MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
RUST FOUNDATION
(a Delaware non-profit corporation)

Date: December 12, 2023
Time: 22:00 UTC
Place: By online videoconference

Directors present:
Lars Bergstrom
Jakob Degen
Eric Garcia
Peixin Hou
Ryan Levick
Seth Markle
Scott McMurray
Santiago Pastorino
Mark Rousskov
Nell Shamrell-Harrington
Andy Wafaa

Others present:
Rebecca Rumbul (Executive Director)
Paul Lenz (Director of Finance & Funding)
Gracie Gregory (Director of Communications and Marketing)
Joel Marcey (Director of Technology)
Abi Broom (Operations Manager)

A quorum was present.

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Bergstrom opened the meeting with opening remarks and a check for a quorum. He welcomed the quorum to the December 2023 Board meeting and handed the lead and logistics to Ms. Rumbul.

2. Approval of Minutes

A resolution was put forth to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, was briefly discussed, and approved by unanimous consent of the members of the Board present.

> *WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Foundation has reviewed the draft minutes of its regular meeting held on November 14th 2023, which were circulated to the Board (the "November 14th Minutes").*
>
> *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the November 14th Minutes are hereby approved.*

3. Executive Director & Management Team update

Management

Ms. Rumbul gave an update. In the last couple of weeks some generous additional donations of funding had come through: $1m unrestricted from Microsoft, $750k from Google for restricted activities to be agreed, and indication from AWS of potential continued financial support for the Security Initiative. The Foundation staff team did not currently have a proposal for allocating this new funding because it was all such recent news, but would be working on a 1-3 year plan to bring to the board.

Work was ongoing on the Foundation's training and certification R&D, with lots of positive interest and feedback coming in from member companies, individual trainers and others. There were plans to hold some listening sessions during Q1 2024 to get perspectives from interested parties.

RF staff had attended Open Core Summit, OSS Summit Tokyo, & run a Rust workshop at a university event in Germany (TechAachen), plus received an invitation to the CISA Security Summit in March. Positive meetings were held at/around these events with new and existing contacts. The Foundation has also had further input into the development of the EU's Cyber Resilience Act, with the final text now confirmed.

The Foundation had become a founding signatory to the OpenSSF Secure Development Principles. The Foundation's tech team were keen to do this, with the Rust Project also supportive provided sufficient care was taken not to place any unreasonable obligation on volunteer maintainers.

Work on the trademark policy had restarted, with the Leadership Council now involved and Foundation staff working to brief them on the issues with the current policy and the potential ways forward.

Technology/Infrastructure

Mr Marcey gave the update.

Foundation tooling Typomania (now integrated into the crates publishing pipeline) had caught three potentially malicious crates; Sandpit, a new tool not yet open sourced, had caught six. Mr. Bergstrom asked about celebrating and recognizing these wins. Mr. Marcey responded that they have to go through the security response process initially, but once that is complete it should be a priority to promote the outcomes.

The Foundation is coordinating a project to improve supply chain security and developing a Signing Synergy Statement – a strategy to help make this happen. Eventually, a public blog post will be shared. Mr. Rousskov requested that this draft be shared with teams within the Project before being made public to ensure collective understanding and set expectations.

Discussions had been started about whether Rust should become an official CVE Numbering Authority. Mr. Marcey is recommending its scope should be limited to the Rust Project for the time being, rather than ecosystem-wide.

Other technical work included crates.io download request by cargo version visualization via DataDog, and continued crates.io improvements (integrating async/await, removing support for non-canonical downloads, cleaning out spam crates – 2000+ this month). The specification subteam had held its first two meetings, and decided on an initial assignment to present and discuss a sample specification chapter.

Finance & Grants

For 2023, breaking even (or a small surplus) is forecast. A full review of performance against 2023's original budget will be conducted to review efficacy at forecasting.

Mr. Lenz noted that the Foundation's bank, Chase, through an administration failure, had frozen the US bank account for 6 days in mid-November. Although no lasting damage has been done, staff were looking at mitigation strategies such as transferring a substantial amount of cash to the UK entity in early 2024 to ensure an alternative source of funds to draw upon if anything like this should happen again.

There was a discussion on the draft 2024 budget, framed by the note that it had been put together a couple of weeks ago and was already outdated due to the recent news about new funding. Foundation staff would be working to revise it and would bring a redraft for board approval, likely to the February meeting.

Mr. Levick asked about opportunities for project leadership to feed in their spending priorities, and Mr. Lenz responded that this would be very welcome so that the Foundation could make provision for those needs in the budget. Mr. Bergstrom suggested that the Project Directors and Member Directors agree on a coordinated set of strategic priorities to better guide this allocation. Off the back of this, there was a discussion on the Foundation's strategic priorities in general. Ms. Rumbul noted that the draft budget represented the strategic priorities as of a couple of weeks ago, but the influx of new funding meant that the Foundation would need to figure out what additional strategic priorities to fund. Input from all board directors would be invaluable to the staff in that process.

Communications & Events

Ms. Gregory gave an update on recent and in-progress communications output via the blog and newsletters.

The Foundation intended to issue its annual report in late December, and a first draft of copy would be shared with the Board in the next few days for review and input. As well as that, a draft of a second report on progress in the Security Initiative was about to be shared with the staff for review, and then with members of the Project before publication.

The Foundation's new website was now about 90% built, with a target launch now in Q1 of 2023. A preview would be ready in early January, potentially at the January board meeting.

Recruitment for the Marketing Specialist was about to begin.

4. RustConf 2024 Update

Ms. Gregory announced that the venue and dates were now confirmed. The venue is centrally located in Montreal, and its staff have been helpful and responsive to date, and will help work to meet the conference's accessibility needs and technical requirements.

Ms. Gregory is working with Tilde, the previous conference vendor, to migrate key properties such as the website and sponsor contacts to Foundation management. There will be an email subscription list set up to receive updates about the event. The Foundation will also seek to work with the Project Directors and Leadership Council to identify Rust Project collaboration points, in particular the process for establishing and running the program committee.

[At this point, Santiago Pastorino left the meeting.]

Over the next few weeks, sponsorship opportunities will be finalized and a prospectus created. Ms. Gregory asked the Board if there was early interest in the Diamond Tier level sponsorship. There was some interest from members to potentially pursue this, but discussion within their own companies would need to happen first.

5. Project Director Update

Mr. Degen provided the update.

- Two Rust releases 1.74, 1.74.1
- Early discussions around an Editions blog post
- [RFC](#) for merging the infra and release teams close to entering FCP

6. Sub-Committee Updates

The Technology Committee has established a monthly meeting cadence and has had two meetings to date. The Committee's primary theme will be to dive deep into the Foundation's infrastructure strategy and ensure everything is set up in the best way to support the Rust Project.

No other committees had met since the last meeting.

7. AOB

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 23:20 UTC.