Software Philanthropy for Everyone

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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 (our first event)
Eclipse, London
Python, New York
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.
Giving back to the community

programming republic of Perl

NUMFOCUS

OPEN CODE = BETTER SCIENCE

eclipse

software freedom conservancy

python

TechAtBloomberg.com
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

‘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
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: linked.com/in/kpfleming
- AWS ‘hackathon cluster’ tools: github.com/bloomberg/hackathon-aws-cluster