Software as a Service as a Co-operative

THE ONLINE MEETING CO-OPERATIVE

Software as a Service (SaaS)

Software licensing model that sells **access as a subscription**, running on **servers in the cloud**.

Consumer SaaS:

- Dropbox
- Google G Suite
- Meetup
- Skype
- Slack
- WhatsApp
- Wordpress
- Zoom

Hint: One of these is not like the others.

Software as a Service (SaaS)

Software licensing model that sells **access as a subscription**, running on **servers in the cloud**.

Consumer SaaS:

- Dropbox (storage)
- Google G Suite (collaboration)
- Meetup (gathering)
- Skype (video conferencing)
- Slack (work chat)
- WhatsApp (family chat)
- Wordpress (blogging)
- Zoom (video conferencing)

Hint: One of these is not like the others.

Free, Libre, and Open Source Software

Problem I

Usability & Accessibility

"Why does open source software usually have poor UI and UX design?" UI/UX Designers Open Source User Exp

User Experience User Interface Design User Interfaces

000

Why does open source software usually have poor UI and UX design? What can be done to improve this?

Ad by Toptal

What's the best platform to use to hire UI/UX designers?

There are many platforms out there where you can find UI/UX designers. I have seen primarily four types of sites: 1. Vetted talent sites. The best example here is Toptal[1]. You find g...(Continue reading)

6 Answers



Arthur Clemens, Indep UX Strategist

Answered March 14, 2015 · Author has 125 answers and 225.9K answer views

When you are devoting your free time to a project, you don't want to be told what to work on. There is no command structure, no boss or team lead that sets the goals for the next sprint.

My first encounter with an open source community: I had created a skin and based on that I was invited to join. So I put on my UX hat and set out to work to create improved user flows, page layout and functionality, as I would have done at my day job. These designs would certainly make it a better product, I thought. They were ready enough to work on, or at least to get some feedback from developers to iterate on the ideas.

And then... nothing happened. None of the developers picked up the work. There wasn't even a discussion; my work was non-existent.

Related Questions

Why does open-source software have such ugly interfaces?

Why don't open source projects care about the UI?

Why do open source apps have terrible user interfaces?

What are examples of good UI with bad UX and bad UI with good UX?

What are the worst examples of poor UI design in common use?

How hard is it to change the UI of an open source app?

Arthur's UX improvements get implemented at his day job

Problem II

It Just Works™

"How can I get my friend to use open source software?" **‡ slack** Status

Dashboard History Twitter

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The "Pennybags Attack"

In <u>*Revolutionary Networked Politics*</u> at transmediale 2020, Dmytri Kleiner described the common threat model where:

"material upkeep of server and admins becomes too large for voluntary operation"



Operating a 99.99% reliable SaaS is expensive

Why is it expensive?

Product development

Organisational operations

Business planning

Legal and finance support

DevOps

User research

Design and brand

Data metrics

Marketing

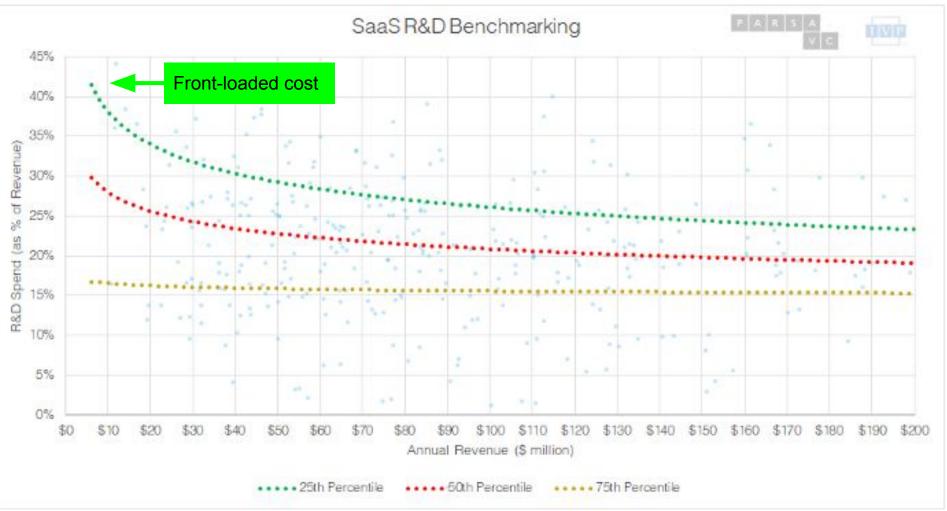
Sales

Customer success

The software

Other operating costs

How does a SaaS business spend its money?



Product Research & Development: Slack

Slack made \$105M in revenue in 2016, and **spent 59% of revenue on R&D**, higher than competitors.

In their public filings they note the following:

"To remain competitive, we must continue to develop new features, integrations, capabilities, and enhancements to Slack... Our failure to maintain adequate R&D resources or to compete effectively with the R&D programs of our competitors would give an advantage to such competitors and may harm our business, results of operations, and financial condition."

Product Research & Development: Zoom

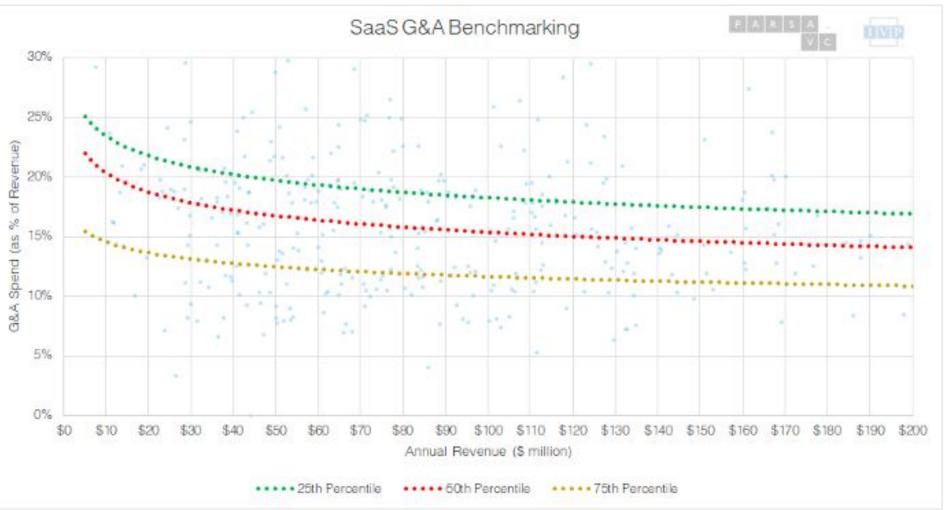
Many people use Zoom because "It Just Works".

Their representatives said in an interview:

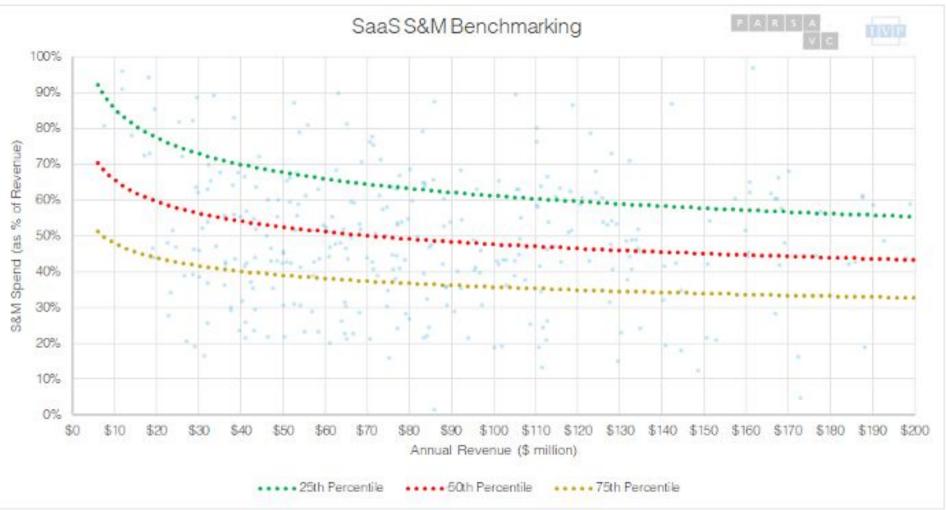
"150 milliseconds, the maximum latency before conversations feel unnatural. Zoom works really hard to stay under 150 milliseconds."

"We look at the operating systems, look at the device, tune the communication specifically for that network or for that device."

Important: having millions of users is what allows this iterative optimization to happen in the first place. **SaaS enable very strong data-driven feedback loops.**



https://medium.com/parsa-vc/operating-expense-benchmarks-for-saas-startups-e49697abf3ed



Front-loaded Capital & Start-up Costs

Medians at \$5 million revenue:

30% Research & Development22% General & Administrative70% Sales & Marketing

122% of revenue

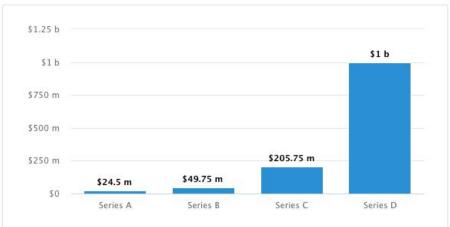
At start-up, costs are between 10x to infinite times revenue.

How much start-up capital?

Zoom Capital Raised



Zoom Valuation



Source: Sharespost

Can we do this without venture capital?

Product development Organisational operations

Business planning

Legal and finance support

DevOps

User research

Design and brand

Data metrics

Marketing

Sales

Customer success

Free software

Other operating costs

- Product development
- Organisational operations
- Business planning
- Legal and finance support
- DevOps
- User research
- Design and brand
- Data metrics
- Marketing
- Sales
- **Customer success**

We don't have to pay for this

Meet.coop is building this



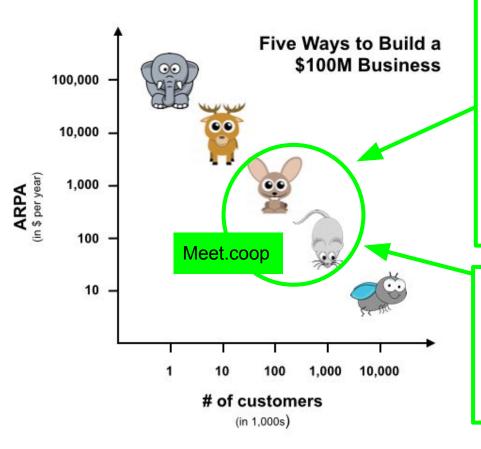
- Product development
- Organisational operations
- Business planning
- Legal and finance support
- DevOps
- User research
- Design and brand
- Data metrics
- Marketing
- Sales
- **Customer success**

We don't have to pay for this <u>yet</u>

Meet.coop is building this



We still have to build a \$100M ecosystem

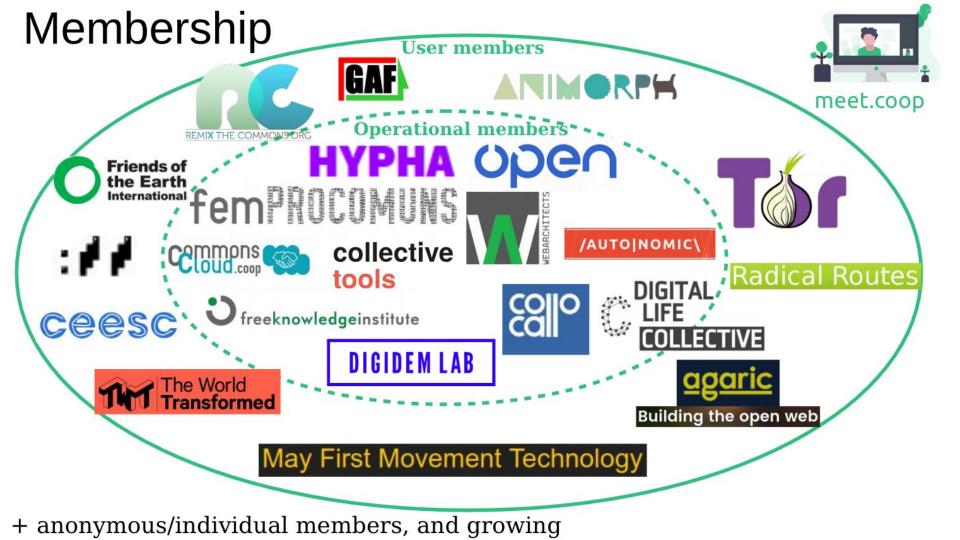


"Most SaaS companies that target small businesses charge something around \$50-100 per month, so their ARPA per year is around \$1k. To acquire 100,000 of these businesses you need something in the order of **0.5-2 million trial signups**, depending on your conversion rate."

"To acquire one million consumers or prosumers who pay you roughly \$100 per year, you need to get at least **10-20 million people to try** your application." Spread start-up costs across many value-aligned co-operatives each with their local networks

7 Co-operative Principles

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
- 2. Democratic Member Control
- 3. Member Economic Participation
- 4. Autonomy and Independence
- 5. Education, Training, and Information
- 6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
- 7. Concern for Community



The Online Meeting Co-operative

A **member-owned, democratically controlled organisation** designed to benefit its members as part of the evolving commons economy.

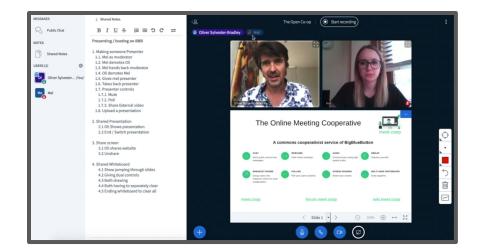
Provide GDPR compliant video conferencing, free from surveillance and monetisation of users' data.

Accelerate the development of cooperatively owned and cooperatively run digital infrastructure.

Contribute to the development of a commons-cooperative economy powered by open source tools and renewable energy.

BigBlueButton Features

- Video recording
- Uploadable presentations
- Screen-sharing
- Public and private chat
- Breakout rooms
- Annotations
- User status icons & raise hand
- Different permissions for viewers, moderators and presenters



BigBlueButton Features



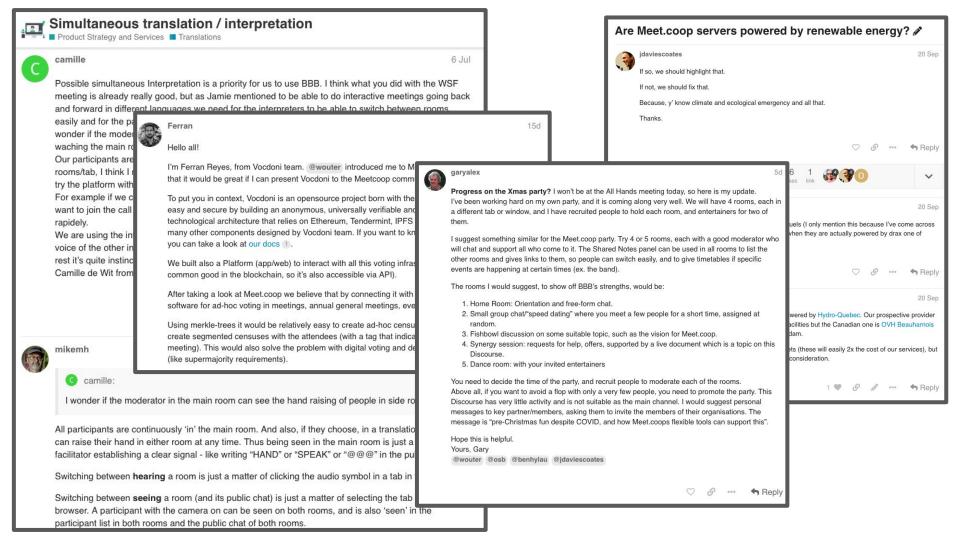


- No need to download a separate app runs in desktop & mobile browsers
- Shared notes and chat built in with multiple export options
- Manual closed captions to support audio accessibility
- Polling features built in to gather participant feedback
- Multi-user whiteboard for group collaboration and rapid voting

User Members

- Agree to Terms and Fair Use
- Contribute according to Service Levels
- May participate in any Circles

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Multi-user Member
Maximum of 10 meeting participants	Maximum of 20 meeting participants	Maximum of 50 meeting participants	Unlimited user accounts, Max 100 meeting participants, Minimum of 3 months subscription
£9 / month	£18 / month	£40 / month	£90 / month
Join now	Join now	Join now	Join now



Operational Members

- Support our mission & values
- Contribute hours/money
- Can request compensation
- Participate in one or more Circles (working groups) and decision making meetings

Circles

The Online Meeting Co-operative has a sociocratic organisational structure consisting of three *circles*, with the following *roles* filled by its operational members.

Organisational Circle Roles

Legal and Organisational Governance is responsible for legal aspects and the governance of our organisation, from our legal status as a multistakeholder co-operative to our data policies. This role is currently filled by Graham at Platform 6.

Membership and Reseller Management is responsible for the relationship between our organisation and its members, including managing membership statuses, processing new operational member applications, user member accounts, and our reseller relationships. This role is currently filled by Wouter at femProcomuns & Free Knowledge Institute.

Organisational Operations is responsible for maintaining the operational aspects of our virtual office, including access management, process documents, and internal training, so we can collaborate effectively as a remote organisation. This role is currently filled by Benedict at Hypha.

Finance is responsible for financial planning, facilitating payments, bookkeeping, and accounting. This role is currently filled by Wouter at femProcomuns & Free Knowledge Institute.

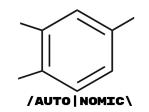
Business Planning is responsible for our business strategy, including market intelligence, product-market fit research, and developing our product roadmap. This role is currently filled by Graham at Platform 6.

Product Circle Roles

Marketing is responsible for the all marketing and promotional efforts, including branding, outreach, newsletter, and other marketing materials. This role is currently filled by Oliver at The Open Co-op and Eileen at Simply Secure.

Sales is responsible for generating sales leads and growing membership contributions to our organisation. This role is currently filled by Oliver at The Open Co-op and Wouter at femProcomuns & Free Knowledge Institute.





2020 Q2 Product Validation





2020 Q2	OPEN 2020 – Reinvented: Networked commons initiatives April 2, 2020 By Oliver Sylvester-Bradley – 20 Comments	Search the site	Search the site _ BOOKS	
	<u>0000:2020</u>	OURS TO HACI AND TO OV	Ours to Hack and Own: The Rise of Platform Cooperativism UK orders only: Discour price: £10 + £3 P&P BUY NOW	
Group ID: 242	TWORKED COMMONS INITIATIVES	Sharing	Sharing Cities – Activating the Urban Commons UK orders only: Discour	
Subgroups and projects Shared projects Archived projects	Search by name Last created ~	Cities	price: £15 + £3 P&P	
□ 0 onboarding ⊕ LDAP web client for SSO.	a collaborative online event for anyone that is			
□ 🖾 greenlight ⊕ A really simple end-user interface for your BigBlueButton server	The Online Meeting Co-operative Forum		् ≡ 🞯	
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□	Fwd: New expense on Meet.coop: £188.92 for Server cost for Q3 ① ■ A Org. Circle	2	3 11h	
	Front-office: meet.coop signups - docu 2	2	3 11h	
	New Member - Use of Demo Site •	0	4 16h	

2020 Q3 Organisational Development





New Operational Members

Nextcloud Calendar

We use Calendar to create a shared CalDAV calendar that supports two-way syncs with mainstream desktop and mobile calendar applications.

2020 Q3

Using a full-featured calendar allows us to put recurring meetings, such as our All Hands and regular meetings of each circle on there easily, and if there are any schedule changes they are automatically synced to all members. We are also encouraged to schedule other Meet.coop calls on here, so all members (even those not in your circle) are aware of what's going on and can hop onto calls should they be interested.

1 metanox

Nextcloud Calendar web view

Add a CalDAV account

Account Type: Advanced

5

There are a few important URLs:

- Read-only web view (publicly accessible): https://cloud.meet.coop/apps/calendar/p/D7zNB8TQjJFopqDi/timeGridWeek/now @
- CalDAV address (for most devices): https://cloud.meet.coop/remote.php/dav/principals/users/<username>/
- CalDAV address (for Apple devices): https://cloud.meet.coop/apps/calendar/p/D7zNB8TQjJFopqDi/dayGridMonth/now

You can also find these addresses in Nextcloud (see screenshot).

On MacOS Calendar, for example, you would enter the URL and your Nextcloud credentials like in the screenshot. For other platforms, you can follow this guide 🖉.

New member: Once you are set up on Nextcloud, you should automatically have full access to the Meet.coop calendar in Calendar. It would be useful to set up this shared calendar on your favourite calendar app, alongside all your other calendars.

	W	ïki <i>⊗</i>			_	User Name: benedict@hypha.coop	
Templates ···· +	To Do ···· + Design XMAS party 🗎 17 days ago		Feedback Required ••• + Assign roles and responsibilities for Q4	Done ··· + Deploy a new BBB server in EU (Priority 4) (Dechnology)	cloud and discussions or decisions	Password:	
✓ 0/2 ····	به روی	Priority 5 O product	Priority 5 O organizational	✓ 3/3 HY		Nextcloud CalDAV on MacOS	5
		✓ 5/9 ···)	S		synchronously and keeping history		
	Separate physical server for Greenlight container and BBB backend rod. technol. all ha v 0/1 all ha v 0	GDPR compliance Priority 5 product ■ ✓ 0/7 G → → Enable Service Desk in git.coop Priority 4 product ● 102 →	draft a sentence on use of renevables product	Wiki data migration and shut down organizationa) V 1/4 Develop and approve compensation framework Priorit © organizati © all ha.	ch of those categories have le, only to the Operational gory is where proposals are proposals, that determine important ational Members can vote either s a Block, and once proposals		10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1
	Share Meet.coop on all our social media channels	Decouple Collocall's Ansible code from their infrastructure C technology V 0/2		✓ 4/4 ✓ 4/4 ✓ 4/4 ✓ 4/4 ✓ 4/4 ✓ 4/4 ✓ 4/4			

2020 Q3

Dedicated Event Server

Our dedicated event servers are designed to support events with many online meetings that require recorded sessions. We have significant experience managing and hosting large events up to 200 people.

The price to hire our event server is £100/week plus a £100 setup fee,

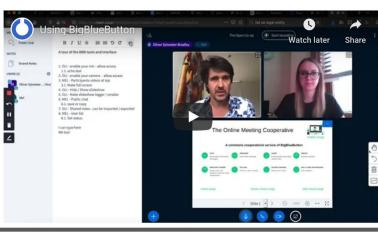
which we will waive if you hi includes 1 hour of support (e require 1 week lead time to s you are interested in hiring the dates and time of your event we can check availability and

Dedicated Custom

For organisations with many custom servers that start at £ will waive if you hire a custor contact us if you are interest 2 weeks lead time to set up t Canada, Germany, France, U

Using BigBlueButton

Watch the video below for a quick tour of the BigBlueButton tools.



 About
 Program
 Previous years
 Recorded talks

 C. F. Q. Wing
 Our

 Networks
 In

 Uncertain

 Times<</td>
 Places

September 8–12, 2020

Online, Distributed Based out of UTC-4 from America/Toronto

Our core conference days will now take place **September 8-12, 2020**—we hope you can join us!

2020 Q4 Functional Circles

New Operational Members



Org Circle: Financials and Wages for Q2/Q3

1	Quarter Summaries	This spreadsh	eet is for sum	nmarizing a	quarterly rev	venues and expenses.
2						
3	Year	2020				
4	Quarter	Q2/Q3	Balance	Q4	Balance	
5	Revenue	£ 1,429.00	£ 1,429.00			
6	Payment processing fees	£ 103.50	£ 1,325.50			
	Cost of services	£ 170.00	£ 1,155.50			
	Amount for distribution	100.00%	£ 1,155.50			
	Autonomic (Luke)	6.33%	£ 73.18			
10	Collective Tools (Andreas)	0.00%	£ -			
	Collective Tools (Petter)	0.00%	£ -			
12	Collocall (Henning)	22.83%	£ 263.84			
	femProcomuns / FKI (Wouter)	14.17%	£ 163.70			
14	femProcomuns / FKI (David)	0.00%	£ -		_	600+ hours
15	Hypha (Ben)	13.33%	£ 154.07			000+110013
16	Hypha (Elon)	0.00%	£ -			recorded in time tracker
17	Hypha (Yurko)	0.00%	£ -			
18	Platform 6 (Graham)	0.00%	£ -			by Operational Members
19	The Open Co-op (Oliver)	14.17%	£ 163.70			by operational members
20	Webarchitects (Chris)	0.00%	£ -			
21	Individual (Melissa)	0.00%	A contract of the second se		-	
22	Amount distributed to members	70.83%	£ 818.48			
	Amount allocated to reserve	29.17%	£ 337.02	-		
24	New Open Collective balance after distributions		£ 337.02			

Deploy a new BBB server in EU

Modified: 4 days ago Created: a month ago

Tech Circle: Infrastructure Expansion

osb Operational Member

I took on the task (in the Deck) to sort out what we will say on our website about this.

My proposal is to add the following wording to the current (and new) site asap:

Meet.coop is dedicated to supporting the transition to a zero carbon economy. We want all our servers to be powered by renewables and are working to transition away from any services which are not. At present we use the following servers:

- Koumbit powered by hydro
- OVH powered by hydro
- · DigLife currently unknown and under review
- · Hetzner powered by renewables
- · WebArchitects powered by Good Energy

We understand there are many complex issues to take into consideration when assessing environmental impacts, from the greater efficiency and reduced heat loss from newer, more efficient data centres - through to the social impacts of displacement associated with hydro power. Our aim is to operate our services with the minimum environmental impact and we will continue to review our procurement choices accordingly.

I am not quite sure what the decision making process is / who needs to sign off on things like this...? Or what the decision making policy is on the forum in general...? But how about - I wait for a week and for feedback / comments and if there are no objections, I go ahead?

@Graham - any update on info RE the DigLife server?

2 🤎 🔗 🚥 🦘 Reply

: 5 ...

georgia : do you want to use the EU or CA server?
 @@dvdjaco : are we able to create EU accounts yet?

@dvdjaco

benhylau

-

yes, but ching found a couple of issues at the new server and wanted us to hold off using it more until this is resolved. But I guess it is ok if we use it internally for now, worse thing that can happen is that they need to bring it down while you're using it and you have to go back to Canada ;-)

Yurko

testing may be a good thing to 👍

also re EU vs CA server - i would suggest perhaps figuring out a maintenance schedule for each and start to advertise that along side which server do you want

that way that can be built into the decision. and we can start clearing out a maintenance window for upgrades

@dvdjaco

yeah, testing internally is ok

n	≜ Details	0 Attachments	Comments	4 Timeline
	Priority	4 O technology		
	¥ () ()			
	💾 Set a du	e date		
	Add to a Connect	project items to a projec	ct to make them	easier to find
	S Streamli servers	ne provisioning o	f custom	•••
	Description			/ i
		riteria: A bbb ser eet.coop is deplo		
	Description			
		sers are located in BB server somewl		
	TODO			

- Select a hosting provider (@david)
- Deploy the server according to Collocall requirements (@yurko)
- Deploy BBB on the new server (@hng)

×

Product Circle: Brand Development

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80% opacity

60% opacity

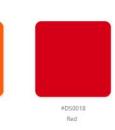
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Orange

Colour Palette





Buttons

Standard button

Hover

Pressed

Loading

Cancel

Cancel

Cancel

Cancel

#6A0927 #FFFFF Burgundy White

Trademarks

Menus / Drop Downs

Plain		
Dropdown/active item	Hover	Select
Menu item	Menuitem	Menuitem
Menu item	Menu item	Menuitem
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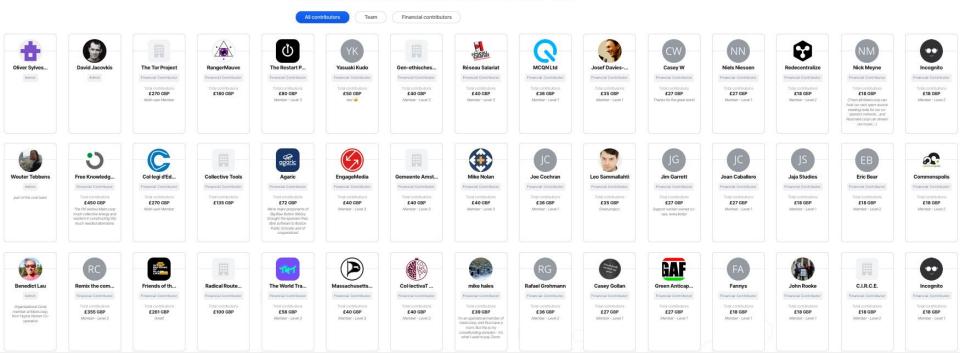
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On November 23, 2020, our Open Collective contribution crossed **GBP 1,000 Monthly Recurring Revenue (MRR)** with 65 contributors

Meet.coop is all of us

Our contributors 65

Everyone who has supported Meet.coop. Individuals and organizations that believe in -and take ownership of- our purpose.



2021 Roadmap

- Improve and expand our service to better serve the needs of User Members
- Get \$100,000 of grant funding so we can pay a fair wage to Operational Members over 2021
- Build up to \$10,000 MRR so we have a path to independent sustainability
- Seek Operational Members in regions of our User Members, so we can provide localized support by language and timezone, and to ensure our profits support local economies
- Contribute to product research and development of BigBlueButton and Greenlight, as well as other free software we rely on





Meet.coop Xmas Party! December 11th 16h GMT / 17h CET

Join: https://forum.meet.coop/t/meet-coop-xmas-party/432