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OSVTAC Application

BB

Ben Burkert

Sun 9/23, 11:07 PM

Commission, Elections (REG) 



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Inbox

Greetings,

The following is my application to serve on San Francisco's Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee. Thank you for reviewing my submission, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

1. Why do you want to be on the TAC?

I have lived in San Francisco for just shy of a decade and I want to give back to the city I now call my home. Joining the OSVTAC is an opportunity to use the skills I have cultivated while living here to make an impact on our city. I am proud that San Francisco is leading the way in open voting systems, which I believe will be critical to our democracy and civic institutions in the near future. It is too important for me not to get involved.

2. Experience Relavent to Section 3 of the TAC Bylaws:

Software Engineering: 10 years experience in various languages including Go, Ruby, C/C++, Python, Javascript, and others. Expertise in building secure systems and a strong understanding of applied cryptography including TLS, OpenPGP, X509/PKI, and security best practices.

Project Management of Software Projects: I am experienced in many modern software management systems and organizational models, including Git/GitHub/BitBucket, Agile, Scrum, Kanban/Trello/PivotalTracker, JIRA/Stash, Gerrit, mailing lists, and SVN/Trac. In addition, I have worked professionally developing project

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3. What other relevant skills and experience would you bring to the TAC?

Distributed Systems & DevOps: a thorough understanding and experience with building, operating, and scaling distributed systems in production environments. Including data pipelines that serve millions of events per second and transactional systems running on thousands of nodes.

Computer Architecture: knowledgeable in the design and interaction between computer hardware and software. Experience writing software to interact with operating system primitives, hardware security modules, and networking hardware and drivers.

4. Why do you believe it is important for San Francisco to develop an open source voting system?

My professional experience has taught me that software must be open and auditable to be safe and secure. And I believe it is important for our election infrastructure to be built in the open using modern practices in order to be correct, secure, and scalable.

5. What ideas do you have for making the TAC more effective in fulfilling its duties?

I am not sure yet as I do not have any experience with a local government committee like the OSVTAC. I hope to bring my professional experience to the group and at the same time learn more about local government in the process.

6. Have you reviewed the TAC Bylaws? Do you agree to abide by them?

Yes and Yes.

Professional References

Jacob Vorreuter <jake@heroku.com> - Runtime Lead Manager at Heroku/SalesForce

Jacob is my engineering manager at Heroku.

David Calavera - CTO at Netlify

David & I worked together at GitHub on the engineering team for the Enterprise product.

Resume

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5. What ideas do you have for making the TAC more effective in fulfilling its duties?

I prefer not to make suggestions to the workings of an organisation until I have seen it in action and fully understand its scope, powers, responsibilities, people, processes, and so on. I don't know what's working well, and what isn't. In the end, we should make the voting system a success, and I will draw on my experience and skills (and network of people, etc) to take out roadblocks and make it happen.

6. Have you reviewed the TAC Bylaws? Do you agree to abide by them?

I have. I do.

Reference 1:

- Name: Sam Hashemi
- Position: CEO
- Company: Remix
- Contact information:
- (Relationship: worked closely together at Remix.)

Reference 2:

- Name: Joe Lencioni
- Position: Frontend Engineer
- Company: Airbnb
- Contact
- (Relationship: was my manager at Brigade; Director of Engineering.)

Attached is my resume. More about my work can be found at

Full disclosure: I'm friends with Roan Kattouw, the current Vice Chair of TAC.

Let me finally say that I'm incredibly excited about this vacancy. I always worry that emails like this come across as too boastful, so I hope that instead you see this information as evidence for me being a strong candidate for this position. Thanks a lot, and hoping to hear more soon! :)

— JP

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TAC vacancy application

JP

Jan Paul Posma

Sat 9/8, 12:25 AM

Commission, Elections (REG) Reply all | 

Inbox

posma-cv.pdf

163 KB 

TAC application acknow...

1 MB 

2 attachments (1 MB) Download all Save all to OneDrive - CCSF

Hello, I'd like to apply for the vacancy as posted on <https://sfgov.org/electionscommission/osvtac-app> I follow the format as described in that application, below.

-

do you want to be on the TAC?

I think developing an open source voting system is a fantastic idea (see question 4 below), and I think I can bring some unique skills and experience to the project. I cannot currently commit to a full-time position, so an advisory role would be a perfect way for me to contribute.

2. List relevant experience for TAC per section 3 of the bylaws. (paraphrased)

- Software engineering. This is my main experience. I have worked professionally full-time since 2012, but have had a passion for computers and programming since the age of 10 (and have been paid doing programming since age 14). I have worked in various functions and on various systems. This included working on user interfaces, on backend systems, on databases, on algorithms, on usability studies, as a tech lead, as a manager, and more.

Furthermore, I have extensive experience working on open source software, both from a personal and professional perspective. I have professionally worked on open source projects at all of my jobs since college, and at some of those jobs all the code was open source, such as at the Wikimedia Foundation. Some major projects can be found through my activity feed on Github website

- User experience (UX) or human-computer interaction (HCI). My focus in software engineering has been building user interfaces, a large part of which is UX/HCI-related. I have experience doing usability studies, defining requirements, managing the relationship between various stakeholders, and so on. Again, 6 years of professional experience, and many more part-time.

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companies listed on my resume), and so on. As said above, for most projects I have been also heavily involved on the user-facing side of things, working closely with various stakeholders, such as designers, product managers, engineers, customers, sales, support, and management.

Added together, several years of professional experience (about 2 of which was in a tech lead / management role), and more part-time (such as directing a team of researchers at the Greek government to continue my UI-research for Wikipedia).

For the other two my experience is more limited, but it might still be worth mentioning:

- Hardware engineering. This was a hobby of mine in high school, and occasionally since then. I built all sorts of robots and electronic devices, sometimes competitively. I haven't done hardware engineering professionally, but I have a sound understanding of the fundamentals.
- Using agile methods in government procurement of technology. No direct experience with procurement, but at Remix we sold software to local governments, and we used agile methods to develop it.

3. What other relevant skills and experience would you bring to the TAC?

- Working closely with local governments at Remix. As the tech lead and manager of the scheduling product, I worked closely with customers (including site visits and usability studies with them).
- Having worked on election-related software at Brigade. There I actively worked on an informal voting system, a voter verification system (using voter files), and petitions.
- Having participated in the first ever hackathon held at a national parliament (in the Netherlands), where I visualised changes in voting behaviour of parties over time (see "vriendenpolitiek" on my resume).
- Having been civically active. I've volunteered for a technical youth centre, for a donation pool, for conferences, and more.
- Teaching experience. At the technical youth centre (see above) I taught software engineering and electronics. I also was a teaching assistant at college. I still enjoy mentoring junior engineers at work.
- A background in mathematics (math minor in college, competed in algorithm contests, worked on math-heavy products).
- Recruiting/hiring experience. In my years as an engineer, but especially as a manager, I've done countless technical interviews and meetings, with a special focus on diversity and eliminating bias in the recruiting process.
- An interest in security. I've been involved in risk-benefit analyses, and fixing vulnerabilities. And while not working on it professionally, I've been closely involved in the founding of HackerOne, a company that hosts bug bounty programs.
- Public speaking skills. I've presented at various conferences. See my website and resume for more details.

4. Why do you believe it is important for San Francisco to develop an open source voting system?

Democracy is incredibly powerful and important, and electronic voting could help strengthen it and expand its reach. However, there are significant challenges to electronic voting, ranging from accountability, to security, to equity. An open source implementation can help solve those challenges by bringing in expertise from a large and diverse group of people, while at the same time spreading its use more widely.

San Francisco is uniquely positioned to champion such an implementation, by leveraging its highly talented residents and companies in a vibrant local democratic process. We should pave the way for

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5. What ideas do you have for making the TAC more effective in fulfilling its duties?

I prefer not to make suggestions to the workings of an organisation until I have seen it in action and fully understand its scope, powers, responsibilities, people, processes, and so on. I don't know what's working well, and what isn't. In the end, we should make the voting system a success, and I will draw on my experience and skills (and network of people, etc) to take out roadblocks and make it happen.

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I have. I do.

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Reference 2:

- Name: Joe Lencioni
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Attached is my resume. More about my work can be found at

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Let me finally say that I'm incredibly excited about this vacancy. I always worry that emails like this come across as too boastful, so I hope that instead you see this information as evidence for me being a strong candidate for this position. Thanks a lot, and hoping to hear more soon! :)

— JP

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TAC Application

JS

Jim Soper2

Mon 9/24, 3:56 PM

Commission, Elections (REG); +2 more  Reply all | 

Inbox

Dear EC

I am herewith submitting my application for a seat on the TAC.

Thank you

Jim

, 1949

GitHub: JimSoper

1. Why do you want to be on the TAC?

I have been advocating open source election systems before the Elections Commission and elsewhere since 2005. I am delighted that San Francisco is moving forward with this very important project, and wish to be able to help.

2. What relevant skills and experience would you bring to the TAC?

o I have been a programmer for 35 years. I am not a security expert, but I do understand the issues. I have been complimented on the usability of the software I've written.

o I have been heavily involved in the election integrity movement for 12 years. I am familiar with the issues concerning accessibility, transparency, useability, testing, certification and costs. I have been lobbying extensively in Sacramento since 2009 for fair and accurate elections, so I am familiar with the laws, regulations, and procedures involved that will have to be addressed by any new voting system.

3. What other relevant skills and experience would you bring to the TAC?

o My writing tends to be clear, and heavily footnoted. See CountedAsCast.org. I have established a very good reputation on Facebook and in EI elists. I am a moderator on several of them. This will help in advancing the project in Sacramento and across the country.

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4 Why do you believe it is important for San Francisco to develop an open source voting system?

My biggest concern about election systems is security. Open source is the best defense against "Easter eggs", malware hidden inside the source code. No amount of testing will ever spot it, unless you know how to activate it, which only insiders do. I think what LA is building will probably be good, but I believe that San Francisco will come up with a system that is better, even more transparent, and at a lower cost to the counties. The California and the country need several good open source systems.

5. What ideas do you have for making the TAC more effective in fulfilling its duties?

More outreach inside and outside of City Hall, especially to Sacramento.

6 Have you reviewed the TAC's bylaws? Do you agree to abide by them?

Yes

ELECTION EXPERIENCE

Member, Voting Rights Task Force, 2005 to present
Co Chair, Voting Rights Task Force, 2009 to present
Author, CountedAsCast.org, 2006 to present
Member, San Francisco Voting Systems Task Force, 2009-11

COMPUTER EXPERIENCE

1983-86 Digital Research, Monterey California
Trainer
- Senior technical writer

1986-87 Intellicorp, Mountain View, California
Quality assurance engineer

1987-89 Intellicorp, Munich, Germany
- Senior consultant, trainer, customer service & sales engineer

1989-94 Digital Equipment, European Technical Headquarters, Sophia-Antipolis, France
Senior software consultant for artificial intelligence

1994-2012 Magin Software, Nice, France & San Francisco
- President & senior software engineer

2012-14, Sencha Inc, Redwood City
Senior trainer for Sencha Touch (mobile apps) and ExtJS (web) libraries

Languages: Common LISP, JavaScript (with CSS & HTML), Sencha Touch, Sencha ExtJS, Java, C#, Swift, Objective C, Pascal, BASIC, C

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EDUCATION

BA (Psychology), Lawrence University, Appleton Wisconsin, 1971

MA (French), Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, 1980

REFERENCES

Dr Barbara Simons,
Former IBM researcher, retired
Board chair, Verified Voting
On the Board of Advisors of the Election Assistance Commission
Former president of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

David Marsland,
Training manager,

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Application for TAC Vacancy

S

Stack

Sun 9/16, 9:05 PM

Commission, Elections (REG) ▾



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Inbox

Michael.Stack.Resume.pdf
80 KB ▾

Application.pdf
458 KB ▾

2 attachments (538 KB) Download all Save all to OneDrive - CCSF

I am writing to respectfully request your appointment to become a member of San Francisco’s Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”). I believe that my experience working in the Open Source community and developing large scale Open Source system qualifie me for the current vacancy on this Advisory Committee.

I am a long time San Francisco resident and recently became a naturalized citizen. I am very much looking forward to voting in my first election this November. Despite the fact that I have not had the privilege to vote in the United State in prior election , I am familiar with the i ue rrounding electronic voting y tem I have always believed that voting systems should be developed and run by the government, and that transparent Open Source development techniques, like those practiced in Australia, are fundamental to guaranteeing the integrity of the systems used for voting. I was happy to see that San Francisco e tabli hed the TAC to addre the e i ue , and a omeone who ha been looking for a way to volunteer more time on civic projects, I thought this would be an ideal fit.

As you can see from my resume, I have worked in Open Source for over twenty years, with the last ten years devoted to Apache Hadoop and Apache HBase in particular, a massively scalable data store developed by a di tributed Open Source community I wa pre ent at HBa e’ (and Hadoop’) inception and worked to develop a vibrant community around the technology. The data store powers many of the Internet’s largest applications including Apple Siri, as the telemetry store for Tesla Cars, and the back end for Alibaba Search.

I have e ten ive e perience in oftware engineering, u er e perience, and project management of software, as required in the TAC Bylaws. I have deployed secured computer systems at scale and have a practical, working knowledge of what is involved securing systems and data. I have also reviewed the TAC Bylaws and agree to abide by them if I were to be appointed to the TAC.

I have attached my re ume I li t my reference below Plea e feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

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References

[Doug Cutting](#), Former Chair of the Apache Software Foundation, Co-Founder of Apache Hadoop, and Chief Architect at Cloudera

Olin, Chief Strategy Officer, former CEO, of Cloudera

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Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee Application

SB

Steven Buss

Mon 9/24, 4:58 PM

Commission, Elections (REG) ▾



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Resume - Steven Buss.pdf ▾

64 KB

20180924165514182.pdf ▾

35 KB

2 attachments (99 KB) Download all Save all to OneDrive - CCSF



Action Items



Steven Buss

do you want to be on the TAC?

Trust in the voting process is fundamental to a healthy and functional democracy. In this era when democratic norms are being undermined, false accusations of voter fraud are being cast, and trust in the process is at an all-time low, we must build resilient systems that provide end-to-end accountability and complete transparency, while being as simple as possible.

I was a vote-count observer for the Mayor's election and I observed many potential exploitation points. From unattended machines with exposed USB ports, to manual copying of voter tally files onto hard drives, among others I won't detail in this public document. This experience made me decide to get involved in the OSVTAC.

Closed-source voting is fundamentally incompatible with democracy. The voting process must be transparent, accountable, and never have the appearance of even the *possibility* of votes being tampered with. I believe that as a member of the TAC, I can use both my passion for accountability and my technical ability to help design a robust and trustworthy system.

2. Please review Section 3 of the TAC Bylaws, and in particular the part describing the types of professional experience desired for TAC members. List all categories with which you have relevant professional experience. For each such category, provide an overview of your experience, including your number of years of experience.

Software engineering (including contributing to open source software projects),

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cum laude) and have been a professional software engineer for eight years.

I am currently a software engineer and team lead at Google, where I work on the serverless cloud computing platform. My responsibilities include the technical implementation (Go and C++), regular engagement with customers, long and short term planning, and facilitating cross-team collaboration. I have previously worked as a software engineer at Counsyl -- a genetics testing startup, and Amazon. At Counsyl I led the Billing Automation team, which automated the insurance billing process and ensured the security of customer financial and healthcare data. At Amazon I launched a world-wide service in a dozen languages which received tens of thousands of requests per second.

I have contributed to various open source projects over the years (see <https://github.com/sbuss> for full history), though the majority of my open source work is for my own projects. Here are a few highlights:

* Troubleshooting and fixing a critical error in FPM: <https://github.com/jordansissel/fpm/issues/227>

* Python implementation of Bitcoin BIP32 Hierarchical Deterministic

Wallets: <https://github.com/sbuss/bitmerchant>

* Troubleshooting & documenting a failure in the pycoin project which generated invalid Bitcoin wallet addresses: <https://github.com/richardkiss/pycoin/issues/20>

* Python implementation of multiaddr project: <https://github.com/sbuss/py-multiaddr>

* Troubleshooting a DNS indirection failure for Docker due to virtualbox's incorrect DNS resolver: <https://github.com/docker/distribution/issues/1292>

Project management of software or hardware projects

I have engaged in some project management. Both when I started a distributed computing startup, and at Google. At Google I regularly make long-term planning decisions, negotiate features and deadlines, coordinate with other teams to ensure no work is blocked, and engage with customers to discover pain points, collect feedback and feature requests, and understand our customers' needs.

3. What other relevant skills and experience would you bring to the TAC?

I have many side projects, including historical map digitization, analysis of SF 311 and planning department data, an implementation of Bitcoin hierarchical deterministic wallets, among other smaller projects.

For the 2016 presidential election, I developed a website to facilitate vote-pairing to minimize wasted votes. For example, a voter in California could pair up with a voter in Florida and promise to vote for each other's candidate to move a swing state while ensuring total vote counts remained the same. This is a crude technological band-aid for the lack of ranked choice voting at the national level.

I served as Website Director for the United Democratic Club and regularly do data science and other technical work for campaigns and policy initiatives. I'm a community organizer in the Mission, and I have regularly appeared at the SF Planning Commission to give public comment.

4. Why do you believe it is important for San Francisco to develop an open source voting system?

In addition to my belief that closed-source voting is fundamentally incompatible with democracy, I also believe that it is important for San Francisco, in particular, to develop an open source voting system. We have an incredible amount of highly skilled software engineers in this city and we should not squander this opportunity. In a city that has produced so much technological innovation, we cannot ignore our responsibility to give back to the city and society which makes it possible. San Francisco can set the

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5. What ideas do you have for making the TAC more effective in fulfilling its duties?

While I think the TAC seems to be functioning relatively well, I feel that productivity has been sinking. Because I'm not yet familiar with the exact details of how the TAC does its job, I can't offer concrete suggestions on how to improve anything at the moment. I recognize that this may be an unsatisfying answer, but over the years I have found that trying to offer suggestions before truly understanding the process and its failures only leads to more problems.

Regular infusions of fresh perspectives from new members are essential to ensuring the TAC doesn't stagnate, and I will make it a priority to understand, document, and fix any process failures.

6. Have you reviewed the TAC Bylaws? Do you agree to abide by them?

Yes

References:

Rishi Sharma
Staff Software Engineer

Greg Block
Engineering Manager
Google

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OSV TAC Application

TS

Tyler Sax

Sun 9/23, 11:28 PM

Commission, Elections (REG) |

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Inbox

OSVSTAC_Acknowledg...
101 KB

Tyler Sax Resume.pdf
145 KB

Answers to app
32 KB

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Action Items



Members of the San Francisco Elections Commission,

Please see my completed application in the body of this email and in the attached documents.

Best,
Tyler Sax

Nipoon Malhotra
Product Manager, Facebook

Maria Smith
Product Management Director, Facebook

Attached documents

- Resume
- Application Acknowledgement Form
- Answers to application questions