

Best practices for the OpenBMC community

Kurt Taylor (krtaylor)
August 14, 2018

Part 2: Communication



OpenBMC

Communication



OpenBMC

- IRC
 - OpenBMC uses Freenode for real-time communication
 - Get a good IRC client
 - xchat for Linux is easy to set up, xchat2 for Windows, Limechat for Mac
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_Relay_Chat_clients
 - Consider setting up an IRC bouncer/proxy
 - Log channels scrollbar while you are away
 - ZNC is a common one for Linux
 - Don't:
 - Ask to ask, just ask
 - Ping, just ask
 - Ask if anyone is around, just ask
 - Flood a channel with a log dump, use a pastebin service
 - Do:
 - Be patient, mindful of timezone differences
 - Avoid colloquialisms and regional phrases
 - Communicate in channel, not in a cache with a link (Matrix)
 - First impressions
 - First timer? Join the channel and sit a minute, briefly introduce yourself
 - Never expect an immediate response
 - Don't join a channel, ask a question, wait a minute and then quit
 - More tips: <http://www.ircbeginner.com/ircinfo/etiquette.html>

Communication



OpenBMC

- Email
 - Get a good client
 - gmail web client, filtering is difficult
 - Consider another such as Thunderbird
 - Subscribe to openbmc – EVERYONE should be on this list
 - Use it as your **first** email point of reference
 - Use it for all project communication that has a multi-day duration
 - Or for communication that needs broader audience
 - Email etiquette
 - Don't top post
 - A one line reply shouldn't be stuck in the middle of 150 lines
 - Edit length, but leave enough subject matter reference
 - Assume that everyone reads all the email
 - Only copy a specific person if they have been in previous conversation
 - Only bump with specific copy if no response in a couple of days
 - As before, always assume the best possible intention

Communication



OpenBMC

- Weekly Community-wide Meetings
 - <https://github.com/openbmc/openbmc/wiki/Weekly-Community-Telecon>
 - Make every effort to attend
 - Bring n+1 release development plans
 - Bring wide-audience, large development design decisions
 - Add all topics to the wiki, or email a topic idea
- Sub-teams/Working group meetings
 - Can and normally should form
 - Need a facilitator to set up and run
 - Consider having an IRC meeting
 - Set a time to meet in the #openbmc channel
 - Would work better if logged
 - May need #openbmc-meeting (also logged)
 - Meeting bots enhance the usefulness
 - <https://wiki.debian.org/MeetBot>