GraalVM Advisory Board Meeting | May 2020

Date: May 05, 2020

Participants: Alan Hayward (ARM), Alina Yurenko (Oracle), Bernd Mathiske (Amazon), Bruno Caballero (Microdoc), Chris Seaton (Shopify), Chris Thalinger (Twitter), Eric Sedlar (Oracle), Fabio Niephaus (Hasso Plattner Institute), Graeme Rocher (OCI), Johan Vos (Gluon), Max Rydahl Andersen (Red Hat), Michael Hunger, (Neo4j), Petr Novotny (Oracle), Roxana Bradescu (Oracle), Sébastien Deleuze (VMware), Thomas Wuerthinger (Oracle).

Discussion Items

- **Projects updates & 20.1 release** (Alina Yurenko);
- **Accepting new members** (Alina Yurenko)
  - We got questions about joining the Advisory Board → will go with a written charter for such requests;
  - List of current Advisory Board members: https://www.graalvm.org/community/advisory-board/
- **GraalVM Security collaboration group** (Roxana Bradescu);
  - Charter draft presented by Roxana and discussed;
  - Red Hat: we will review and provide feedback;
  - Red Hat: is there some limitation about the releases supported? → Roxana: we actually support two releases, LTS/annual releases and the most recent one → Red Hat: we would like to at least be able to provide support for more than just the active two releases in community thus notifications about any CVEs/security issue found in any release would be valuable.
  - Chris Thalinger: does it make sense to unite the OpenJDK Vulnerability Group and GraalVM security working group? Roxana: GraalVM's situation is slightly different; for example GraalVM has several language distributions that are not necessarily relevant for OpenJDK;
  - **next steps:** Roxana and the Board members who are interested in the security collaboration group will work on finalizing the charter;

- Max Andersen: can Oracle team give update on **efforts to have their contributions/work more accessible when they happen rather than after the fact**?
  - PR's before master commits
    - Thomas Wuerthinger: agree that this makes sense, we are working on that, particularly on enabling developer tooling to make it happen.
    - Thomas: GitHub actions could also be helpful. Currently there is a PR from Red Hat to add GitHub actions for Quarkus tests; If that works well, we encourage other frameworks teams to also add such tests. That would also add more transparency to the development process.
    - Sébastien Deleuze mentions release branches now being available, allowing to build early builds of upcoming releases.
  - Fabio Niephaus: is it possible to make roadmaps public (e.g. via GitHub projects), not just release dates?
    - They are already available for native image, ARM64, Truffle;
- Fabio: **What happened to GraalVM CE 20.0.1**?
  - Thomas: CPU releases depend on OpenJDK releases, which causes delays for Community Edition; So it may make sense to upgrade from 20.0 to 20.1, which is just a few weeks away.
    - Fabio: does this mean that the version roadmap will be updated? Thomas: yes.
  - Chris: **so-called "stabilization" branches - what's pushed there from master**?
    - Thomas: the decision is made by the release team based on risks trade-offs;
  - Chris: **can we have a process to request backports?**
    - Thomas: issues should be marked as backported or not; also GitHub milestones indicate the target release. For purposes of tracking — a fix needs an issue & milestone.
- Bruno Caballero: **OpenJDK's project Leyden will introduce the concept of "static images" to the Java Platform. It will be similar to GraalVM Native Image but OpenJDK will define a new specification. Is the GraalVM team collaborating with OpenJDK on this topic**?
  - Thomas, Eric Sedlar: our team welcomes this initiative and is ready to contribute our expertise in the area; we will also continue our work on native image within GraalVM. Contribution from other members are welcome, especially those involved in OpenJDK;

- Alan Hayward: what jtreg tests are run regularly? Recently Xiaohong found some jtreg tests that have been failing for about a month: https://github.com/oracle/graal/issues/2410
  - currently we run “hotspot-tier1” tests;
- Chris: is the `jaotc` code moved to GraalVM repo? It doesn’t seem to work.
  - Fabio: related issue: https://github.com/oracle/graal/issues/2432
  - Thomas: we would need to look into it;
- Alan: would it be possible to run “tier2” and “tier3” tests?
  - Thomas: we will look into that, starting with “tier2”.
- Alan: are there any plans to eventually have external committer/reviewers? Especially thinking for things like Aarch64 only patches.
  - Thomas: yes, there are such plans. One of the ways can be making the GraalVM GitHub organization more open to external contributors (be able to maintain repos); regarding the Oracle Github organization — we can look into simplifying merging external PRs. It’s also a question of developer tooling. We should have a reviewer/committer role, that would require some additional work.