Bioc Technical Advisory Board Minutes

1 August 2024

Present: Vince Carey, Levi Waldron, Erdal Cosgun, Hervé Pagès, Lori Kern, Charlotte Soneson, Jen Wokaty, Helena Crowell, Ludwig Geistlinger, Alexandru Mahmoud, Stephanie Hicks, Marcel Ramos, Rafael Irizarry, Sean Davis
Apologies: Mike Love, Laurent Gatto, Kasper Hansen, Henrik Bengtsson, Wolfgang Huber, Davide Risso

:03 - :05 Technical discussion - which files from a 10x Xenium example data set are useful to make available via the Open Storage Network?

:05 - :06 Previous minutes approved.

:06 - :07 Elections
- Nominations open until August 31 - a reminder has been sent to those whose seat is up for election.

:07 - :09 Cloud working group update
- BoF session at BioC2024 - GitHub Actions, Storage Defender, LLMs.
- Possibility of organizing GitHub Actions education sessions.

:09 - :18 Review of conference impacts and future directions
- Interesting presentations, keynotes.
- Good opportunities to connect.
- Some streams were low resolution - feedback to RingCentral, look back to see if we can pinpoint the reason. Also discussed in the conference committee.
- Next year may have a 'technical' and an 'application' track.
- Developer-oriented content needs to be covered (possibly within the realm of the hackathon/collaboration fest).

:18 - :60 Open discussion.
- Contributions to the project - PRs welcome. What to do if the PRs are not acted upon?
  - Depends on the 'importance' of the package.
  - Should there be other reasons than non-responsiveness for transferring maintenance? Approaches for identifying non-responsive maintainers have been discussed.
  - Increase unit test coverage. Could require a certain test quality/coverage in submitted packages.
  - We used to run covr a few times per week and have a badge for each package - could be put back.
  - Would it be useful to have an independent place to flag issues (other than the individual package GitHub repos)?

- Aim for ephemeral infrastructure - ability to move activities to another system in case of issues.
- scverse is planning a spatial hackathon - would be good to coordinate with the Bioconductor community. Bioconductor might be able to fund a few attendees.
- SpatialData
  - Perhaps we don't need all the functionality in the full SpatialData package to be able to do most of what we need.
  - SpatialFeatureExperiment - may have the necessary aspects. Stores sf (S3) objects, heavy dependency stack. How would extracellular transcripts (which can not be assigned to a cell) be handled?
- Bioc Singularity image - needs testing volunteers.
- Regular (annual?) risk assessment would be useful - procedures, backup, data integrity, security, compliance.