Bootstrapping a Local C++ User Group

Quickie Session
April 12, 2018

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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.

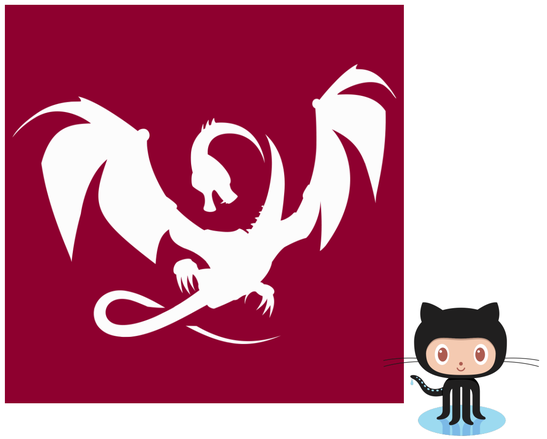
With lots of enthusiasm and little experience in this regard, we reached-out to our C++ friends from different local companies and started a communication channel for sharing C++ goodies: links, blog-posts, videos, articles, code snippets, conference trip reports, etc.

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

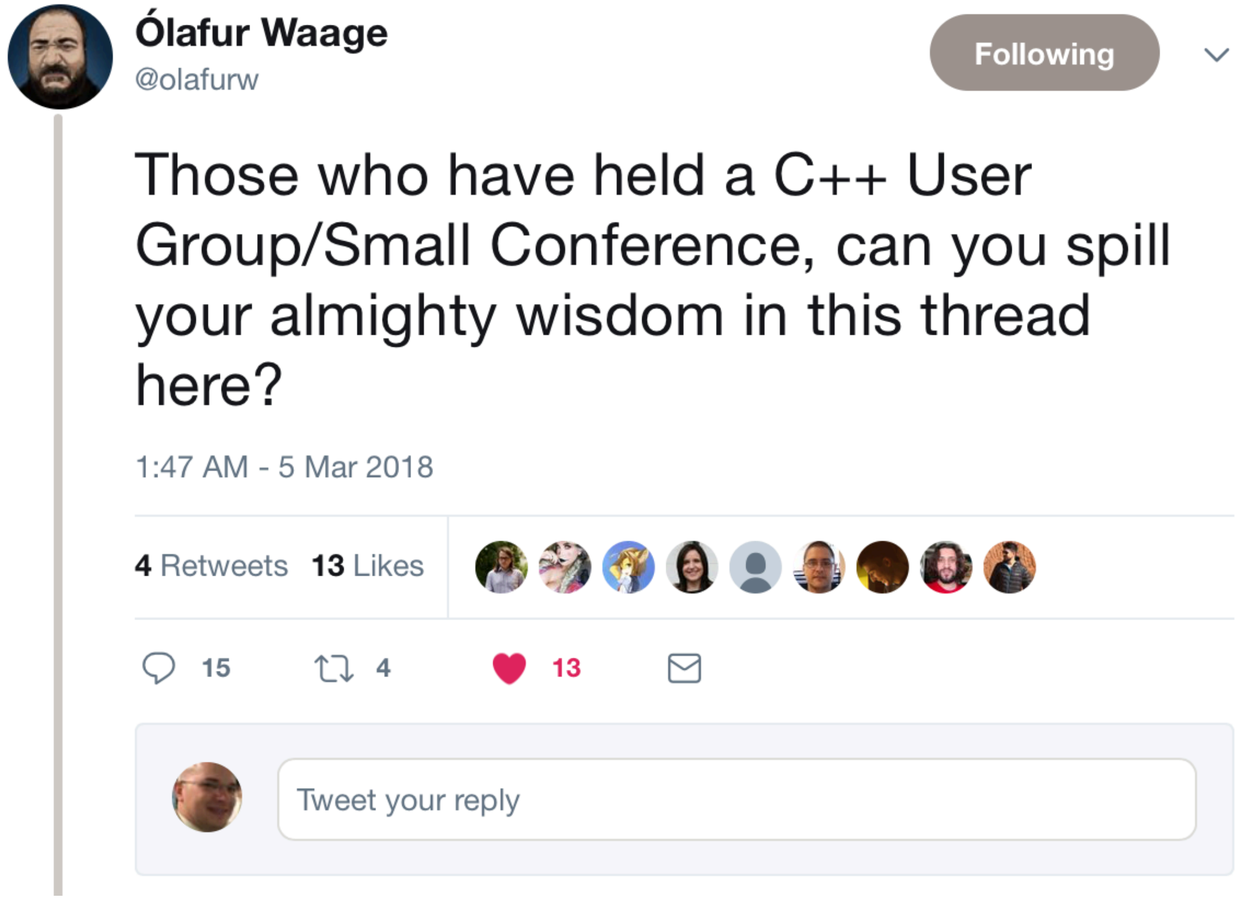
accu 2018

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



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 }

https://bit.ly/2v6I6oh

Wonderful Community Out There...

Jon Kalb @_JonKalb

Local C++ User Group Content Ideas:

https://bit.ly/2qrDUdG

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/

FAQ

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

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.

FAQ

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

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.

👉 Register Your Group

https://meetingcpp.com/mcpp/usergroups/registration.php

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:*

Formats

Meeting C++

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:

www.meetingcpp.com/meetingcpp/news/items/Cpp-User-Group-Meetings-in-April-2018.html

Meeting C++

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::encontro();
- 3.4 C++ UG Cary, NC - February ▽ 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++ und 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 Juce - 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 🎉

Meetup

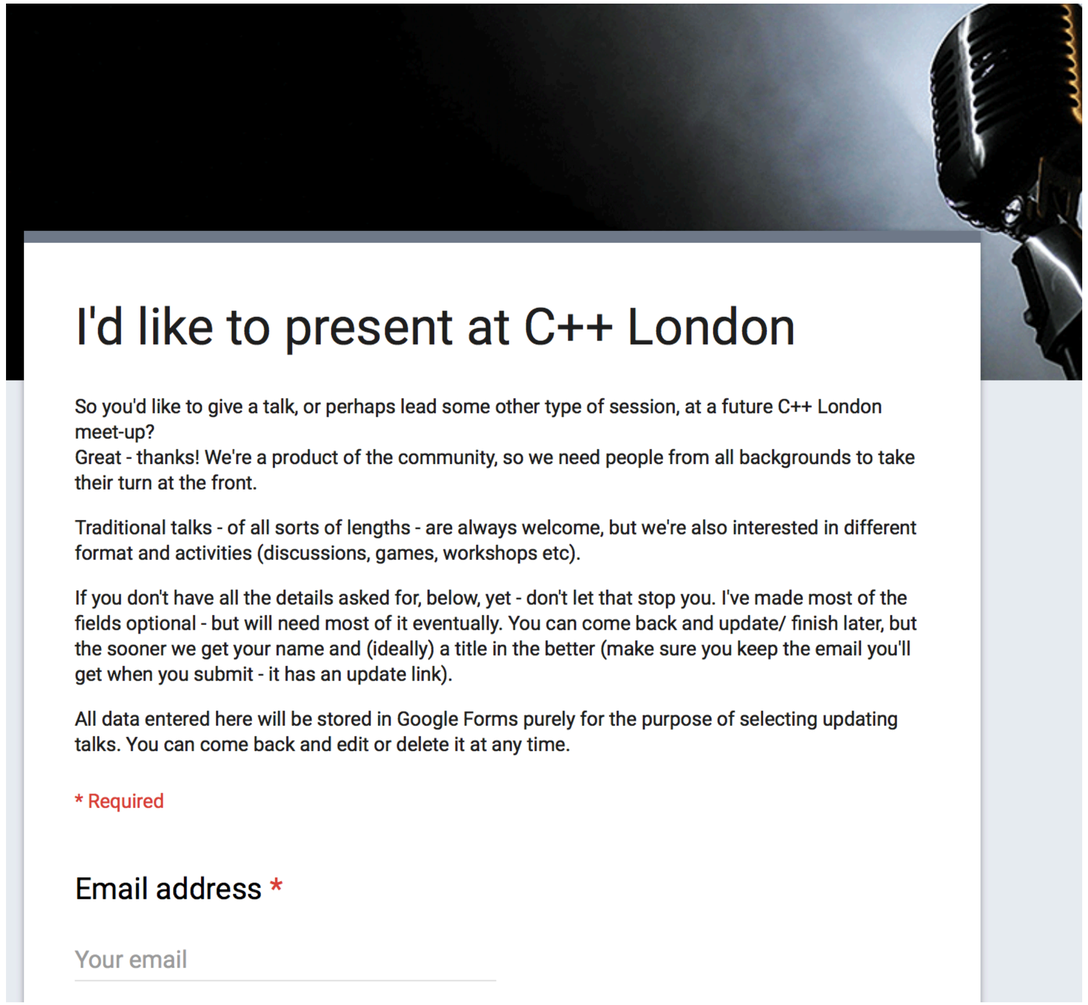
meetup.com

How can I present at a local user group ?

Some groups have special contact forms for presenters.

Eg.

C++ London (presenters link)



I'd like to present at C++ London

So you'd like to give a talk, or perhaps lead some other type of session, at a future C++ London meet-up?
Great - thanks! We're a product of the community, so we need people from all backgrounds to take their turn at the front.

Traditional talks - of all sorts of lengths - are always welcome, but we're also interested in different format and activities (discussions, games, workshops etc).

If you don't have all the details asked for, below, yet - don't let that stop you. I've made most of the fields optional - but will need most of it eventually. You can come back and update/ finish later, but the sooner we get your name and (ideally) a title in the better (make sure you keep the email you'll get when you submit - it has an update link).

All data entered here will be stored in Google Forms purely for the purpose of selecting updating talks. You can come back and edit or delete it at any time.

* Required

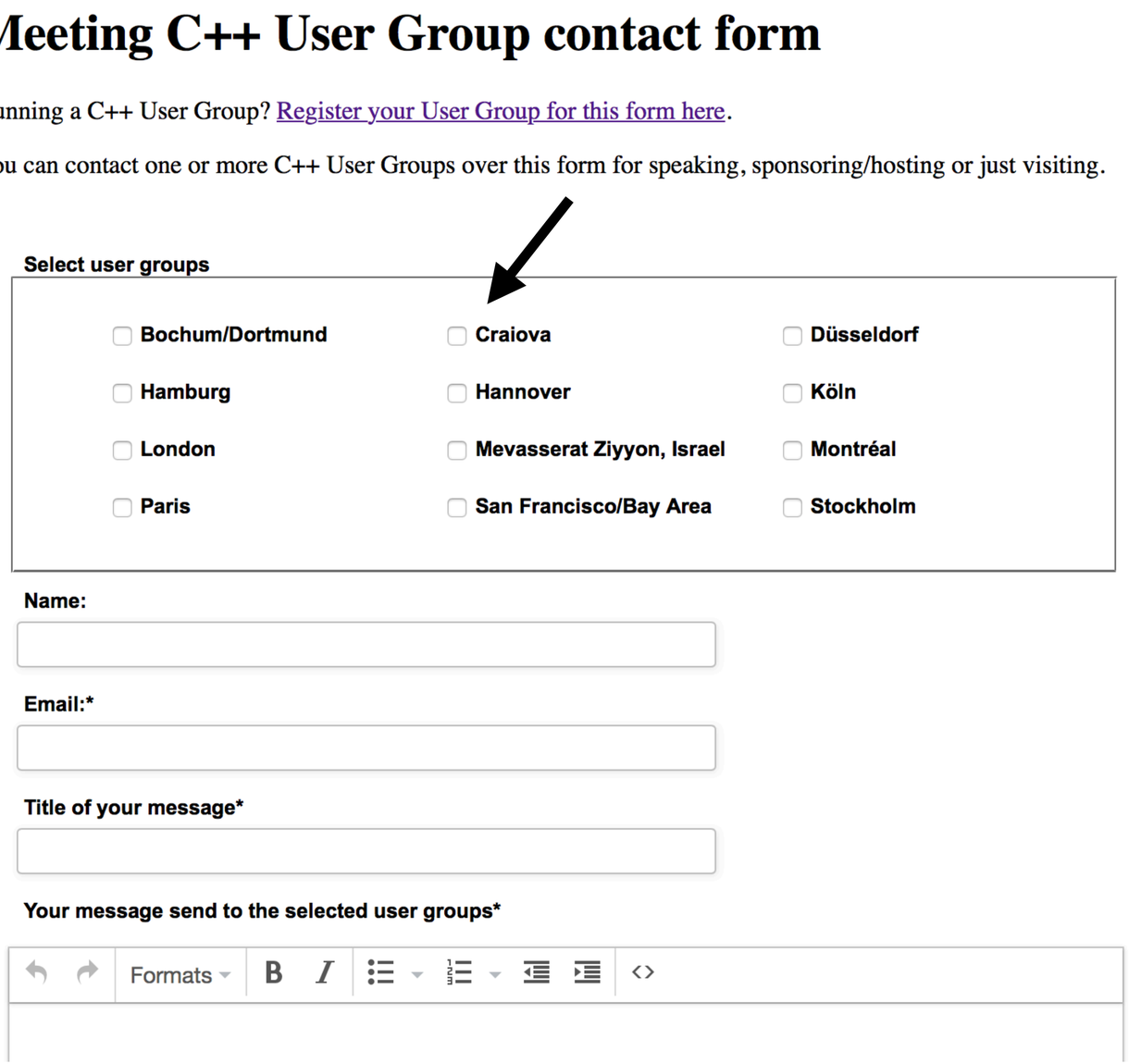
Email address *

Your email

How can I present at a local user group ?

Contact a user-group:

https://meetingcpp.com/mcpp/usergroups/kontaktusergroups.php



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.

Select user groups

Bochum/Dortmund	Craiova	Düsseldorf
Hamburg	Hannover	Köln
London	Mevasserat Ziyyon, Israel	Montréal
Paris	San Francisco/Bay Area	Stockholm

Name:

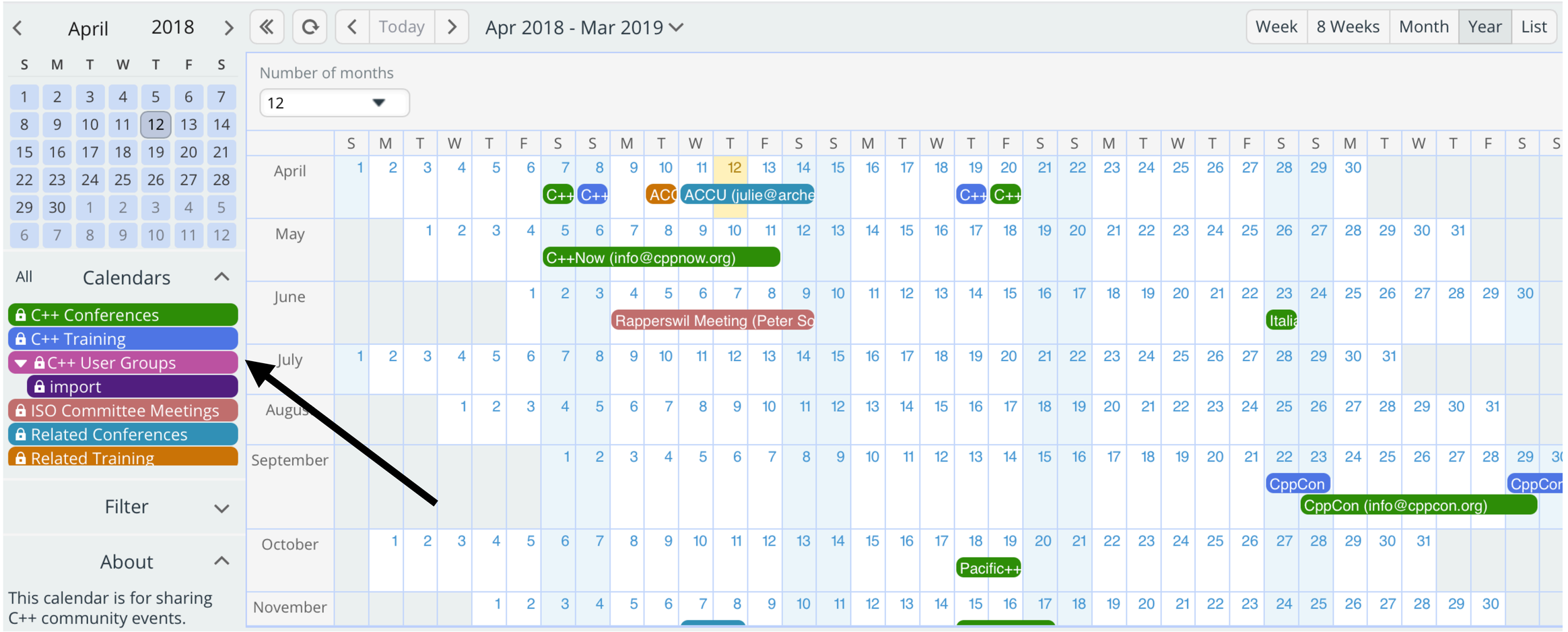
Email:*

Title of your message*

Your message send to the selected user groups*

Formats

👉 Use a Calendar For Your Group



C++ Community Events:
https://bit.ly/CppCommunityCalendar

Use Social Media Channels

👉 Here's my user group:

https://www.facebook.com/rocpp

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 }

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

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/

Hot New Trends: Distributed Meetups

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/

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

https://corecppil.github.io/Prospectus/Sponsors.html

Looking For Sponsors ?

Adi Shavit @AdiShavit

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 presentions 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