



Community breakout session

A community riot



Goals

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

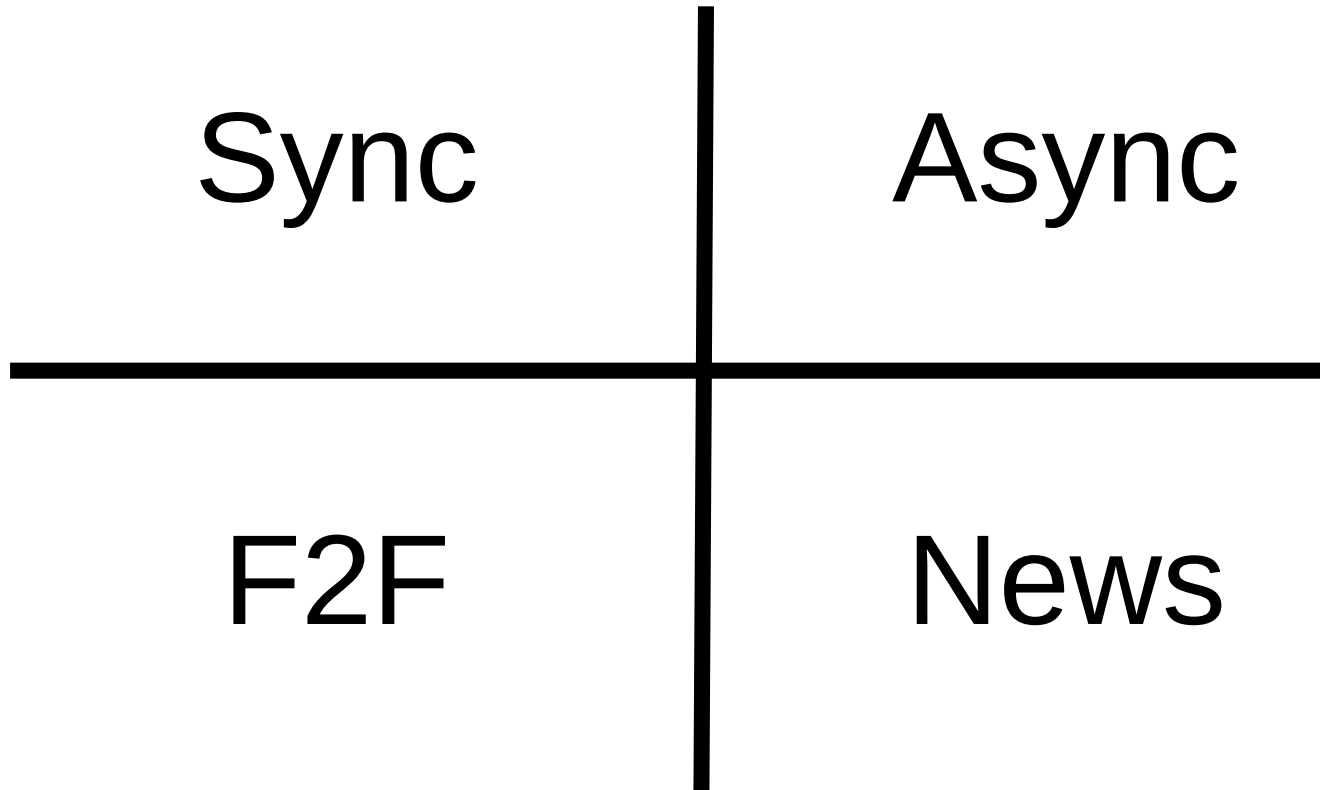


Overview

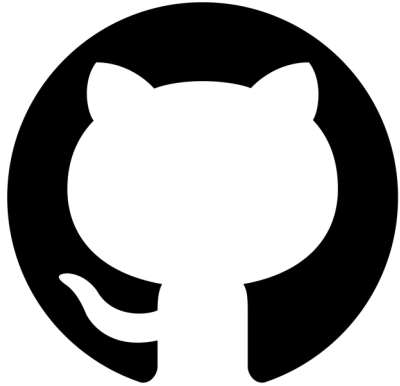
- Categories of channels.
- Which communications channels do we have?
- Review of the communication channels.
- Discussion!



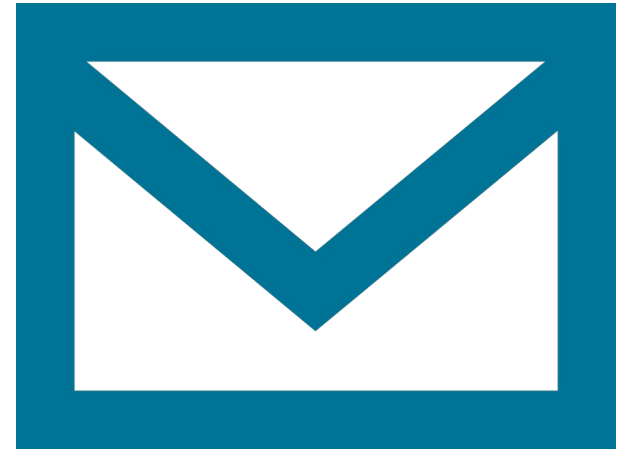
Communication types



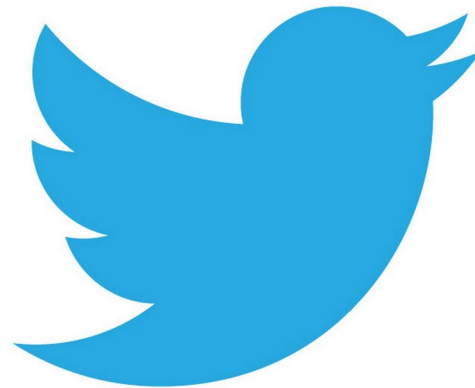
Communication channels



[**matrix**]



RIOT Summit
September 14 - 15, 2020



Communication types

[matrix]



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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 Communication¹
- Using IEEE802.15.4 on RIOT-OS native²
- Multi-Agents and Riot³
- TCP send recv on ESP32⁴



*Works fine for release
announcements*

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?