

GNU Radio: Organization Updates

How the GNU Radio organization may look like

Agenda

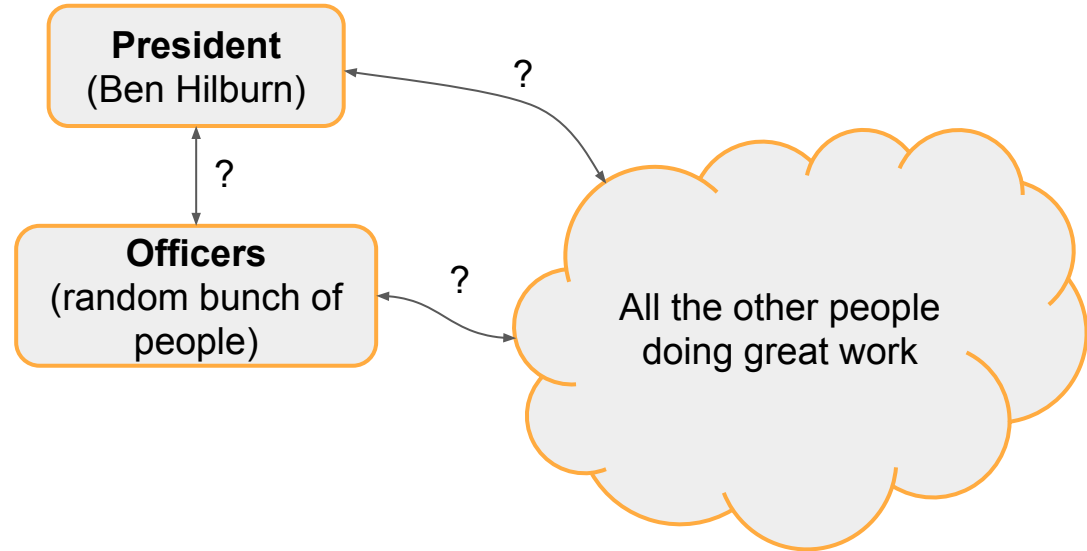
- How is GNU Radio Currently structured?
- Why are we changing things?
- What's the future structure going to look like?
- What's the schedule for all of this?

Some History

- GNU Radio started off like most Open Source projects: There was “the benevolent dictator” (Eric Blossom) and a bunch of enthusiasts
- Since then, GNU Radio has switched leadership twice (Tom Rondeau, Ben Hilburn)
- Every leadership switch also came with an evolution of the project
 - Establishing GRCon
 - Community growth
 - Establishing more formal roles outside of the leadership
 - Dedicated maintainer role, separate from leadership

The Current Structure

Behold our current org chart:



The Current Structure

- Ben is President (because Tom said so)
- We have some people who are Officers (because Ben said so)
- By this logic, the next President should be whoever Ben decides is the right person
- Officers are added/removed at the Benevolent Dictator's behest
- ...what if the President just leaves?
- ...or what if the Officers would like a change?
- Who handles Code of Conduct violations?

| Officer | Areas of Activity |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Andrej Rode | IT Infrastructure |
| Bastian Bloessl | Newsched |
| Ben Hilburn | President |
| Derek Kozel | SETI PI, GRCon Contact |
| Josh Morman | Newsched |
| Marc Lichtman | Documentation |
| Marcus Müller | Maintainer |
| Martin Braun | Community, Governance |
| Nate Temple | Applications |
| Philip Balister | Embedded, Grumpy Guy |

Why Change this?

- The current structure is effective, but **not sustainable** or long-term stable
- We need to show that the GNU Radio Organization is a **reliable and organized partner**
- Since we are now partnered with the **SETI Institute**, that's all the more urgent
- We want to continue the trend of **evolving** the organization while changing leadership, and Ben H. will be passing the baton
- The **responsibilities** are increasing! We are now part of The SETI Institute, and we are starting to earn money (e.g., with GRCon). We have hopes and plans for growing GNU Radio, and we need a solid structure to hold all of that.
- The current structure lacks **transparency**. How and when do people get appointed Officers or Presidents?

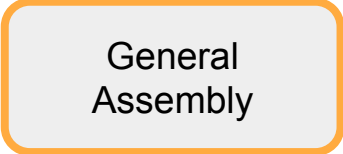
Disclaimer

I will now present the new structure as we're planning to implement it.

This might change.

The Proposed Structure: The GA

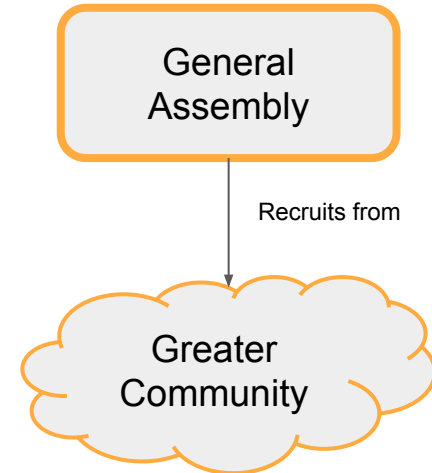
- The most important body of the new structure is the General Assembly. Its membership is equal to the leadership of GNU Radio.
- At inauguration of the new organization, it shall be comprised of the current officers to ensure continuity.
- The GA sets and decides all important, strategic decisions of the project by majority vote.
- Only natural persons may be member of the GA.



General
Assembly

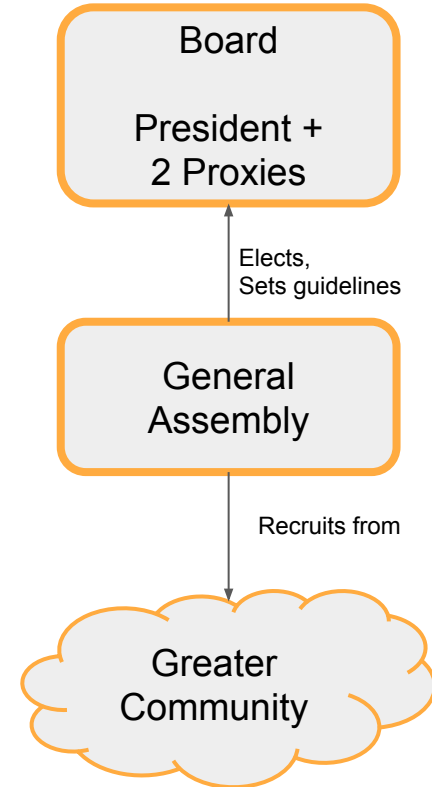
The Proposed Structure: The GA

- New members can be added to the GA by vote
- We intend to grow the GA after inauguration
- Note: Membership in the GA, and being an active contributor/member of the GNU Radio Community are separate
- However, active community members now have a path into the General Assembly, if they wish to contribute more
- GA members have a commitment to the project, and are expected to step down as GA members if they can't follow that



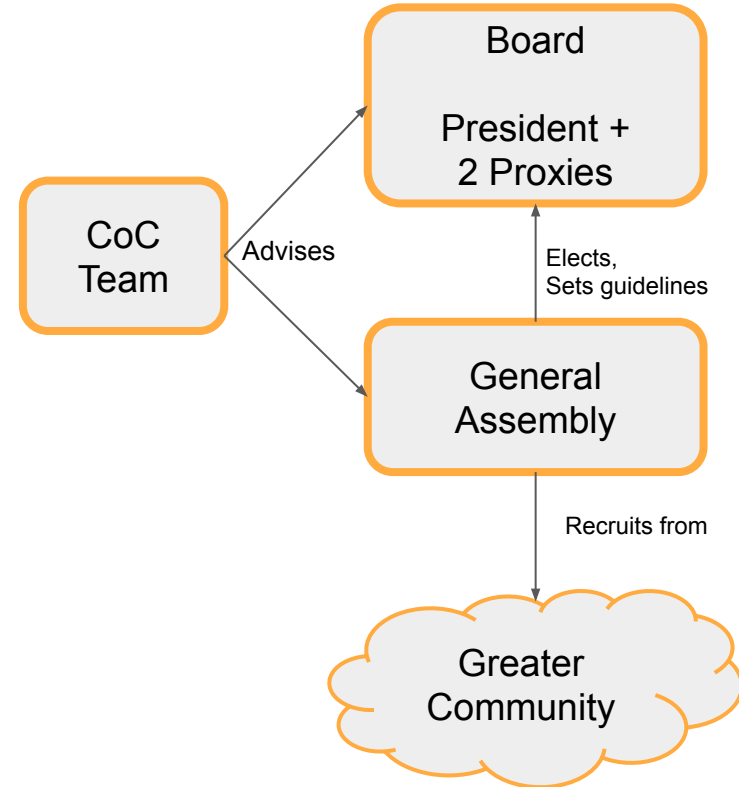
The Proposed Structure: The Board

- The GA elects the executive leadership of the project, aka The Board
 - This is what replaces the current president/benevolent dictator
- The Board consists of three members of the GA
- They have authority to **represent** the project (e.g. to outside partners), and **financial authority** (and responsibility!)
- Board members are elected for 2 years, reelections are allowed.



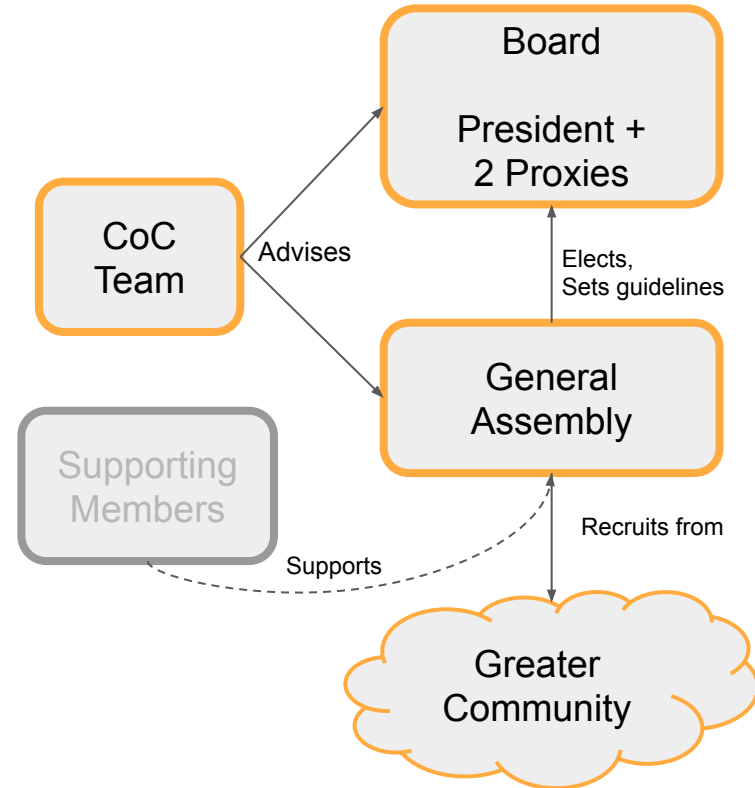
The Proposed Structure: Code of Conduct

- The Code of Conduct is an important part of our project.
- A separate team shall be instituted to watch over its compliance
- For conflict-of-interest reasons, we intend to make it separate from the board



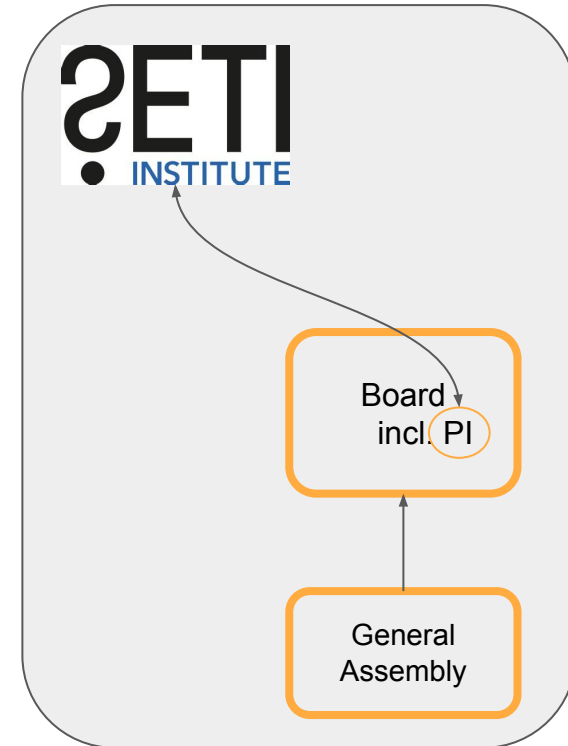
The Proposed Structure: Future Changes

- We intend to make this structure malleable. We are starting with the most important building blocks first, but will change the structure (according to our own articles of association)
- For example, we could see the addition of non-voting, supporting members.
 - No plans for a 501(c)6 style organization.



GNU Radio & SETI Institute

- The board is our primary contact into The SETI Institute
- We designate a Principal Investigator (PI) to coordinate research efforts
- We already have a PI: Derek Koziel
 - No, we have not yet elected a board. We had to appoint someone until 2021 to get the collaboration going.
- SI is a vehicle for us to pursue and administer funded programs (research grants, educational grants). Community members can also work with us on that!



Schedule for Implementation

- Right now, we are finalizing our proposed Articles of Association (AoA)
- Those will become the rulebook for how to run our organization
- AoA can be changed by majority votes from the GA
- Our AoA borrows heavily from similar organizations, such as KDE e.V. and FSFE
 - Many thanks for that!
- Soon after GRCon, the current officers shall convene officially to vote on the AoA, and if successful, elect a board from the newly formed GA
- Once those are in place, our AoA dictate the procedures for the following steps
- AoA and all GA results will be published on GitHub

Conclusion

We will keep you updated!