LESSONS LEARNED FROM ORGANIZING COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS FOR OPEN-SOURCE TOOLS

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SETTING THE STAGE

- 📖 open source model/tool
- used by some externals, interest by more
- you organized workshop
  - with 15 participants
  - 🗺️ from all over the world
  - hybrid
- 🤦 ignored setup instructions, tech trouble
- 🙊🙈🐵 online participants stay muted & invisible

MAIN GOAL

- discuss, clarify, write down
- common understanding
- informs all further decisions
- how to measure success?

STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE

- improve understanding of the model and its results
- spark interest vs. provide in depth understanding
- support informed decision if this is the right tool
- basis for long-term cooperation

GROW COMMUNITY

- enable people to
  - use and run model
  - develop and contribute

KEY QUESTIONS

- quite general
- informed by main goal

TARGET AUDIENCE

- open for all
  - ✅ more people
  - ⚠️ unpredictable (prior knowledge, commitment)
  - ⚠️ heterogeneous audience
    - 👩‍💻 tech support required
- by invitation
  - ✅ more predictable, more control
  - ⚠️ no new people

WORKSHOP FORMAT

- online
  - ✅ more people, accessible
  - ⚠️ potentially timezone trouble
    - recordings
    - Q&A sessions for different timezones
  - ⚠️ challenge: camera off audience; who is following?
  - ⚠️ less commited audience

- in-person
  - ⚠️ less people, much less accessible
  - ⚠️ meeting room required
  - ✅ direct access for tech help
  - ✅ better interaction/discussion, also outside sessions
- hybrid
  - ⚠️ more setup
  - ⚠️ danger: 2-class audience

TYPE OF SESSIONS

- input
- discussion
  - requires good understanding
- hands-on
  -  tech support!
  - how to get feedback?
  - exercises?

WHERE PARTICIPANTS WORK

- local PC
  - heterogeneous systems (Windows, Mac, Linux)
  - 🔒 no admin permission
  - 🐌 super slow/outdated system
  - 😅 pre-workshop setup ignored
  - 👩‍💻 lots of tech support needed

- provide access to prepared system
  - ✅ system works
  - suitable infrastructure required
  - ⚠️ unfamiliar system for participants
- virtual machine on PC (e.g. dockerfile)
  - ✅ system works
  - ⚠️ requires setup on PC
  - ⚠️ unfamiliar system for participants

WORKSHOP TEAM

- organizers (timetable, website, ...)
- presenters
  - one session per person
    - less work for each presenter
    - more coordination overhead
    - ⚠️ danger: redundant or missing parts
- 👩‍💻 tech support

RECAP

question	A	B	C
audience	broader	interested	involved
format	online	in person	hybrid
session	input	discussion	hands-on
team	organizers	presenters	👩‍💻 tech support

RECOMMENDATIONS

- expectation management (communicate goal)
- 🚀 stories session
- 🗓️ timetable
- website with all infos, tutorials, slides

Git & the GitHub repository

Beginner

- Fork and update MAgPIE from/with upstream repository.
- Understand the basic workflow including pull requests and branches.
- Have heard some very basic git commands and know where to find more help.

START TUTORIAL

SUMMARY

- 💡 clarify main goal
- 🤓 consider ressources & key questions upfront
- ⚠️ prepare for complications
  - tricky setup problems
  - participants not committed, drop out
  - more time is needed
- 🚀 be proud of spreading open source!

FINAL SLIDE

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slides on GitHub

slides made with reveal.js