Community breakout session

A community riot
Goals

- Review the current community channels
- Identify issues with our community interaction
Overview

- Categories of channels.
- Which communications channels do we have?
- Review of the communication channels.
- Discussion!
Communication types

- **Sync**
  - F2F

- **Async**
  - News
Communication channels
Communication types

(matrix)
Having that said

● The channels we have should be as easy as possible to use
● Any threshold in the participation process can hamper the new user.
Having that said

- How should an IoT enthusiast join and participate in the RIOT community?

- Does he join the mailing list?
- Scroll through the open issues on github?
- Where to show us the awesome project using RIOT?
- Where to ask if RIOT doesn’t compile?
Github

- Proven for code enhancements and issues
- Not suitable for questions
  - Closed vs resolved
Matrix (Chat)

- Quick response to questions
- Depends on maintainer activity
- No records
- Time zone issues with America / Asia
Mailing lists
Mailing lists are hard for users

For a new participant, there are multiple issues with the mailing lists

- No searchable archive. How to know if a question was already answered before subscribing?
- No way to pin important topics
- Where should the question be submitted to? Devel or User?
- 2.8K email vs 106K github notifications over 4 years
But maintainers like them right?

Nope:

- What is the best protocol for Real-Time Communication\(^1\)
- Using IEEE802.15.4 on RIOT-OS native\(^2\)
- Multi-Agents and Riot\(^3\)
- TCP send recv on ESP32\(^4\)

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1: https://lists.riot-os.org/pipermail/users/2020-August/001595.html
2: https://lists.riot-os.org/pipermail/users/2020-July/001573.html
3: https://lists.riot-os.org/pipermail/users/2020-June/001558.html
4: https://lists.riot-os.org/pipermail/users/2020-May/001549.html
What are we missing out on?

User stories:

- Appreciated features
- Lack of features
- Usage problems
- Show & Tell
What are we missing out on?

How do we (maintainers) know what to prioritize?

- IPv4?
- Link layer security?
- Power saving?
- USB firmware upgrades?
- GPIO extenders
- AODVv2?
- Userspace threads
- SCHC
What we need

- A show & tell
- A venue to ask usage questions
- Discussion between users and maintainers
- With an easy to use interface

- Because the mailing lists do not provide this
Discussion

- Does the RIOT community have a good grasp what the user base needs?
- Do we want to replace the mailing list?
- How do we want to use Stack Overflow?