

Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

6 January 2022

Attending: Vince Carey, Levi Waldron, Aedin Culhane, Michael Love, Lori Shepherd, Nitesh Turaga, Robert Gentleman, Charlotte Soneson, Alexandru Mahmoud, Jennifer Wokaty, Marcel Ramos, Laurent Gatto, Stephanie Hicks, Kasper Hansen

Regrets: Wolfgang Huber, Shila Ghazanfar, Hector Corrada Bravo, Rafael Irizarry, Aaron Lun

:03 - :04 [Prior minutes](#) approved

:05 - :10 Format modification? Rotation specified in advance, 2 or 3 TAB members present 5 minutes on current work, benefits and deficiencies of Bioc tooling for your research – interest, vote? Decided to give it a try, Vince will set up a spreadsheet/schedule.

:10 - :13 Quick comments on [2022 Goals](#) (Vince).

:13 - :17 Greatest hits

- [Quantification of downloads](#) (including conda) and dependencies.
- Package checking/Windows binary production proceeding with new UCRT Windows toolchain - the "palomino" hosts (thanks Hervé, Jennifer).
- Release build status

QUICK STATS	OS / Arch	INSTALL	BUILD	CHECK	BUILD BIN
nebbiolo2	Linux (Ubuntu 20.04.4 LTS) / x86_64	0 12 2071	1 41 2041	0 31 306 1704	
tokay2	Windows Server 2012 R2 Standard / x64	1 13 2042	1 46 2009	1 53 298 1657	0 2 2007
machv2	macOS 10.14.6 Mojave / x86_64	0 14 2060	4 39 2031	1 29 289 1712	0 0 2031

- Devel build status

QUICK STATS	OS / Arch	INSTALL	BUILD	CHECK	BUILD BIN
nebbiolo1	Linux (Ubuntu 20.04.4 LTS) / x86_64	0 12 2060	2 50 2020	0 40 313 1667	
riesling1	Windows Server 2019 Standard / x64	0 23 2023	1 70 1975	1 50 303 1621	0 0 1975
merida1	macOS 10.14.6 Mojave / x86_64	0 13 2050	4 54 2005	1 66 298 1640	0 0 2005

- Steps towards programmatic analysis of build system events ([app](#), [site](#)).
- KeepAlive: Levi's [spec for *Hub APIs](#), and proposal to convert Rnw to Rmd.
 - *Hub APIs tentative next meeting Weds Jan 12 10am NYC time. Lori, Kasper confirmed, Mike regrets.
 - Rnw extension search finds a lot of packages:
<https://code.bioconductor.org/search/search?q=f%3a%5c.Rnw%24&num=1080> .
Need to prioritize then confirm interest of package maintainers in receiving a PR.
Actual conversion will be a good student project.
- KeepAlive: TAB working group identity and coordination.
- [Blog post](#) looking at where Bioconductor packages are published.
- New version (2.0.0) of Sean's [BuildABiocWorkshop](#) package (among other things using the GitHub package registry rather than DockerHub).

:17 - :23 Unified API for Single Cell – activities of CZI/HCA, scanpy, TileDb

- [spec repo](#) mentions interest in SingleCellExperiment.
- We should have an emissary/benchmarking process.

:23 - :30 Conferences

- [EuroBioC2022](#) -- March 16-18 updates -- third day of conference will involve working groups/hackathons; concept of core developer "satellite" and availability for consultation during conference needs discussion.
- BioC2022 - Seattle meeting with hybrid approach, keynotes, July 27-29.
- TAB activities/goals? – one "meet the TAB" session in each conference. Others?
- Manage assets from previous conferences: videos, containers, etc. should be discoverable and up-to-date – a community project? (see CAB notes).

:30 - :40 CAB news

- The Bioconductor community blog (with RStudio distill package)
 - https://github.com/kozo2/biocblog/tree/main/_posts
 - Members of CAB volunteered to add a blog post. Any TAB volunteers?
 - Examples:
 - Q and A in “Meet the CAB” in BioC 2021 (Kozo)
 - Introducing CAB CZI EOSS project (Aedin)
 - BioC Asia 2021 and accessibility initiatives (Matt and Kozo)
 - Bioconductor turns 20! (Kevin)
 - Bioconductor Workshops (Aedin)
 - Metabolomics event: metaRbolomics (Johannes)
 - Tagging with “event” (Kozo)
 - How to contribute to this blog (how to send PR) (Kozo)
 - About [including the list of writer’s attribution] (Kozo)
 - The Bioc "deep stack" (Vince)
 - Will make call out more broadly to community members once there is some initial content.
- Multilingual working group
 - Multilingual CoC is moved to https://github.com/Bioconductor/bioc_coc_multilingual
 - Voted that Bioconductor event organizers have duty to check CoC is available in the local language (official language of host country).
 - Still working on setting up the YouTube subtitle translation framework https://github.com/BioconductorBoards/CABWorkingGroups/tree/main/talks_and_transcripts.
- Developer Mentorship
 - 12 mentee applications. Meeting in January to finalize mentee/mentor pairs.
- CZI EOSS Grant ([slides](#)) update re: hiring community manager. Job description nearly ready (Aedin, Matt, Laurent, Charlotte and Susan). CSCCE will review (Tuesday Jan

11th 2:30pm meeting) and finalize at next CAB meeting (Jan 13th). Should a working group be formed to kickstart website redevelopment project?

- Data Privacy
 - Working group formed, met last month - Katerina, Vince, Mike.
 - Reaching out to other groups for any advice (Galaxy).
 - <https://support.bioconductor.org/info/policy/>
- Events:
 - BioC Asia 2021 YouTube playlist has been [published](#).
 - BioC / H3Africa Workshop II (17-19 Nov 2021) complete. Well attended.
 - Cross-sharing of meeting organization skills? Asia/Africa report to CAB, EuroBioC report to TAB. BioC independent. Could be talking to each other? Event management working group, community manager?
- [Youtube comments getting spam posts and inappropriate material](#). Should someone be monitoring? CAB thinks its too much of an ask. Better to turn off comments. CAB requests looking into turning off comments. ([Some instructions](#)). TAB supportive of turning off comments.

:40 - :60 Discussion of "unfunded project contributions" - not covered by the main grant, but very important to the resilience of the project. Some external projects are heavily dependent on Bioconductor infrastructure.

- Concept of a "Global Project Manager" who interacts with team leaders at various engaged institutions and elicits plans, needs, timetables.
 - Still very speculative.
 - Interface to various institutions (JHU, UNC, UZH, WEHI, Ensembl, EMBL, NCBI, GO, ...) – dialogue on priorities, define the "affiliation" relationship.
 - Distinct from CAB community manager, and from core project management under the U24.
- Suggestions:
 - Getting a handle on the number of publications etc related to the project is currently more difficult than it would have to be.
 - Require ORCIDs for developers & maintainers.
 - Focus on how to communicate what the core team is doing to the outside.
 - Rather focus around topics than institutions.
 - Make it easier to get a letter of support for grant applications - easier to track submitted grants related to Bioconductor.
 - Prospective thinking - discussion of pain points etc early in the process, communication.
 - "Keeping the lights on" vs "supporting new developments".
- Approach to funding the "Global Dimension" – NIH not quite appropriate, maybe Moore Foundation, other international science funding bodies; how to increase contributions from Pharma.
- At least 4-5 applications were submitted to the round one CZI single-cell data insights RFA ([link](#)) (see #hca-data-insights Slack channel). For future similar submissions, more central coordination could be helpful.