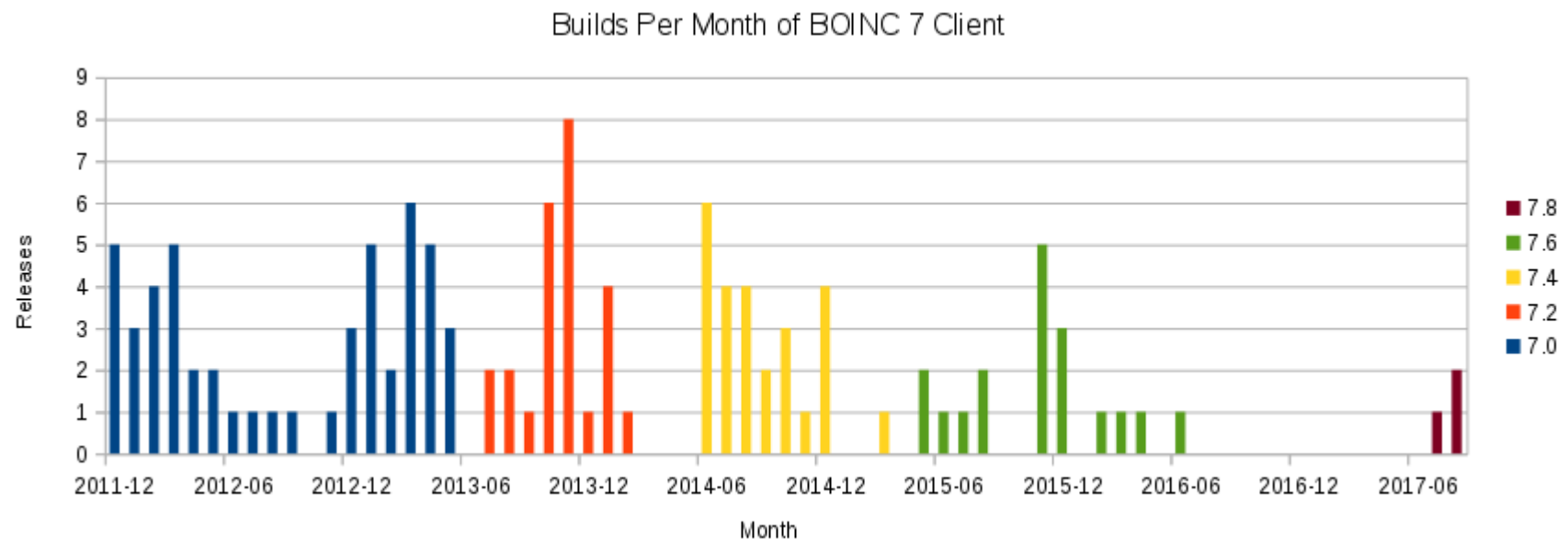


Progress of the BOINC Working Committee

Kevin Reed

Motivation

- BOINC changed to a community driven model in June of 2015. Since then only 7 contributors averaged more than 1 commit a month
 - This is also true over past 12 months and in the past 1 month
- Builds of the BOINC client have slowed



Motivation

- Projects like World Community Grid and [Einstein@Home](#) run older and modified versions of the server code
- Overall not a sign of a healthy community

Purpose

- Review best practices of open source projects
- Bring together representatives from different sub-communities within BOINC to discuss the challenges facing the community
- Examine why the current model is not yielding greater participation
- Produce concrete proposals that can be put forward to the community for review and then approved

Who

- David Anderson - BOINC
- Christian Beer - Einstein@Home
- Jord van der Elst - Alpha Tester and Contributor
- Laurence Field - CERN/LHC
- Eric Korpela - Seti@Home
- Richard Haselgrove - Alpha Tester and Contributor
- Tristan Olive - Grid Republic
- Kevin Reed (Committee Chair) - IBM/World Community Grid
- David Wallom - Climateprediction.net

Potential

- In 2013, World Community Grid conducted an extensive volunteer survey. 36% of respondents reported working in the IT field.
- BOINC stats reports over 175,000 volunteers currently actively contributing
- If only 1 in 1,000 IT workers among the volunteers contributed to BOINC on a regular basis, that would increase the BOINC contributor base from 7 to 70
- https://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/about_us/viewNewsArticle.do?articleId=323
- <https://boincstats.com/en/stats/-1/project/detail/user>

Activities

- Weekly Meetings since July 11th
- Started with a Discovery Phase
 - Shared articles, lectures, and other sources of open source practices
 - Develop personas to provide different ways of viewing engagement with the project:
 - Discouraged Dan
 - Earl the Enthusiast
 - Ed the Expert
 - Steve the Scientist
 - Victoria the Volunteer

Activities

- Policy Phase
 - After some work we started working on specific policies
- Code Contribution Guidelines
 - Development Workflow Document
 - How to propose a change or report a bug
 - How to contribute code
 - Revisions to Governance Document
 - Clarify how voting works for approving a feature change or pull requests
- Proposal was announced for review by community last Friday

Future Work

- Client Release Process
- Server Release Process
- Define role and voting rights of non-technical contributors in governance document
- Review structure and meetings of PMC
- Review persona's and identify additional areas of work
- Implement automation for builds
- Enable test driven development practices
- Disband committee and continue work through regular committers and PMC discussion processes

Success Metrics

- The work of the committee will have been successful if over the next year:
 - Increase number of engaged committers (more than 1 commit per month)
 - Pick any one committer and have them take a month vacation, work on project should continue fluidly
 - Pull requests are resolved in a timely manner
 - Bug reports from users (project and volunteers) are described well in issues, prioritized and the backlog of open issues starts to shrink
 - Client builds are produced regularly as needed to adopt new features and changing operating system requirements