
MARYAM BAKOSHI: Welcome everybody to the NCSG ExCom meeting on Tuesday, 22nd January 2019 at 14:00 UTC.

On the call today we have Juan Manuel Rojas, Raoul Plommer, Raphael Lacroix, Robin Gross, Stephanie Perrin. And from staff, we have myself, Maryam Bakoshi.

I'd like to remind all participants to please state your name before speaking for transcription purposes and to mute your microphone when you're not speaking. Thank you very much, and over to you, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay. I'm still not in. Not quite sure why. So, forgive me while I try and find my way into it. [inaudible] can't be reached.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Stephanie, I'm just going to send you on Skype the direct link. Just if you go on Skype now, I'll send it to you. Please try the link I sent you. Thank you.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: That's the one -exactly what I've been trying, so goodness knows why it isn't working. [The NCSG's] server IP address could not be sound. DNS probe finished, NX domain.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Can you try using another browser, please?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah. Hang on. Usually, it's this browser that works. I think we're getting somewhere. Okay, I'm in.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Great. Thank you.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay, sorry for the long delay. That took a while. So, how many applications have we got, Maryam?

MARYAM BAKOSHI: [inaudible] we've got seven pending applications and nine [inaudible].

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Gosh. Where are all these people coming from, I wonder.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: So you might want to start from the top. Those are the pending applications, and then go down the list if you [inaudible].

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Right. Okay. Anybody got comments on [Ricardo Baroni?]

MARYAM BAKOSHI: We sent a request for more information and he hasn't replied since November.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay. So that means we can just say wait for response. Send him a duplicate.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: [inaudible] after a month they don't respond, the [inaudible] reject their completion. But if you want to send a reminder, I'm happy to do that. Just confirm [inaudible].

STEPHANIE PERRIN: I would tend to send him a reminder. But I don't want to break rules here. If that's what we normally do. I'm not seeing any comments from anyone in my form. So, why don't we send them a reminder and then give up? Or am I being too soft?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It might have gone to his spam folder for all we know.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah. And it was Christmas. Okay, now all of a sudden, I'm getting to see what's going on here. I don't know what's wrong with my computer today, but it seems slow, just like me.

Okay. What about the next guy from Montréal?

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: The one I see is from Spain, Stephanie. I don't think [inaudible] but there's another – there's [Jose Alberto Berveto Rodriguez.]

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah, I did skip that guy. I'm having trouble navigating here, the field keeps disappearing. Okay, so here we are with Rodriguez. Anybody got strong views on that? Nobody has strong views. I don't see any comments from anyone here. And I also do see where we've already asked him for more information. Have we asked him for more information, Maryam?

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Yes, we did. And the response is in the [inaudible] remarks column.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah, all my columns are blank.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Okay. And I see [inaudible]. Raphael says he's fine, I guess.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: I don't see any information on him. I see, "I am interested in topics related to cybersecurity and issues related to affordable access from developing countries." That's all I see.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Do you want me to share my screen instead?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: I beg your pardon?

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Do you want me [inaudible] to share my screen? Does that help?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay, I basically tried to leave a comment for the Rodriguez like two or three times now, and it's not registering there. It looks like we're having the same problems as we did like half a year ago.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah, I must say now I've got the screen, but it's all very skinny and one narrow column. When you actually click on "details," you don't get anything.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: So, Stephanie, I'm just jumping in. It's not in the details that you'll find his answer, actually. You need to go to approval comment application, and you will get his answer. But yes, it's very long and skinny, and that's a big problem with the [inaudible] which I'm going to try to work with [inaudible] to get it redone in a proper way, because that doesn't make any sense.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah, no, when I click on “approve,” I get empty columns all the way through. Which I find odd, because I remember this guy.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: And if you go to the [discontinued] field at the very bottom, when you click on the approval comment, you don’t get anything either?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Right. I don’t get anything. Absolutely nothing in that field.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Okay. Well, I'll take note of that. I'll try to – because we’re having a call with Civi so I'll raise that up. Not with Civi, with Wapix, the manager for the website and the backend. So I'll raise that with them.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah, and I can't see that things that I've just approved, and I tried it three times. Can't see it there. I can't see my own approval.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Right.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Okay. I'll note that as well,[inaudible]. Thank you. So the new system should have been working, but if it’s not, then it’s obviously something we’ll raise with them.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So, are we going to accept these members or go through them in some other way, or do we just skip it and do something else on the agenda?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Well, it's a little hard to work this way when we're not seeing anything.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, that's very true. I see other people's comments, but really, if I can't see my own approvals, then it's hard for others to see them too, I'm guessing.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Well, yeah, I can't see my own comments, because I know I commented on these ones that we [sent] for more information. Maybe we can – I don't know. How do people feel? Do you want to quit? We're late on these as it is.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Maybe some of them can be dealt with directly. I don't know. At least if we can view the details of the application, we can just decide right away whether we want to – if there's some applications which are, let's say, noncontroversial or if everyone agrees, if it's all fine, then at least they can be admitted, I guess, because I think some of them have been waiting for a while, as you said.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Well, exactly. For instance, I've now gone to [Daniel Dasig] from the Philippines, right? Who applied in October.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Stephanie, can you see the comments which Maryam has pasted, which has made the column really tall? Can you see those? Because we need to see the information that they've sent us after. And for example, I can see the column on Rodriguez on the first page of the list of individual applications. I can see Maryam's text there. And I think that text is good enough for us to accept him.

But if you can't see that either, I think we're in trouble here.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Which do I have to click to see it? Because I'm looking at Rodriguez, and if I click –

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So if you click on the link on the left that says NCSG applications, individuals, and then you get this display, and if you can see the comments on the evaluation committee remarks, and for example Rodriguez, there's a long answer that he's provided to Maryam. So, can you read that?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yes. The one that [inaudible]? Yeah. Now I'm losing you.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Well, normally, if the columns are tall, there should be a lot of text somewhere, directly on the front end. If you don't see that, it means that probably your account is not permissioned properly in the system for you to see that. That's my guess right now, which means that right now, there's nothing we can do, because even if for example I have some form of admin access, I can't change this level of permissions in the system directly, which [inaudible] either we do what Robin has done, which is we copy-paste you their answers in the chat so you can read them and we can maybe get some of them done like this, or we wait later.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay. How do we feel about this guy Rodriguez?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think he's good.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Fine for me as well.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay. I'm going to try approving. [I approve.]

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good luck with that.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Yeah, I don't think you can do that. I think if we agree to approve it –

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay, so Robin – Okay, I'm just going to type – I can't type anything in the approved box. So, if I can't type anything in there, who can?

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: No one can, I think. So if we agree to approve him, once we get the technical things done, then we can approve them, right? In the sense of the approval, meaning the change of membership status. But –

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Did you guys put anything in the boxes?

MARYAM BAKOSHI: [inaudible]

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: [inaudible].

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Yeah. I'm able to edit the box. I'm not sure why you can't.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: [When I click] “approve NCSG membership application,” am I supposed to put my name in that box, or the name of the guy?

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: It's your name, normally, that you would put.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Why would I do that when it's already a dropdown box? [inaudible]

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: [inaudible] Yeah, if you're looking at the "approved by" box with ticking boxes with the names besides them, is that what you're looking at right now?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yes, I am. The "Approve NCSG membership application," and then there's an empty box at the top says "First name last name."

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: No. Okay, so that's the name of the member, normally, that you're looking at right now.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: So, why isn't it filled in? And [inaudible].

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: It's probably because your account that you're logging into right now is probably not permissioned in the system properly so that you can't see anything there. We can all see it. You can't. Obviously, it's a big problem

that you can't, but as I said, it's a technical problem most likely, and something that we'll definitely raise with what they [inaudible].

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah. And everything I wrote a minute ago is gone. So, this is really quite aggravating. Okay, well, you guys can carry on. It seems to work for you, and [it's your problem.] Right?

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: [inaudible]. We can see things. We cannot add any things to it, but we can see them. So, at least we have that. So maybe, as I think Robin is saying in the chat, we can just paste their SOI there and then so you can also read it, and then we can make decisions on that basis, although we can't [ask] them technically speaking, but we can still take the decision.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Oh, boy. Okay. Maryam, do you have any idea what's going on with CiviCRM? Because I already complained about not being able to access it.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: [inaudible]. I don't know. I think there's a meeting tomorrow. Raphael, please correct me if I'm wrong. [inaudible]. So it's really a good idea, Stephanie, if you join the meeting as well. [inaudible] send a calendar invite.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: It's on Friday, Maryam, the meeting. So, Civi is the backend, it's like WordPress. It's a technical system, and the provider, the service provider for us is Wapix, which is, I think, a Colorado business. Yes, so obviously, [it's a thing] that we need to bring up to them, because this new system is supposed to be working, and it's not, and then you have your – as I said, something that I think is related to the permissions that your account within Civi [inaudible] and that's why you probably cannot see everything.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Right.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: But you should have received an invite for the column Friday though, because I think I saw you –

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yes. I'm confirmed for that. Yes. But I've also sent complaints about this thing not working, and that doesn't seem to do me any good. Okay, well, alright. Now, this guy, [inaudible] from Montréal is next. He hasn't commented. Shall we send him a reminder?

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Certainly. [inaudible] Rodriguez [inaudible], was that a yes or a no?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Rodriguez is a yes.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Okay.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: And [inaudible] is a send a reminder. And now we're on to [Dasig.]

MARYAM BAKOSHI: [inaudible]?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: No.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Okay. I was wondering. Thank you.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: I beg your pardon?

MARYAM BAKOSHI: No, it was very quiet, so I was wondering if your microphone was – if the audio had gone off. [inaudible] is a yes? Because I see [inaudible].

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah, I thought he looked okay to me, frankly.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: [inaudible]

STEPHANIE PERRIN: If you look at his LinkedIn profile, it looks like he's certainly knowledgeable. I'm more concerned when somebody doesn't understand what the DNS is.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Stephanie, I just realized the box [inaudible] is actually the old box, so the bottom one. I think [inaudible] use that for now, that still works. So not the new boxes, but the old approval boxes.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: I'm not sure I understand any of that.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: So if you click on the approved/view, at the very bottom, you see discontinue, so reference only. That's the old approval box. That still works, and that's what shows up on the front page. So, I have [inaudible] and I can see it showing on the approved by NCSG column. So, I think that's the box that works and not the new ones. The new fields, I don't think, [inaudible] that one still works. So if the NCSG EC wants to use that for now until we sort it out with the developers, maybe that's a way around it.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Well, I'm finding this very difficult. Maybe, honestly, folks, why don't we see if we can get this fixed? There must be some easy glitch, because look at all those new ones that we aren't going to be able to manage. Maybe we can ask Wapix to walk us through what they've done.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Yeah. And definitely, there are things that are not working. So, I understand that for you, neither the new system, nor the old one works, right?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: That's right.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Can you just – I just want to make sure that [inaudible] problem. Perfect. So, there is a problem with the underlying new system, I think, and for you, there's a specific problem with your account in the sense that you can't even use the old one that we can use now. And that's what we're discussing in the chat, and so that there's this kind of deprecated old system that is still there. It's just for reference only, but we can still use it for now, so we can add comments and we can at least while we try to get this fixed.

And for you, I think the fact that you get access to the old system at least would not be very long to fix, though fixing the new system might be a bit longer in the sense that it might not just be a matter of like five minutes. So – but yeah, we'll get this as a priority, as you said, Robin. So maybe for now, we can just skip to something else in the agenda.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Right. I think that's a good idea. For me, I feel absolutely useless. I'm trying to lead this and I can't see anything. It's very stupid. Either somebody – like the rest of you, somebody could jump in, and possibly we could get through some of these memberships. I do feel badly it's been so long, but I can't do anything.

ROBIN GROSS: Stephanie, I'd be happy to jump in and go through these, but it's not saving my comments either. So, a number of times I typed in comments, we need more information on this person, and it's just not saving or something. So, I don't think one of us could jump in and take over on this. I think we really just need to get this system fixed.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay.

ROBIN GROSS: And I know this isn't your fault, this has been a bane in our existence since day one. So, we've all had troubles with the system.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Well, we have a meeting Friday. Let's see if we can sort it, and let's see if it will save all our comments, because this should be like tick, tick, tick, and not this.

Okay, shall we give up on today's meeting? I agree, Raoul, it's a terrible waste of time.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Did we have anything else on the agenda?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: I don't think so, no. I had intended to have more things on the agenda, but for those of you who are not on the EPDP, we've got meetings every day this week, and we had a blitz last week, and we had meetings the week before that went extra-long, so I've been chewed up with that.

Is there anything anybody would want to bring up?

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: I just wanted to talk a bit about Civi and Wapix, but we've kind of done [a lot of] that already. But just maybe of the record, generally, so I'm in contact with Farzaneh regarding that, and she's trying to hand it over to me. So, [we think] Friday will be the [first step.] I'm going to discuss with her first as well about things that are not [really necessarily] the direct concern of Wapix, but just to understand how our own political processes match with the technical back office, and a bit also regarding [inaudible] and so on.

So I'll discuss with her about that to understand everything, and then I've got a very long list of questions – which got even longer just now – for Wapix about how things are working. So once this is done, [inaudible] we have a better grasp of how things work and how Civi

itself works, and I'll try to find a way to see as well basically what kind of relationship we should have with them in the sense that I think part of the service plan that we pay, there's kind of training or problem-solving, which is free included, so how this is used, and for example, whether if we don't use it for a month, then it's roll over to the next month, and these kind of questions.

So maybe the next call then I would have a bit more to talk about that, but just to say that I'm trying to start taking care of that, taking over [Farzaneh.] So yeah.

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Well, that would be wonderful, because quite frankly, all I get from them so far is deals, and I think I have an e-mail from them saying that the prices have gone up. And if they haven't got this fixed, I'm not very impressed. I don't know how deep the problem is and whether it's their fault or the system, or how long they've been at it. So a little bit of history from them on Friday might be helpful and make me appreciate them more.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD:

Hopefully, yes.

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Yeah, hopefully. Because right now, if the system isn't working and they're asking for more money, I'm not thrilled. Anyway, okay, that's interesting. Raoul, you have an announcement? How long have we had the system, Robin?

ROBIN GROSS: I think it was put int place [inaudible] – when he first became chair, so that'd be, what, three years ago?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: And we'd never been able to get it to work?

ROBIN GROSS: That's right. It's always been one big glitch after another the entire time. And when I was chair, I would just whine and complain to people, "We need a membership database, that's the thing we need." And it was my number one whine and complaint, and then when Rafik took over, I know it was a huge [inaudible] for him, and he worked really hard to get us the database, and then we finally got this one when [inaudible] take over, and it's never worked properly.

So, this is the way it went for many years. So, you just inherited a mess. Don't take it personally.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: It's fine. I'm very quick to think that I'm a complete dweeb and it's all my fault and I've done something wrong. So, thank you. You make me feel better. Well, maybe optimistically, we will get it running.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. Actually, in the last half a year, there was like a moment where we were putting our initials there, and that actually worked for a while.

But now it's gone back worse again, although we've given them like, what, \$10,000?

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah. Something like that.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: If I'm correct, it's about 500 a month, and there's a fixed fee which is added to that. There is [inaudible] in that 500. [inaudible] 500 for hosting and updating and they have to provide us with problem solution and these kinds of things, but yeah, I had a very cursory look at the contract we have with them, and it's not very detailed.

But in any case, we'll try to make things a bit more clear about our expectations also, and then the policy of what they do. It's not just about paying them, it's also getting [something.]

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Yeah. Well, that's one of the problems with working with groups like ours, is a contractor gets away with murder if they don't have a consistent voice. So, thank you so much for taking this on, [inaudible].

Okay. Yeah, well, let's see what we can do on Friday, and maybe we can get this sorted. I'm going to send them a message that nothing is working for me, so maybe they can at least get me logged in properly so that I can see things.

Okay, well, thank you very much. If there's nothing else, let's get back to our lives. Apologies.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thanks, Stephanie.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Yeah, we tried.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And just like Robin said, none of it's your fault at all. It's the same problems we had half a year ago.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay.

RAPHAEL BEAUERGARD: Yeah, we'll [inaudible] make it work better.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Great. Alright, guys. Well, good luck with the webinar. I'm going to have to get back to EPDP, but that sounds good. That's an Internet society one, is that right, Raul?

RAOUL PLOMMER: Yeah, that's right. It's about a data – GDPR course for citizens that I've built for the last year, and now actually got it done yesterday.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Oh, good. That sounds great.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Yeah. I already put some invitation on the NCSG Facebook page, but I should send some e-mails on the list as well. But yeah, thanks for the meeting, guys.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Okay. Thank you.

ROBIN GROSS: Thanks, everyone. Bye.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Thank you very much. [Bye-bye.]

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]