

3rd plenum meeting of NewPipe e.V.

People present: Poolitzer, Stypox, Schabi, Fynn, Tobi

Agenda items:

1. Appointment of the protocol writer
2. Determining the quorum
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the protocol of 10.02.2024
5. Devise a budget plan
6. Trademark for NewPipe e.V.
7. Miscellaneous

The meeting is started at 18:11 German time, 20.08.2024, by the chairman of the meeting, Poolitzer.

Item 1: Appointment of the protocol writer

Stypox agrees to take the protocol notes.

Item 2: Determining the quorum

The people present acknowledge that a timely invite happened and that the meeting has quorum according to §7.6 of the statute. The agenda was attached as part of the invitation, along with an invite to think about proposals for the budget plan.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted unanimously.

Item 4: Adoption of the protocol of 10.02.2024

The protocol is adopted unchanged with 1 abstention.

Item 5: Devise a budget plan

Poolitzer explains that despite a bare minimum effort to ask for donations, the e.V. still received a lot of donations and has $\approx 25000\text{€}$ on the bank account. During the month of July 2024 in particular, the team collected 11000€ instead of the usual 2000€ due to hotfix NewPipe updates being released.

Fynn (the cash auditor) explains that at the end of 2023 the NewPipe e.V. had $\approx 4000\text{€}$ on its bank account, and that as long as this value does not increase by 5000€ at the end of 2024, reaching $\approx 9000\text{€}$, there would be no need to pay taxes.

Stypox notes that $\approx 5000\text{€}$ are going to be used to pay Schabi for August and September according to the contract signed with him, and that the e.V. can expect another $\approx 8000\text{€}$ from donations until the end of the year.

Therefore, the budget plan to devise is of $\approx 19000\text{€}$ for the remaining four months of 2024. The following ideas have been brought up by the participants.

Offering Schabi to extend his contract

Poolitzer asks Schabi if he wants to extend his contract to continue working on NewPipe. Schabi explains that working three more months might be an option for him, however he is not completely sure.

Schabi raises a concern about “Scheinselbstständigkeit” (“fake self-employment”): according to German law, it is forbidden to make a *permanent* self-employment contract between a private person and an

employer, because a normal employment contract is to be used for a permanent relationship. There is no clear definition of *permanent* however, and the 6 months of extended contract might be too long. So the plenum points out that the correct way to avoid “Scheinselbstständigkeit” for the extended contract would be to have Schabi receive at least 1/6th of their income as an independent contractor from other contracts.

Schabi explains that he has been looking for alternatives, e.g. by being employed by WTF e.G. which would then allow him to work on NewPipe. However they responded that employment is too costly to setup ($\approx 1000\text{€}/\text{month}$) and would create “friction”.

The plenum decides to allocate 7500€ for extending Schabi’s contract by three months ($3\text{month} * 80\text{h}/\text{month} * 32\text{€}/\text{h} = 7680\text{€}$), despite him not being sure he wants to accept it.

Finding additional contractors for working on NewPipe

Schabi proposes that people other than him should be contracted to avoid the e.V. being accused of “Scheinselbstständigkeit”.

Stypox proposes to post a call for applications, and list info about the job (salary, requirements, familiarity with open source Android. . .), although he points out it would take a lot of time to review applications. Fynn also adds that someone would need to do code review.

Poolitzer proposes to first look for possible contractors among NewPipe contributors, and only afterwards open applications to everyone. Fynn suggest to contact people directly, as not all contributors might know about the e.V. or be confident enough to ask for a contract.

Stypox raises the concern that it might be complicated to make a contract with someone abroad, and Schabi confirms the WTF e.G. has had trouble making contracts with the US, but Tobi suggests to just ask a business advisor in case the issue arises. Schabi advises the board to be careful, since e.V.s do not have limited liability.

Stypox explains that when Schabi was contracted, he was trusted and known to e.V. members, so giving a broad task to him was fine, but for other people it might be better to find a specific task and offer money for that. Fynn instead suggests to first make a low-volume hourly contract (e.g. 20 hours/month) to evaluate if a contractor behaves well.

Schabi and Fynn suggests to avoid “Scheinselbstständigkeit” by contracting people for a small amount of time, or by making sure the person is also doing other independent work.

The plenum assigns to the board the task of finding someone suitable for working on NewPipe. The plenum decides to allocate 7500€ for this additional contractor(s).

IT infrastructure

Poolitzer explains TheAssassin’s needs for continuing work on infrastructure, in particular highlighting the fact that he would benefit from having someone work with him.

Schabi is concerned about the IT infrastructure growing bigger than needed, but Fynn and Poolitzer explain that the infrastructure is meant to support not only NewPipe and the e.V. but also other projects in the future. Although no project has reached out to the e.V. asking for hosting space yet, it is better to prepare for it instead of being caught off guard.

The plenum decides to allocate 600€ to buying more servers and/or services (based on the fact that with 150€/month you can rent high-end servers on Hetzner, and that 4 months are left until the end of 2024), and 1200€ to find a person helping TheAssassin on IT infrastructure.

Participation to conferences

Tobi proposes organizing a 1-week or a 4-day long meetup, after observing that a 2-day meetup is too short. The plenum agrees with him, but notes that it might be difficult to find a date range fitting for

everyone.

Therefore Schabi proposes to meet at FOSDEM (3-4 February 2025 in Bruxelles) or at CCC (27-30 December 2024 in Hamburg), highlighting that CCC might happen in a good date range for everybody.

Fynn however explains that it's really difficult to get tickets for CCC, making it complicated to organize a meetup.

Stypox calculates the cost for CCC to be around 600€/person (200€ travel + 200€ room + 200€ ticket), and along with Fynn calculates the cost for FOSDEM to be around 400€/person (200€ travel + 200€ room + free ticket), which would be more manageable.

The plenum therefore decides to allocate 2000€ to make it possible for 5 people to attend to FOSDEM.

Merch

Poolitzer explains TheAssassin's proposal to buy NewPipe-themed merch.

Poolitzer also advances the option to create an online merch shop, but the idea is quickly discarded since it would require the e.V. to collect money which is legally complicated, and the e.V. does not need more monetary income.

Therefore Poolitzer proposes to just send merch to active contributors. Fynn and Stypox note that a T-Shirt costs $\approx 25\text{€}$, while a hoodie $\approx 50\text{€}$.

Fynn proposes opening a free-NewPipe-stickers website for ≈ 2 months, and put a donations button there. He therefore suggests to order a sufficient amount of stickers.

Other ideas are proposed by the plenum, e.g. logos stitched on T-Shirts or custom socks.

The plenum agrees to allocate 500€ to buying and distributing merch.

Giving hardware to contributors

The plenum decides to allocate a maximum of 1000€ for buying hardware for NewPipe contributors that need it, although much less is expected to be spent. This applies both to e.g. development computers for contributors who can't afford them as proposed by Poolitzer, and also to test devices as proposed by Stypox.

Schabi suggests to advertise this fact in the NewPipe website, on the NewPipe e.V. website and in a GitHub issue.

Paying a graphics designer for NewPipe e.V. corporate identity

Poolitzer proposes to hire a graphics designer to create a logo and other graphics for the e.V..

Stypox suggests either finding a service, or a person directly.

The plenum dismisses this proposal temporarily and does not allocate money for it. This is because nobody would be available to provide timely feedback on the designs created by the designer, and because there is no consensus among the e.V. members on how the logo should look like yet.

Paying someone to make designs for the NewPipe app

Stypox suggests to look for a graphics designer for the NewPipe app. Schabi asserts that this will be needed when the app will be redesigned.

Fynn points out that this will be doable only when some (paid) NewPipe developers are there to provide feedback. Therefore Schabi proposes to add a donation button to the app, to have enough money to pay two people at the same time.

The plenum postpones this proposal to the future and does not allocate money for it.

Paying for tax consulting

Fynn suggests to allocate some money to pay a tax consultant.

Schabi also suggests asking a professional to look over the e.V. from time to time.

Poolitzer explains there will be no need to file taxes during 2024, since in 2023 the e.V. earned less than 5000€. The plenum agrees not to allocate money for this point.

Donating to LiberaPay

Fynn suggests donating 300€/year to LiberaPay, to cover the costs caused by the donations received by the e.V. because of chargeback fees.

Stypox says that the e.V. gives 600€/year to weblate, for comparison.

The plenum agrees to allocate 300€ to donate to LiberaPay.

Item 6: Trademark for NewPipe e.V.

Fynn explains why a trademark for NewPipe is important and how it can be obtained:

The current legal protection of the NewPipe project is just the license GPLv3, which is legally enough for copycats.

However, the logo is not well protected and there is no legal protection at all for the name.

The legal tool to protect branding are trademarks, there are three (main) ways to register one:

- name+logo: only protects the combination*
- name: it should be simple to register just the name, as long as it doesn't conflict with other names in the same category*
- logo: it might be more complicated to register the logo since it might be similar to other logos, so we would need to ask a professional, or do it later, or not do it at all*

Registering a name is probably enough as it's what people use on search engines.

Regarding regions, I know how to register a trademark in EU/Germany. Registering one in the US might require having someone there to do it for us.

Fynn therefore suggests registering the NewPipe name within the EU, which would cost 850€. The money would be charged the moment the application is sent, therefore the cost can be added to the 2024 budget plan.

Poolitzer notes that the approval from contributors would be needed.

The plenum holds a vote on this: “Do you want to offer towards TeamNewPipe that the e.V. registers the name ‘NewPipe’ as a trademark in the EU?” The plenum unanimously approves the statement.

The plenum adds the 850€ for the trademark registration to the budget plan.

Continuation of item 5: Vote on the budget plan

The plenum holds a vote: “Do you approve the budget plan devised in the meeting?”

The plenum unanimously approves the budget plan.

The agreed-upon budget plan is provided as an attachment to this protocol and can be found on the next page.

Item 7: Miscellaneous

After acknowledging that nobody has any miscellaneous topic, Poolitzer closes the meeting at 20:59.

Income

Budget 25000
Expected donations 8000

Sum 33000

End of 2024 -2450

Expenses

Tax free income 5000
Existing savings 4000

Development contractors

Schabi (remaining in 1st contract) 5000
Schabi (2nd contract) 7500
Additional contractor(s) 7500

Infrastructure

Hardware spendings 600
Contractor / company 1200

Meetings / Congresses

FOSDEM 2025 2000

Merch 500

Testing and dev hardware 1000

Donations

Liberapay (Org) 300

NewPipe Trademark Registration EU 850

Sum 35450