

EFL Community & Roadmap

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Problems

- 2018/2019 has been a rough patch for the EFL community.
Some of the problems I see:
- Technical disputes getting personal
- Community participation declining over the years
- People leaving the project
- Move of communication from IRC/Mail to Phab, and/or smaller groups
- Samsung dominance in the project
- Lack of collaborative vision and leadership to give overall project direction

Problems

- I do not have any silver bullet to solve them
- We have been doing better on all this before and I am sure we still can do better again
- Big question is How?

Big Questions

Communication:

- How to improve the communication? Avoiding smaller group discussions.
- What parts of Samsung discussions and decisions need to be more transparent?
- Try regular real-time meetings again?

Vision:

- Aim for the next two years (2020 & 2021)?
- What do we expect from the project now and in the future?
- How do we compare against other toolkits?
- E17 and terminology attracted a lot of users. Do we have more such show cases?
- Should we aim for position EFL as a UI toolkit for a different eco system (Node.js, React native, Zephyr)?

Infrastructure:

- Who will help to run the re-build infrastructure?
- Discussion on a move to self hosted e.g. GitLab or similar

Technical Roadmap

- What areas of EFL do we expect to develop over the next 1-2 years?
- Gradually release more of our unified APIs
- Should/Can we grow beyond a C Linux desktop and embedded ecosystem?
- Do we have more show case applications?

Community Roadmap

- An earlier push for regular IRC meetups started with some enthusiasm, but went silent
- IMHO a project mission statement and roadmap would really help to define the project
- The process and discussion on this would already help
- How to enlarge the community?
- Bring old members back and hook up new ones
- Documentation updates for newcomers and developers
- Refine the current review process and define what we expect from reviewers
- Technical discussion on patches are great on phab during the review, but keep project wide discussions more central (like mailing list, IRC, or such)

Appendix

Releases

- What we want to do there?
- 4 month time based release schedule?
- Some flexibility or strict?
- Move back to feature based releases?

Samsung Dominance

- The EFL project is heavily dominated by Samsung employees by now
- Almost all code decisions are driven by Samsung needs one way or another
- From 48 contributors in 1.23 we have 6 not having a Samsung relationship: Raster, Vincent, Boris, Netstar, Massimo and Ross
- For all 2019 its: 65 contributors and only 10 non-Samsung people (+yoz, jp, romain, okra)
- A problem not only for community, but also other companies to contribute