DUNE GitHub Policy and Practices

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September 27, 2024

Overview of DUNE GitHub

Since 18 Mar 2015, DUNE has control[1] of the GitHub organization:

https://github.com/DUNE

After almost **10 years** (wow!), the DUNE GH org contains:

- 147 Repositories (git, Issues, Wiki, Discussion, Pages, etc)
- 337 People (org member)
- 25 Teams (map people to repos)
- 12 Projects (project management units)
- 42 Outside Collaborators (non-member users)
- 103 Followers (notified of activity)

[1] I requested and GitHub granted a take-over from a previous absentee user.

Why a DUNE GitHub Policy and Practice Document

There is **no major problem** to solve here and the concerns are mild:

- Effectively and so far, I am the only **active** GitHub "organization owner" ("organizer")
  - This is fine and I am happy to continue serving in this role.
- I want to document the things I do so others can step in if I can no longer serve.
- I want DUNE collaboration to be aware of and ratify the defector policy I follow.
  - And give DUNE a chance to alter it if/where it is not appropriate.

Note, DUNE does have "passive" organizers with the "owner" bit set:

- Currently: **Anne Heavey** and **Steve Timmy**.
- Past: Patrick Gartung, David Adams, Ben Morgan and Matt Worcester.

Overview of Policy and Practices Document

Sections:

- **Definitions** (1 page) terms used in the formal language of the next P&P sections.
- **Policy** (2 pages) Membership, Contents, Permissions, Organizers (“owners”), Authority individuals (meaning DUNE collaboration, not the cops).
- **Procedures** (1 page) Membership requests and removal, creating repositories and responding to requests from DUNE Authorities.

The draft document is in GitHub of course: DUNE/dune-ghpandp-doc repo and rendered PDF.

Some P&P highlights - owners

We are at the policy minimum of 3 “organizers” (aka GH org “owners”)

- Main job: vet/invite new users and (rarely) give the “owner” bit to another member.
- Must be a DUNE collaborator / DUNE GitHub member.
- Anne would not mind being replaced, we should find a replacement.

No actual effort is needed unless I get hit by a bus, then:

- Organizers should be capable to learn the active tasks.
- And/or, be able to give “owner” bit to someone one that will take the “active” role.

Being a “passive” organizer is a valuable and easy role to fulfill.

Some P&P highlights - membership

DUNE collaboration membership required for DUNE GitHub membership.

- Request via **Email**:
  - Must come from address registered with DUNE Collab DB.
    - ★ Else, I reply to registered address requesting a confirmation.
- Request via **Slack**:
  - Access to DUNE Slack is taken as immediate proof of collaboration membership.

There is currently **no audit** for post-hoc membership status.

- Some DUNE GitHub members are no longer DUNE collaborators.
- Not a “big deal” (imo) but to honor the policy something needs to be done.
  - GitHub API + DUNE Collab DB likely ingredients in developing an auditor.
  - Difficulty: associating GitHub username to DUNE Collab DB entry.

Some P&P highlights - permissions

Generally, DUNE GH follows a **flat and open** permission model.

- Repo visibility: policy says repos SHOULD be **public**.
  - GH changed default to **private** at some point and we've never reversed that.
  - If we ratify "public by default" I'll reverse the setting.
  - This will apply only to future repos, current ones can be manually switched as needed.
- Repo pushing: nominally, **all** DUNE members can push commits to **all** DUNE repos
  - Additional access controls are possible at Repository and Teams layers.
- Pull Requests: any GitHub user can offer a PR to any DUNE repo.
  - Any DUNE GH member is free to merge, close or ignore any PR.

The **flat and open** model has been working fine so far.

Some P&P gaps needing filling - outside collaborators

Outside collaborators are GH users that may be given special access to the DUNE GH org.

- The doc does not cover this role well (lumped into all “non-members”).

Currently DUNE has 42 “outside collaborators”.

- **Spot checks** indicate only “read” on public repos, no special permissions/access found.

Likely no problem, but work needed to understand and maybe make some changes.

What next?

Not sure. DUNE collaboration has no procedure for P&P docs (right?), suggest:

- Fill in some of the “tbd” parts (me).
- Read it and give comments (you).
  - I have comments from Anne Heavey still to process - thanks Anne.
- Iterate on the draft as needed in this meeting (yes?)
- Ratification: Kirby? Spokes? Other?
- Define some process for future updates?