Bootstrapping a Local C++ User Group

Quickie Session
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Victor Ciura
Technical Lead, Advanced Installer
www.advancedinstaller.com
Abstract

In the past months some of my C++ friends and I have been trying to bootstrap a local C++ user group, in our hometown of Craiova, Romania.

There are plenty of Romanian software companies in our region, international software R&D centers and even big-name companies. But, sadly for us, few of those actually have significant C++ development teams. Most of them are into C# .NET, Java, web development, embedded/automotive (C). However, we reckoned that there should be a sufficiently big pool of C++ programmers to fuel our future meetups.

With lots of enthusiasm and little experience in this regard, we reached-out to our C++ friends from different local companies and started a communication channel for sharing C++ goodies: links, blog-posts, videos, articles, code snippets, conference trip reports, etc.

We tried different mediums like: email lists, Slack, Facebook Groups, Twitter, but there's no better way to share info and discuss technical issues than face to face. Not even a high quality C++ blog-post/article, nor even a very charismatic and professional speaker from a conference recording can compare with the experience of actually attending a conference. There's so much more to a meetup or a conference than the actual technical content shared: the ad-hoc discussions, the lunch breaks, the long friendly debates and rants over drinks in the evening, the so-called "hallway track" that no conference ever records on camera.

Although many developers think of programming as a communication between humans and machines, I reckon that programming is actually a social activity: sharing ideas and experiences is what makes us all better at it.
Who Am I?

Advanced Installer

Clang Power Tools

@ciura_victor
A Local C++ User Group

WHY?
Attending conferences or meetups is not just about the **sessions**.
It's about the people and the chats 😎
Tools And People To Help You

Wonderful Community Out There...
👉 Ask For Help And You Will Get It

Ólafur Waage
@olafurw

Those who have held a C++ User Group/Small Conference, can you spill your almighty wisdom in this thread here?

1:47 AM - 5 Mar 2018

4 Retweets 13 Likes

https://twitter.com/olafurw/status/970596542750056450
Wonderful Community Out There...

Simon Brand @TartanLlama

- Get a code of conduct
- Heckle local companies/universities for spaces you don't need to pay for
- Heckle local companies for sponsorship for food and drinks
- Make sure that if you do serve food and drink, you have options for those with dietary requirements
Wonderful Community Out There...

Simon Brand @TartanLlama

- Make sure you have space for people to socialise and network before and after any talks you put on.
- If you don't get enough talk submissions, consider a social meetup with a just-for-fun quiz.
- Try and have a mix of talks which are suitable for different experience levels.
Wonderful Community Out There...

Simon Brand @TartanLlama

• Be careful with providing alcohol; some people are not comfortable attending events with free alcohol. This is culture-dependent too
• Try to gently encourage people who have never spoken at tech events to give talks, and offer to help them out. Small meetups are a great way to lead up to conferences.
Wonderful Community Out There...

Simon Brand @TartanLlama

- Reach out to local companies/unis/tech communities to advertise your meetup
- Have at least 2 people organizing in order to split the load and be more accountable
- If your meetup is small enough, you can get everyone who is comfortable with it to give a short introduction to who they are and what they do
# Slack is your friend

https://cpplang.slack.com

CppLang Slack auto-invite:
https://cpplang.now.sh/

#local_groups

https://cpplang.slack.com/messages/C4BH9JWJJ
Wonderful Community Out There...

Jon Kalb @JonKalb

Forming a New C++ Community Group
{ Engaging with the C++ Community }

Wonderful Community Out There...

Jon Kalb @JonKalb

Local C++ User Group Content Ideas:


Developing Talk Ideas:

http://slashslash.info/2018/04/talk_ideas/
Register Your Group

https://isocpp.org/wiki/faq/user-groups-worldwide

https://meetingcpp.com/usergroups/
A successful user group needs four main ingredients:

• **People.** You don’t need a lot of people, but a good critical mass is usually around 5 to 20 people attending each month.

• **Location.** Have a regular place to meet. Often a local company can provide meeting space in an evening. Also meeting at places like universities and restaurants.
A successful user group needs four main ingredients:

• **Topics.** A good format for a monthly meeting is to arrange for someone interested in presenting something – a formal talk, a whiteboard talk, sharing an experience report, really anything – followed by discussion time.

• **Date.** Having a regular meeting day and time lets people know when to expect a meeting even if they don’t come every month. Of course, avoid major holidays.
Meeting C++ User Group registration form

Register your C++ User Group at Meeting C++!

- Your User Group can be contacted through the Meeting C++ contact form
- You can register your group as a community Sponsor of Meeting C++

Name (Location) of your user group*

City:*  

Contact Email:*  

A short description with all information about your C++ user group:*
Excellent tips to get you started:

http://meetingcpp.com/blog/items/founding-cpp-user-groups.html

http://meetingcpp.com/blog/items/six-topics-on-starting-and-running-a-user-group.html

Full list of registered C++ local user groups (world-wide):

https://meetingcpp.com/usergroups/

Monthly aggregators pushed:

C++ User Group Meetings in April 2018

published at 02.04.2018 15:20 by Jens Weller

The monthly overview about upcoming C++ User Group Meetings! Over 40 User their meetings for April!

Like this posting? There is now a way to support Meeting C++ over on Patreon!

There are 2 new C++ User Groups: Malmö, Braunschweig.

The Meetings

- 2.4 C++ UG Lisbon - std:: enntr() 
- 3.4 C++ UG Cary, NC - February 7 C++ Dinner at Doherty's Irish Pub in Cary!
- 4.4 C++ UG Boston - Template Meta-Programming (TMP) with <type_traits>
- 4.4 C++ UG Nashua, NH - General Meeting - future topics / social
- 4.4 C++ UG Bay area - Palo Alto: Lightning Talks
- 5.4 C++ UG Denver - Secure Coding Best Practices: Your First Line Is The Last Line Of
- 5.4 C++ UG Sydney - Let's discuss all things C++, number 11
- 5.4 C++ UG Bay area (llvm) - LLVM's bay-area monthly social gathering.
- 5.4 C++ UG Barcelona - CppCoreGuidelines, part 3, Functions.
- 9.4 C++ UG Edinburgh - C++ Edinburgh
- 9.4 C++ UG Hannover - Jupyter, C++ and xtensor (Wolf)
- 9.4 C++ UG Stuttgart / Ludwigsburg (Qt) - Polymorphic Allocators for fun & profit
- 10.4 C++ UG Melbourne - Anti-Patterns with C++
- 11.4 C++ UG Cluj (Qt) - QtCluj #9: Qt news and advanced QML (post-holidays edition)
- 11.4 C++ UG Utah - Regular Monthly Meeting
- 11.4 C++ UG Saint Louis - Jupyter + Cling
- 11.4 C++ UG Bay area - Mountain View: Memory Tagging and how it improves C/C++ memory sa
- 11.4 C++ UG Jucc - London Audio Developers meet up
- 11.4 C++ UG Karlsruhe - C++20: Änderungen & Neuigkeiten der letzten ISO Sitzungen (Vortrag
- 12.4 C++ UG Amsterdam - Compilers! Undefined behavior and Functional safety
- 12.4 C++ UG Core C++, Israel - C++ Distilled: Language Focus
Fresh C++ User Group 🎉

Ólafur Waage @olafurw · 3h
50 Members.
First Meeting in 2 weeks.

Why is life so wonderful? @_FooCafe_ <3

foocafe.org/malmoe/events/…

Malmö C++ User Group (Malmö, Sweden)
The Malmö C++ User Group focuses on bringing together anyone who is interested in C++, not only as a language but also as a community. We w...
meetup.com
How can I present at a local user group?

Some groups have special contact forms for presenters.

Eg.

[C++] London (presenters link)
How can I present at a local user group?

Meeting C++ User Group contact form

Running a C++ User Group? Register your User Group for this form here.

You can contact one or more C++ User Groups over this form for speaking, sponsoring/hosting or just visiting.

Contact a user-group:

https://meetingcpp.com/mcpp/usergroups/kontaktusergroups.php
Use a Calendar For Your Group

C++ Community Events:
Use Social Media Channels

👉 Here's my user group:

https://www.facebook.com/roccpp

https://www.facebook.com/groups/craiovacpp
Read On Success Stories

Dimitar Mirchev

C++ User Group Sofia first year:

http://dvmirchevcpp.blogspot.co.uk/2017/02/c-user-group-sofia-first-year.html
Hot New Trends: Distributed Meetups

Jean Guegant blogged about the distributed C++ meetups: Stockholm, Berlin and London.

Distributed C++ Meetup 0x01: { London, Stockholm }


https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBKFkLKL89uLmO22p7vWVrWO5eGzDM7PE

https://www.meetup.com/swedencpp/events/248092613/
https://www.meetup.com/de-DE/CppLondon/events/248091281/
https://www.meetup.com/berlincplusplus/events/248093069/
Jean Guegant blogged about the distributed C++ meetups: Stockholm, Berlin and London.

Distributed C++ Meetup 0x02: { Berlin, London, Stockholm }

http://jguegant.github.io/blogs/tech/distributed-c++-meetup-0x02.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31mQmUryw50

https://www.meetup.com/swedencpp/events/248092613/
https://www.meetup.com/de-DE/CppLondon/events/248091281/
https://www.meetup.com/berlincplusplus/events/248093069/
Hot New Trends: Distributed Meetups

Jean Guegant

Conclusion:

I would like to run a third **Distributed C++ Meetup** with the aforementioned *bug-fixes*.

I am eager to see if the concept is actually viable or if the first run was simply benefiting from the novelty effect.

As we are *pioneer* in these **virtual meetups**, it is pretty obvious that we will have to use our attendees as guinea pigs slowly refine our ideas.
Looking For Sponsors?

Adi Shavit @AdiShavit

He organizes the **Core C++** User Group: [https://www.meetup.com/CoreCpp/](https://www.meetup.com/CoreCpp/)

When looking for sponsors, have a list of reasons for supporting you:

[https://corecppil.github.io/Prospectus/Sponsors.html](https://corecppil.github.io/Prospectus/Sponsors.html)
Looking For Sponsors?

Value directly to companies that sponsor or have employees speak:

- **Recruitment** Nothing makes a company more attractive to community members when considering employment options than to see long-term community support as a sponsor and to see knowledgable speakers from that company talking about tackling challenging issues in interesting ways.

- **Image and awareness** Members will gain a favorable impression of sponsoring companies and companies with knowledgable employees speaking.
Looking For Sponsors?

Adi Shavit @AdiShavit

Value directly to companies that sponsor or have employees speak:

• **Product exposure** Swag opportunities and presentations expose members to new products and ideas.

• **Community influence** Presenting provides the opportunity to influence community thinking about tools, processes, libraries, and features.

• **Giving back** Sponsoring is a great way to support the community and be seen doing so.
Looking For Sponsors?

Adi Shavit @AdiShavit

Value to employees as attendees or speakers:

• **Better training** Employees that attend are better informed about best practices and new features and tools.

• **Better engagement** Employees that attend have higher morale and are excited about applying what they’ve learned.

• **Develop expertise** Researching a topic for a presentation is a valuable learning experience.

• **Better leaders** Employees that participate as group speakers or organizers are learning leadership skills not always available in their regular roles.
Join a local User Group 😊 NOW!

Start the conversation...

Good Luck!
Questions

@ciura_victor