

January 18, 2017 (#4) - #open-rethinkdb meeting notes

Hey Rethinkers,

Happy 2017! We're starting off the new year with some big plans! We have significant engineering milestones laid out for next week so please check out the "Engineering updates" below. As always, the best ways to get involved and help RethinkDB & Horizon are listed at the end of this document. Thank you! Und xxxxxx x es xxxxxx x des x x xxx 🙏

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Previous documents:

- Leadership team + goals: <https://goo.gl/kPJ7ad>
- December notes: <https://goo.gl/r8GGAK>
- November notes: <https://goo.gl/w7rcF2>
- October notes: <https://goo.gl/mvuvBW>
- #open-rethinkdb: <https://goo.gl/Ni71Am>
- Contributor sign-up: <https://goo.gl/forms/tFjI4Jl4AvlcPi3D3>

News

- Our initial plan was to acquire the intellectual property left over from the RethinkDB company, enabling us to relicense the code and use the name RethinkDB.
- After aggressively pursuing this plan since the company shut down in September, little progress has been made.
- Our efforts continue, but meanwhile we've decided to move the project.
- The interim leadership team is meeting again on Thursday. Full details will be made available Tuesday next week (2017/01/31).

News cont'd

- We will be reaching out to community members who filled out the Contributors Form for help on our next steps. If you haven't already filled it out and would like to help, please do so [here](#).

Engineering updates

- New CI infrastructure is [up and running](#) (source: [atnnn/rethinkdb-nix](#))
 - Still missing packages for Yakkety, Centos, OS X, and Windows.
 - Not currently running tests against OS X or Windows.
- **Release v2.3.6:** planned for next week (by 2017/02/03)
 - #5878, #5426, #5300 - web UI broken in Microsoft Edge and Chrome 49
 - #6084 - potential DoS vulnerability on ReQL client port
 - #6090 - driver incompatibility with Ruby 1.9
 - #6093 - segfault when indexes in use by open changefeeds are recreated
 - #6148, #6194 - limit sample size to array size limit
 - #6193 - don't persist stale env_t* in ordered unions
 - #6198, #6219 - misc makefile/build fixes
- **Release v2.4:** planned for next week (by 2017/02/03)
 - Everything initially staged by the official team with the addition of:
 - #6191 - deterministic r.now fix
 - #6215 - OpenSSL compatibility
 - #6226 - Windows build error
- **Roadmap v2.5:**
 - Significant performance improvements to [hard-durability writes](#)
 - Various refactors to remove some technical debt
 - Drop support for old/unused code/features
 - Make code more accessible to new developers
 - Consider splitting drivers into separate repositories
 - Consider modernizing JS driver (coffee -> ES6)
 - Make polyglot tests easier to consume
 - Rewrite web UI using a modern framework

FAQ

1. Is RethinkDB dead?

Although the company behind [RethinkDB](#) shut down in September 2016, we are still actively working to transition RethinkDB and Horizon into community-driven development with a new home. Development has slowed down, but we are currently working to push the upcoming releases for RethinkDB 2.4 and

FAQ cont'd

Horizon 3.0. Development should pick back up again once we are able to overcome these transition obstacles. *For more details on the current engineering status, please see the **Engineering** section of the **General Updates** below.*

2. Who is working on the project?

We have organized an interim leadership team who is pushing through the transition to a foundation and community development. The team of volunteers is made up of former RethinkDB team members [Christina Keelan](#), [Etienne Laurin](#) & Sam Hughes, and community members [Marshall Cottrell](#), [Ross Kukulinski](#), [Chris Abrams](#), and [Matt Broadstone](#). Check out [this doc](#) for more information on this team and their contact info. They are all active in the #open-rethinkdb channel in [Slack](#).

Some of the former core engineers are now working at Stripe. Please assume by default that folks who aren't participating aren't part of the team going forward, but please know this doesn't mean they won't be involved at a later point. We kindly ask for patience during their transition.

3. Can I continue to use RethinkDB in production?

RethinkDB has been considered [production-ready](#) since our 2.0 release in April 2015. Many companies are actively using RethinkDB in production environments. With it's current feature set, we believe RethinkDB continues to offer distinct advantages over other data stores in its class, and we are committed to seeing the project move forward.

While feature development will continue to be slow during the transition, we will do our best to address mission-critical bugs.

If you have any questions on using RethinkDB in production, please reach out to our active community on Slack. Marshall, Ross, Chris, and Matt from the leadership team are all using RethinkDB in production at their companies and are also available to answer any questions you may have.

4. How can I help?

Thank you for asking! We will provide the best ways to get involved in the community every update. There is a little bit for everyone from contributing on GitHub, to writing tutorials, to speaking at meetups, and everything in-between. *Please read the **Community** updates below for specific ways you can help!*

Get involved in the community

Events:

- **Dev Day:** We envision this as a one-day/one-track conference in the second half of 2017. More details to come. If you would like to volunteer or help organize, please reach out to [Christina](#).

Donations:

- We've had a number of folks offer to donate funding for future development (thank you!) Since we need a legal entity to accept those donations (e.g. an open-source foundation), we'd ask that you wait until those details are resolved.

Join some of our [Slack](#) channels:

- Join #general for a good chat
- Talk about future directions for the project in #open-rethinkdb
- Share tips and advice in #help
- Discuss related projects such as #horizon, #gorethink and #regrid
- Join your local community such as #india-dev, #brasil or #utah

Answer [StackOverflow](#) questions marked *rethinkdb*.

Join the [mailing list](#) and share your success stories with RethinkDB.

Improve the documentation:

Most documentation for RethinkDB is in Markdown format and can easily be edited on Github without leaving your browser.

Suggest improvements, fix mistakes or fill in the gaps in the documentation:

- For [RethinkDB and the main drivers](#)
- For [Horizon](#)

Write some code:

The RethinkDB ecosystem is made up of all sorts of libraries and languages. Find issues matching your skills by filtering by label:

- Starting points for new contributors
 - [good_for_contributors](#)
 - [quick_to_fix](#)
- The drivers
 - [Java](#)
 - [Javascript / Coffee](#)
 - [Python](#)
 - [Ruby](#)
- The server (C++)
 - [Build system](#) (Bash, Make)
 - [clustering](#)
 - [devops](#)
 - [packaging](#)
 - [req](#)
 - [Testing](#) (Python)
 - [Web-ui](#) (Coffescript)

There are also [many open issues](#) for Horizon.

Thank you again for your continued support!

- *The interim leadership team*