

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. Long Duong:

I apologize if our efforts to purchase the boost.org domain name got off on the wrong foot. By now you might understand that there are two competing organizations who wish to acquire ownership of the boost.org domain name: The C++ Alliance, Inc. and the Boost Foundation. I write to humbly ask that both organizations have the opportunity to explain in good faith what the best outcome would be for the community of volunteers who work on Boost. We would like to fully articulate our rationale for why custodying the boost.org domain at The C++ Alliance is best for all the volunteers doing the work and we respectfully request you convey this to your client, Ms. Dawes.

The boost.org domain is important as it is used as the meeting place for everyone in the world to receive news about Boost. But most importantly it controls the mailing lists used by the people who actually do the C++ engineering work on the libraries, in order to communicate. If we do not control the domain, we cannot fulfill our plan to make significant improvements to Boost such as upgrading the mailing list software to "mailman3." Our contributions and plans are published below, and we are unaware of any plans from Boost Foundation:

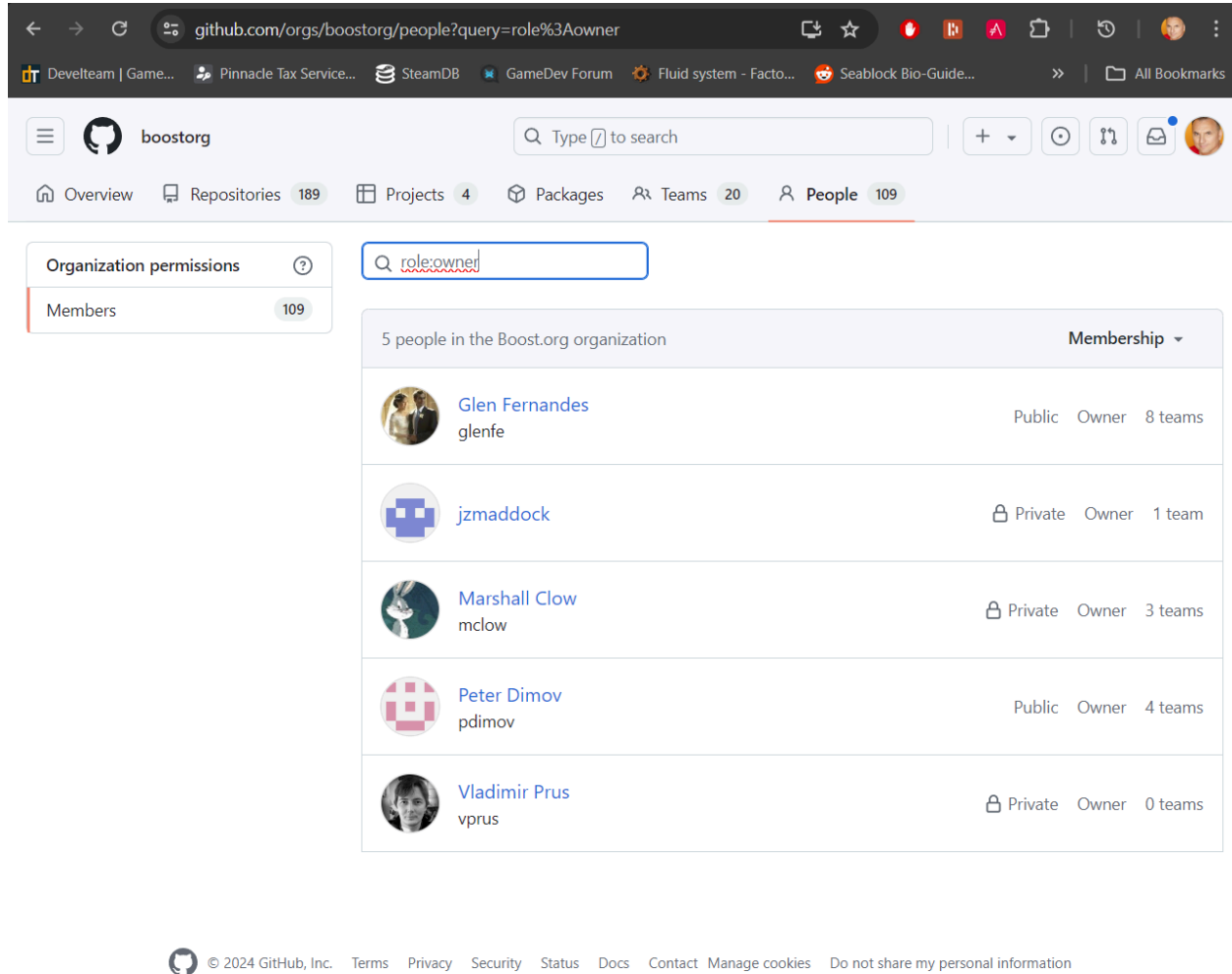
<https://cppalliance.org/boost/2023/05/08/Future-of-Boost.html>

<https://lists.boost.org/Archives/boost//2024/02/255964.php>






<https://lists.boost.org/Archives/boost//2024/05/256778.php>

The Boost C++ Library Collection is the open-source product of an informal group of volunteers who author and maintain the libraries, its associated infrastructure, and the thrice-annual Boost releases. Currently the source code for the libraries is stored on GitHub under the control of the boostorg GitHub organization: <https://github.com/orgs/boostorg>

To be clear: **the GitHub repository is Boost**, not the Boost Foundation, The C++ Alliance, or the boost.org website. This repository is where all of the volunteers and contributors do their work. The general public does not have permission to see the owners, but as a contributing member of Boost I have permission and I can show you who the owners are:



The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the Boost.org organization. The URL in the browser is `github.com/orgs/boostorg/people?query=role%3Aowner`. The organization's name is "boostorg" and it has 109 members. A search filter "role:owner" is applied, showing 5 people in the organization. The members listed are:

Profile Picture	Name	Username	Visibility	Role	Teams
	Glen Fernandes	glenfe	Public	Owner	8 teams
	jzmaddock	jzmaddock	Private	Owner	1 team
	Marshall Clow	mclow	Private	Owner	3 teams
	Peter Dimov	pdimov	Public	Owner	4 teams
	Vladimir Prus	vprus	Private	Owner	0 teams

At the bottom of the page, the GitHub footer is visible, showing the copyright notice: © 2024 GitHub, Inc. and links to Terms, Privacy, Security, Status, Docs, Contact, and Manage cookies.

The Boost Foundation does not control the GitHub organization. It was Beman Dawes' genius to structure the governance of the Boost project differently from a typical top-down management system. Instead, he set things up so that the authors and maintainers of the libraries were independent and autonomous. It was never the intention that a small group of people have dominion over Boost, and this still runs counter to Boost culture (as can be seen on the mailing lists). The purpose of the Boost Steering Committee (now called the Boost Foundation) was to support the libraries in a passive role, delegating technical decisions to the community. The C++ Alliance has provided significantly greater ongoing support for Boost and we would like to continue doing so while respecting Boost norms; our ownership of the boost.org domain will ensure that the community receives the best level of support possible for sustaining the project.

Before an irrevocable decision regarding the domain happens, I humbly implore you to verify our claims. Talk to the owners of the GitHub organization. Look at the track records and community involvement. We are very happy to offer full transparency into our operations in terms of staff, compensation, donation, and historical involvement in the Boost project and believe that Ms. Dawes will be better informed as a result.

If the Boost Foundation controls boost.org instead of the volunteers making the actual ongoing contributions to the Libraries, the outcome will be a split in the community and a setback. The C++ Alliance will continue to support Boost regardless, but our efforts to serve the community will be most efficient with our ownership of the boost.org domain name. Please allow us to answer questions and make our case.

Thank You

Vinnie Falco
President, The C++ Alliance, Inc.