

# Open Source Committee (Intersect) – 2024/10/03 07:58

## CDT – Transcript

### Attendees

Alex Seregin, Christian Taylor, Christian Taylor's Presentation, Matthias Benkort, Matthieu Pizenberg, Moritz Angermann, read.ai meeting notes, Slugwax, Terence McCutcheon, Udai Solanki

### Transcript

**Alex Seregin:** Hello.

**Udai Solanki:** Hello, hello.

**Christian Taylor:** So, I think Tex will be just a few minutes late.

**Christian Taylor:** Let's see if he updated the agenda for us.

**Christian Taylor:** Some description.

**Christian Taylor:** Might be more of an open forum.

**Christian Taylor:** I don't know if.

**Christian Taylor:** Did he put the... I guess we don't really have an agenda today.

**Christian Taylor:** Diane's internet went out. Adam won't be able to make it and Robin won't be able to make it.

**Christian Taylor:** I think between me and yourself, Moritz, where the decision-making unless Ronald is able to join. Or Sandip?

**Christian Taylor:** We didn't really have an agenda today, right?

**Terence McCutcheon:** Sandip's not going to be able to join in today, since we do have the call recorded again, I don't know if you already introduced this but the Open Source Committee meeting here for Thursday, October the 3rd, Moritz, we did some introductions last week, so if you wanted to introduce yourself now? Of course, we'll have you do that when we have more of the remaining committee members present as well. I think besides Christian, you're actually the only seat. But that's something that you could do for the recording at the very least. If you'd like and then yes, it's pretty much open forum. We can answer any questions that might be lingering from either the last meeting. Or we can even keep it short and sweet. So lots of options.

**Moritz Angermann:** Why when I start Tex,

**Christian Taylor:** I guess we can start with the disclosure piece so, Christian, Head of the Open Source Office. I guess you could say, work for Intersect obviously, so that's where a lot of my decision-making comes from the open source office point of view.

**Terence McCutcheon:** And I'm Tex, I'm the Open Source Committee secretary. I'm also the open source Program Manager at Intersect.

**Moritz Angermann:** All right, I'm Moritz, I'm new to the Open Source committee and I work at IOG.

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** Hi, my name is Matthieu. I'm just here as a listener. New to the Open Source committee here. What's up?

**Udai Solanki:** Hi, this is Udai solanki and I'm a Developer Advocate at Intersect

**Alex Seregin:** Hi everyone, I'm Alex, Developer Advocate as well. I work with a Christian and Terence on improving developer experience and just developer straight on Cardano.

**Christian Taylor:** Okay, I guess something we could talk about and try and get some of the consensus here is related to the contribution ladder. That we've been trying to put together. So at least that'd be an agenda item. Is everyone okay, if I moved into that subject area,

**Christian Taylor:** So essentially what we're trying to do is with the Project lifecycle framework that we set up. we're trying to give categories to each of the projects associated with the open source strategy. That way we can assess their health, maturity, and then also identify if they are declining in help or if it needs to become an abandoned or public archive project. So we do have those categories. There's not an official agenda today Matthew. Today is ad hoc and we are down three, four seats due to timing. So it's more of an open form but usually there's a more structured cadence. And I think we're also mid-elections too, so we're already half a committee. As most people as well. But with the contribution ladder, I can send my source dock from...where we started.

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**Christian Taylor:** The idea behind this is most open source, it's a common thing, contribution ladders help define the user journey from a new contributor to eventually a maintainer. Our whole thing, especially with the governance policies to get rid of the benevolent dictator problem, that's prevalent. So, that's where PMCs are our technical working groups, they're supposed to coordinate, where part of those open meetings where the maintainers associate with the actual contributing, contributor base and try and make decisions and escalation issues in those meetings, move it into an open format. The contribution ladder document is right there in that Google form. Slide 6 is kind of what we're trying to answer. And I'll go ahead and share.

**Christian Taylor:** But essentially I asked Alex, Suganya, Bernard, and Udai to run this idea of a contribution ladder in open source environments, and try to define it for Intersect and Cardano, kind of make a general template about how you can actually make this user journey. Core maintainers, I mean this is going to be. I'm trying to make one standard framework, but each project obviously is going to have its own specific criteria that people have to meet to go through these roles. But the main question we're trying to answer is What constitutes merit? What is the job specifications for these roles? Is it more than just this on how you contribute to a project? This is very focused on the code aspects of it, but there's other things you do to help integrate with projects and then, What education requirements are associated with each of these? Because this ties into the bigger picture of our open source model.

**Christian Taylor:** And so that's where Alex has kind of put a good paper together on exploring this topic too, with a lot of people's input. But I'm trying to get a decision process around this and hopefully by the

end of October, or whenever we have the full committee, we can do a presentation and ratify the criteria. And the other document for the, it's the paid open source model concept.

**Christian Taylor:** So this is the high level Open Source model we're trying to go through. The contribution ladder right here, covers this bucket for the categories of open source projects. Which are either your products or open source libraries. And it ties into that incubation, which is the framework for how projects maturity is assessed. And then there's acceptance criteria in each of those projects that determines how you go up or down, or whether you need remediation in the project. The contribution ladder does the same thing. But from the actual people in the project point of view. So that way the project has a determined governance and how you evaluate it and then the people in the project have ways to determine their roles.

**Christian Taylor:** And then that will connect to an open governance model and also help with the supporting funding mechanisms that go into it. That way you're evaluating the contribution recognizing work but not necessarily being in a meritocracy for its pros or cons, but that way you're being able to justify why certain projects are where and where money is going for certain reasons. Other foundations do something very similar for. Also, when they get audited, it determines where the money goes and there's obviously guardrails that protect. So it's not just everyone and anyone. So it's kind of the idea for it.

**Christian Taylor:** But I did want to pass it to Alex, if you don't mind going through the work that you've done and if there's any questions you want answered, etc.

**Alex Seregin:** Thank you.

**Alex Seregin:** So I'm gonna share the Google document where I compiled everything that I learned about this. Because honestly I'm pretty confused about how this is going to work, because I see at least one perspective from which I looked at it. But also I see how from this perspective somehow it doesn't really work. So, me, as a novice developer, I found that this framework, you would give new developers most value as the credential service, And being able to put people in buckets, and each bucket would represent merit of contributor. So, I went and looked up the definition of merit in the dictionary.

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**Alex Seregin:** The access. Unfortunately, I cannot provide this. I think Christian you manage or Tex, you manage permissions for the Google docs. That we write in.

**Alex Seregin:** So, some dictionary says that merit is quality worthy of praise or approval. and from this perspective, it looks to me most logical way. To go about this is to define a contributor agreements. So people make a promise to contribute to the open source repositories for some time.

**Alex Seregin:** And this actually puts them in the bucket which corresponds to the contributor agreement for contributor, trusted committer, or core maintainer. But it's just unfortunately, kind of puts the responsibility away and we have to think about contributor agreements and then there are things such as, for example, in the dot cover file, you can have my field which is called maintainer, which is also this maintainer for the projects right. And then there's also Code Owners file in each repository to require. And the way that I put this first doesn't use any of that. And is it a good idea? A bad idea? I have no idea, I'm still figuring this out. So yeah, that's pretty much all I have to say. Slugwax has a hand raised.

**Slugwax:** Is this a model that you're proposing now or is this something that is already implemented and it's being formalized.

**Alex Seregin:** To me it's just wrapping my mind around, how this generally works, in different organizations. Mostly I looked at nonprofits and open source projects. But the ultimate goal of course, is governance. So probably we will want to get something out of it, But I think that Christian has a better view on that.

**Christian Taylor:** Right now we're trying to get the community to ratify it. So we're putting thoughts together, trying to get that input all in one document. And then when we get the committee full power or basically, after the elections, and we have a full committee again, go around the house. But this is our best guideline for what a contribution ladder is, and it'll be enforced within the Intersect remit, encouraged throughout Cardano, but obviously, you need consensus for those adoptions and we'll try to use that as the merit-based structure associated with assigned roles in the Intersect open source projects. And I will be continuously updated by lessons learned and implementation, things like that. Moritz.

**Moritz Angermann:** So both documents talk about a lot of the What. Can we clearly define why we want this?

**Christian Taylor:** So I can put the why together. But essentially, we're coming at it from the...If a new person comes into a project, how do they understand where they're going? And then what other paths of contribution are there for projects, other than just directly code? So that's kind of what it's there for and it's supposed to be a best guide for projects. So they understand how to collaborate with the community and help define where you get to a role. So with the budget idea for the maintainer retainer program, if we bring in community maintainers and open source projects. They need to meet a certain criteria, that way it justifies them getting that. And then there's a trial process they run through, but this shows how any one, potentially could go and fulfill a role like that. It's just another criteria to help evaluate it.

**Moritz Angermann:** I think yeah as I said, it would be great if we fill this in clearly. Because I think that's currently lacking from the documentation. So you better just looking at, like okay. But yeah, the thing you just said about how this all plays together is probably quite important part of the puzzle we should have in there.

**Christian Taylor:** Yeah, Alex has done a good job on actually putting it into a document, all my ideas are open questions on a slide deck but, now that I'm done with events and things that I'm home, so I'll be able to help put direct feedback into it and we'll make sure it has this cya before I put it before y'all.

**Alex Seregin:** The parts Moritz is talking about is a problem statement.

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**Alex Seregin:** I'm still putting it together because I got in front of what's and as I said I'm still pretty confused, but innocence from the perspective that I put in the document.

**Alex Seregin:** If you don't know how to progress, your motivation suffers. And the opposite, if the presentation paths are clear for developers, there's better intuition to get involved and we will hopefully see better community engagement with the project.

**Christian Taylor:** Yeah, I think all of this is also just to put transparency about what you can generally expect engaging with an open source project. But obviously if someone is trying to get involved on cardano-ledger or something like that. It's not gonna be the same level of involvement for plutus. But at

least this gives you a general sense of how you could collaborate and stuff like that. So, that's the main problem statement for it.

**Christian Taylor:** And I think Matthew, we will test this with the core projects starting or at least ones that have less risk of disrupting operations. And then slowly push it out similar to, the idea for the community maintainer structure, we did Cardano addresses because there's no appointed Maintainer and there's coordination needed between IOG and CF to maintain that. So, we did a 30-day trial with Adam Dean coordinating that piece and they broke out the Codeowner .md. So I believe, Moritz, you helped with the CICD, type stuff or API CLI. And then, what's his name?

**Christian Taylor:** How fullness? Name starts with an H but he's on the howl team. I just can't say his name. He does the Haskell stuff and Adam Dean deals with the typescript. But between all three of them in a coordinated channel, they get all this development work done. So that's the idea behind it but to actually qualify Adam Dean there was a trial document together that assessed him based on similar criteria to this. But now I want to actually map it from the maintainer route back to the new contributor point of view that way how you get to these steps. Kind of build your accolades and your merit certification stuff like that. And accreditation I think is the other goal that the governing board wants to institute for Intersect. Where we can actually, similar to Linux Foundation, they have Kubernetes certified installers and stuff.

**Christian Taylor:** And actually can sell companies and providers that they've gone through a certain level of merit, or certification that proves that they can do the work and they're recognized by the instituting body etc. So, Stuff like that. So, if anyone in a business wants to get Cardano set up, or set up their own spo, we could have people certified. We know how to do that? Etc.

**Christian Taylor:** But that's the main thing I wanted to run by everyone here. Any open questions or thoughts? Things we need to consider that we're not thinking of? Different roles that are not included? The problem statement of addressing, why is a good ad? Moritz

**Christian Taylor:** Go ahead. You can just interrupt me.

**Moritz Angermann:** I'm not sure if this is out of line for these calls, but can I ask Mr. Benkort to share his thoughts on this.

**Christian Taylor:** Yeah.

**Matthias Benkort:** I'm really here to listen for now to be frank. And I'm pretty much aligned with what Matthieu shared on the discord already yesterday. Since this is also something we discussed together. So.

**Matthias Benkort:** Yeah.

**Christian Taylor:** Okay, we can get an implementation plan put together and propose that with the documentation that way, it's assessed at the committee level before we institute anything. But it's kind of like these are things you do in the background anyway, this is just trying to put it on paper and it's not, I quote Pirates of the Caribbean. It's very much like guidelines, it's not a mandate per se so I wouldn't call this a policy that the committee would institute, but the best practice, quote, unquote, that we would try to push an option on.

**Christian Taylor:** That was mainly what I had. Thanks for sharing Alex, also.

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**Slugwax:** So with this lend itself toward the wider revenue model for intersect.

**Christian Taylor:** It would help with it. When it comes to, So the idea behind it, is it adds criteria coming from the business point of view. If you're wanting to build on Cardano and you already have the robust security layer. Then you have the Maintainer Retainer program that helps justify a sustainable paid base layer to build from. It adds more robustness to wanting to adopt Cardano and if you can look and see that there's a transparent process that qualifies the people working on the projects. It's more encouraging to actually want to build on that tech.

**Slugwax:** So the certification process essentially would give a business confidence that if they commissioned Intersect to advise on a project that they had the qualified people doing so?

**Christian Taylor:** Yeah. It would be more Intersect would put them in touch with the people who know how to do it. We would be more of an info broker rather than actually lead the engagement. So the thing that we're trying to do in the open source library working group, and Georg from Bitergia pointed us to this. There's an open source tool that the Cloud Native Computing Foundation uses called the CNF landscape or CNCF landscape, but it allows you to view the ecosystem in its entirety.

**Christian Taylor:** And you can look at this is their direct members. It's associated with the tiers membership. Intersect is gonna have something like that, but when you get into the accreditation or certified partners and providers, they break it up based on categories. Here's your Kubernetes Certified Service providers and you can click on any one of them and it'll actually give you a card about the company, give you a basic use case. Obviously Amazon, they have a bigger thing it ties into their actual open source projects, where their language specialities are, their contribution rates, and then some basic organization details. And we can configure these business cards as need be. It's just a YAML file we'll need to update, and we'll make it open source, so people in the community can help us put it together.

**Christian Taylor:** And then you do have the projects based on their categories and products, I would actually separate the two. So you know what the libraries are and then what is a product, to integrate, stuff like that. But the other piece to this is this is where the incubation ladder comes in. Because it tells you, if a project is graduated, it's at its highest maturity stage that Intersect would overview. If it's incubating. That means in the middle. It's not a fully graduated, fully promoted project but it's advancing that way. And then sandbox, is they're trying to theory craft the idea. So you could look at sandbox similar to the catalyst proposal piece or projects that reach the MVP, they could come to Intersect if they want to as a route.

**Christian Taylor:** And do things that way. So this is something we're trying to get to with that working group and we're trying to build in these support structures to promote, both the product category and the open source libraries. In the best method. And I'm trying to make it to where the open source libraries get the funding from the treasury on the maintainer retainer piece and potentially the code for us model. That's just because projects inherently have a revenue model in them, and I'm trying to find external funding methods to help support them in their development. But since Intersect is an open source nonprofit, we're focusing heavily on the libraries themselves because we're trying to promote people to come in Cardano and build their business using those libraries. So, Matthieu.

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** Yeah, regarding the whole model that is going to be put forward by this committee. Is it something that's going to be discussed once the whole committee is set in place? Or how is it going to happen?

**Christian Taylor:** Yes, so the support structure is on it, I'll go back to the diagram. So, associated, the funding that comes into this model, is completely at the discretion of the Open Source Committee and they're working groups or whoever they want to review the process to actually run through it. But before, any of this can happen, the community itself has to vote that those funding models go through. And that's where the Budget committee comes in and facilitates that process all the way until I think January is when they come up with the annualized budget, but they're post the elections. I think it's Cardano summit, they're gonna present everything and then there's gonna be those three months of community feedback and integration. So this may or may not happen but everything else other than these two buckets here, I'm trying to have instituted so that it's still there and there can be most of these, don't require any Treasury funding, the support services, the partnerships, incubation, contribution ladder. Those are all led by the Open Source Committee and the Open Source Office. We're just trying to put structures in place so this can all come full circle and these two working groups are still going to work to their landscape.

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**Christian Taylor:** Open source libraries are about supporting businesses building on cardano. What libraries are there, helping map that. Commercialization working group is trying to act as a centerpoint body for all entities and such for trying to get commercial adoption and direction. And trying to help products get opportunities and trying to tie in suppliers with clients and stuff like that. So,

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** So, if I may ask how is the interaction going to happen between this committee or other specialized committee and the budgeting one?

**Christian Taylor:** So, the budget committee will assess all the Committee's ideas. They determine that. If there's gonna be an annualized budget, Here's the buckets associated with each of the funding and then they leave that open to each of the committees to debate, how they want to use or propose budgets for them to manage. Those all get integrated into the Budget committee process. They make it transparent, it goes for community feedback. We come to a final draft. That gets submitted and it's a yes or no from the D reps spo's and The ICC will determine if it's constitutional or not. So I think it's D reps and spo's and that's where the delegation factor comes in.

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** Right, just to cure before the vote phase. So, it's each committee that will propose a plan for their own funding and would submit the plan to the Budget committee and what's the role of the Budget committee. If eventually, that plan is not for the Budget committee to be decided on, but the community with the votes to be decided,

**Christian Taylor:** I will actually pull that up, so I think they have published their guidelines on the budget process.

**Christian Taylor:** I'm on the wrong channel, aren't I? Yeah, it was.

**Terence McCutcheon:** Just dropped the link.

**Christian Taylor:** You did. Ok cool. I will. He's always ahead of me. Where's the roadmap?

**Terence McCutcheon:** I haven't had a chance to meet with them on the organization of the page. So everything is under that operations procedure column. You just gotta find it.

**Christian Taylor:** Yeah, here we go. The timeline. So this is what they're proposing. Essentially, once, there's a draft that the OSC has discussed last week with some basic figures that have stuff integrated. That's being discussed to be for the Cardano summit, to open it up. And then, it's this window to evaluate, and Evaluate modify agree. And then they're gonna start talking to D reps and the cc spo's towards that vote piece, and then the ratified budget will be here, and then it's open for vote. I believe.

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** Okay, so there will be plenty of time to revise the budget. Once the full committee is set up. Okay.

**Christian Taylor:** Because obviously it also comes down to the spend. There's only a certain amount that can be withdrawn from the Treasury at one given time. In the Constitution. So all the committees, that's where you have to put your haves nice to haves and negotiables. I guess in the budgets and then things will get dropped because I know just development work on the TSC is probably going to be the highest budget just coming out. This, just to sustain the lights on of Cardano and then any development work that people are wanting. But I imagine that's where a lot of the debate will come in when it comes to the technical direction of what people are looking for. so, Yeah,...

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** Thank you.

**Christian Taylor:** plus I don't expect much effective deliberation to happen until the elections are complete because then there's at least a week of onboarding and then a month of discussion. To redo things.

**Christian Taylor:** Any other general questions? But I'll drop that timeline there in the bottom? And I do have everything outlined the arbitration process, evaluation, everything. On the Budget Committee. The other thing is, so open source committee, our whole budget is focused on. We define how development happens, the best practices involved, things like that, how the project should integrate or integrate the community, collaborate, the TSC's focused on what will be developed. And then the product committee. What was the questions? They had a good summary for it. I forgot what they came up with the product committee.

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**Christian Taylor:** So the tagline is OSC, how to develop TSC, what will be developed and the product What do we need to develop? Is kind of how those integrate. So product committee will try to determine what are the things that people want. TSC will evaluate what's feasible and then help integrate what actually gets developed and then OSC, we tell them best practice on how the development happens. And Budget. Committee tells us how much money there is to develop.

**Christian Taylor:** A lot of QA, probably a hundred people involved just in that process. And then you have over 3,000 D reps or 3,000 spo's near a couple hundred D reps at this moment. So, This is gonna be a fun, bureaucratic process for sure. Make sure you delegate to somebody. Who aligns with your vision? Unless you would qualify yourself. So, any other open questions? Or we can close it up, Give everyone 30 minutes back.

**Christian Taylor:** We'll have a more formalized agenda and we'll make sure everyone's here and we'll probably go through the line items with the committee. Just so everyone can see it. Matthew.



**Matthieu Pizenberg:** I'll just maybe one last question regarding the recurring meetings. Is it something to be expected to be at the same time every time or?

**Christian Taylor:** Uh Tex is, I guess we're at Thursdays this time every two weeks, right, or

**Terence McCutcheon:** Currently, this is the current cadence. so, nothing changes as of now until the new cohort comes in, And then depending on who all is elected onto the committee, there's going to be an opportunity for that to change or flex. I don't imagine that the day would change. I think it'll probably still stay on Thursdays, if anything the time might be something to change, but I cannot speak for 10 different opinions,...

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** Okay.

**Terence McCutcheon:** so it'll be clearly notated. And right now, this is again, the current cadence it is on the Intersect Events Calendar recurring, so

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** I see because I saw in the discord list of events. Some of the events have dates for multiple events and this one didn't, it was just a single event. So that's why I was wondering.

**Christian Taylor:** We?

**Terence McCutcheon:** So the ones that show those consistent dates that is under the former or original process, those will actually be removed and reissued because we have a tool and the Intersect Events Calendar is multi-connected. the events need to come from there as opposed to just being written in discord because otherwise there's no correlation between the two or rather it's very, very difficult. So the standard format would be to not see the extended dates. That is a discord native feature. And again, we're using another tool that is going to set that up separately where it comes off of the Google calendar first.

**Matthieu Pizenberg:**

**Terence McCutcheon:** And that's how it is set up for most of the meetings. Right now there's just a few that are lingering have not been updated in that fashion.

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** So, the Google calendars will be shareable or

**Terence McCutcheon:** Should be open and shareable? Yeah, let me see if I can grab a link for it.

**Matthieu Pizenberg:** Okay, thanks.

**Christian Taylor:** And to add clarity too, if you ever were to miss a meeting GitBook page. Our meeting minutes are all through here. So we started public meetings back in December last year and the times and dates have changed. We used to do Wednesdays. Then for some reason everyone agreed that a Friday late was good and then we moved the Thursdays again. So I imagine, with four new people coming in. We're gonna have to adjust again based on time zones. And we're also thinking of trying to get more representation, not just Germany US focus but maybe have once every other month or something an Apac meeting or try to work something like that. Because that's a focus Intersect needs to take on as well.

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**Christian Taylor:** Yeah, so if anyone doesn't have any more questions, we'll close it out. And if anyone wants topics for an agenda, feel free to use our discord but we'll meet Thursday. Two weeks from now.

**Christian Taylor:** Okay, thank you. Appreciate your time.

**Udai Solanki:** Good. Thank you.

**Christian Taylor:** Thanks for your work.

Meeting ended after 00:35:52 🙌

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