contributors. WM will place it on his agenda for tomorrow.

- Open issues
 - <https://github.com/eXist-db/exist/issues/2308>: WM: A simple fix would have a fatal effect on performance, 20-30x slower or more. A proper fix needs time. We need to decide where we need to invest resources. WM will respond to this. DP asks if we can post a workaround for the issue. AR will add a workaround, WM will comment on severity.
- General discussion
 - WM: At the moment quite a few PRs are blocked because of the xqsuite test. WM has been working on them, but there are quite a few difficult tests.
 - AR: Can we merge in the available fixes?
 - WM: Sure, we can merge these.
 - AR offered to perform the cherry-pick.
 - WM: Will focus on import module, positional predicates, namespace (close to a fix).
 - AR: May have time to work on positional predicates in late February.
 - WM: Then will focus on import module, namespace.
 - DP: We have 328 open issues. Should consider a way to evaluate if problems we fix now could close old open issues. We need to review these, come up with a new plan. Luca is happy to help. DP suggested assigning an issue to a team. Luca also happy to review old issues and advance them. DP proposes a multi-level triage: identify shared issues and consolidate them (e.g., 5 namespace issues into 1), adding tests where they are missing.
 - AR suggests the following labels: XQuery Parser, XQuery Engine, Storage, URIs, extensions, APIs (WebDAV, REST, XML-RPC), Lucene index, Range index.
 - AR: Raised weekly call proposal to allow more frequent calls at his time. DP also in favor since reviews have slowed. WM: Ok too. Weekly calls would help us keep up and set priorities correctly.
 - DP: WM is right about priorities. Luca and I can only do so much. Where we need help: Need XQuery contributors to review issues and create tests. Luca will do triage, coalesce, assign to teams, and mark the ones that need tests. This new system will help us get ahead of the curve. Asks for help from the teams - spread the word among the teams.
 - WM: Would like to emphasize the need for a test suite. We need a common stress test to show performance of PRs in concurrent environment. Applying tests now takes me hours. If it could be applied automatically, could really help.
 - DP: LW told me about a test he's working on, haven't received it yet (a POM). We seem to be using 3 different systems, with non-existent/wrong documentation. Orchestration should be straightforward but we need a clearer setup.
 - WM uses history.state.gov tests for serious tests, because of dozens of apps. Only uses when needed because takes an hour to set up.

- DP: Please outline these in the e2e repo:
<https://github.com/eXist-db/e2e-exist>.
 - AR: Is it possible to set up tests that don't require so many dependencies?
 - WM explained what the tests perform.
- AOB
 - HipChat replacement. WM: Have been using RocketChat. AR: There is an eXist-db Matrix room that has been running, but haven't been successful getting LJ's help with this. WM will check with Thomas what's necessary to have that service. Running on a German server that eXist Solutions is renting. Leif's servers are just serving eXist-db community stuff.
 - DP: highlight.js PR has been merged. They're much more actively maintained. Next release (the one after 0.13.1).
 - JW: Where are we using highlight.js? Where could we use it?
 - DP: Only used in TEI Publisher now, docs is pending. Could replace ACE anywhere we need code highlighting.
 - WM: Copy of ACE in shared-resources. Imported by a number of apps for the purpose of code highlighting. eXide also uses this version but doesn't depend on custom modifications. (Atom-exist uses atom's own highlighter.)
 - DP: Will let folks know when the official release is out.
 - DP: Almost done rewriting the documentation app.
 - Luca: Would still like to get <https://github.com/eXist-db/existdb-login> working. Olaf said that he has to upload missing code.

Actions

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