Software Philanthropy for Everyone

Open Source Summit Europe 2018
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First: Thanks

- Andrew Paprocki, who inspired this effort
- Henry Kleynhans, who keeps me on task and runs events in London
- Bradley Kuhn, who prodded me into talking about this project
- Jeff King (peff), for being willing to let us experiment with his time and energy
- Bloomberg’s Philanthropy team, for being open-minded and supportive about software volunteerism
- Kyle Kingsbury (aphyr), for a starting point for using Amazon Web Services for these events
Git, New York City (our first event)
Eclipse, London
Python, New York City
Scientific Python, New York City & London
Git, London
Outline

• Motivations

• Challenges

• Rewards
Motivations
Motivations

It’s Fun! (do we need any other reason?)
Employee Engagement

Bloomberg has an extensive global program to engage its employees in volunteer activities.

In 2017:
• More than **12,000** volunteers
• Over **145,000** volunteer hours
• **2,300** partner organizations

Volunteer activities cover many areas, including the Arts, Education, Human Services and Sustainability.

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Giving back to the open source community
Creating new contributors

Every project benefits from new contributors, and learning how to contribute in a group environment can be very positive and encouraging.

Project leaders get first-hand knowledge of the ‘new contributor’ experience (for good or bad).

Getting a ‘jumpstart’ from a pre-built environment allows contributors to focus on code (or documentation, or any other component) immediately.
Challenges
Challenges

‘Fun’… for the organizers!
The ‘easy’ stuff

• Venue (space, desks/chairs, power, Internet access)

• Catering (programmers are easy to feed and water)

• Internal advertising
The ‘moderate’ stuff

- Dates… dates, dates (conflicts and constraints everywhere)
- Mentors/leaders (interest, availability, travel)
- External advertising (many projects have no single place to advertise events)
The ‘hard’ stuff

• Selecting projects
  (do what you’re good at, not what’s shiny)

• Attendees will not be prepared
  (but you can help)

• List of newbie-friendly issues/features/tasks
  (rely on mentors/leaders)

• Follow-up
  (tracking results can be difficult)
Rewards
Rewards

Plenty to go around
Patches

Patches.

Patches.

Patches.

Patches. (some even get merged during the event!)
Other rewards

• Internal networking

• External networking

• Student engagement
Next event

Our next volunteer coding weekend will be October 27-28, 2018 in both New York City and London.

We’ll be working on all the tools from the Python Packaging Authority (PyPA): Warehouse, pip, virtualenv, setuptools, and more!

We’re expecting 50-60 participants in each location on Saturday, and 30-40 on Sunday.
Thanks!

If you’re interested in learning more about how we do this, please reach out. I can be found in many ways:

- Email: kpfleming@bloomberg.net
- Twitter: @realkpfleming
- GitHub: kpfleming
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/kpfleming
- AWS ‘hackathon cluster’ tools: github.com/bloomberg/hackathon-aws-cluster