

Bugfix accelerator program 2024

Introduction

The developer team is requesting to repeat the successful 2023 Bugfix accelerator program with a few changes as outlined in this proposal.

Herein, we propose to hire select developers for a fixed amount of hours during the bug fixing season for Inkscape 1.4 (tentatively Q2 2024).

The purpose of this program is to allow a small number of core contributors to set aside time to fix issues in preparation of the 1.4 release, and allowing the project to prioritize which issues to fix. If this proposal is enacted, it would free experienced and trusted core contributors from other (paid) work during the bug fixing season and allow them to focus on Inkscape. In return, they commit to prioritizing bugs that prevent the project from releasing Inkscape 1.4 to its users.

Eligibility and requirements

As opposed to the 2023 bugfix accelerator program, we will publish a call for applications. Eligible are

- Inkscape members (as defined by the FSA)
- that have recently contributed (≥ 5 merged MRs in inkscape/inkscape since the 1.3 release, July 23, 2023)

Contractors are expected to set aside at least 10hrs per week for the program (last year's experience has shown that doing the contract in parallel to a full-time job is not sustainable) and they are contracted to work on issues in the 1.4 milestone (<https://gitlab.com/groups/inkscape/-/milestones/13>), in order of the "Importance" scoped label.

Hiring team

The hiring team consists of 2 volunteers from the PLC (Marc Jeanmougin, Jonathan Neuhauser) as well as an SFC representative. Hiring team members may not apply themselves.

From the pool of eligible applicants, the hiring team will select up to 3 contributors. The selection process will be made transparent to the applicants.

Financials & Contract

A budget of USD 20'000 is allocated to the program. The budget will be split evenly between the selected contractors.

The SFC will offer the contractors a fixed-rate contract (SFC standard rate for developers, USD 70/hr) for a total number of hours. Contractors send invoices listing the spent time to the SFC at the end of

each month and document their work in a blog post on the Inkscape website.

The details of the contract negotiation and payment are handled by the SFC.

If a selected contractor drops out at any point during the program, their allocated budget is split evenly between the remaining contractors.

If a contractor still has hours available after the 1.4 release, they may use them up by fixing issues for the 1.4.x release series under the same framework.

Schedule

The proposal will be voted upon in February 2023, followed by a 1-week call for application, selection and contract negotiation, so that work could start at the latest on Feb 30.

Selection of issues

The 1.4 milestone tracker is maintained by the Bug Management team and the Developer team, and will be continuously updated during the period of the contract, as feedback from users comes in.

Issues in this list should be prioritized by the contractors; in order of the “Importance” scoped label and their knowledge domain.

It is in the contractors’ own interest to perform this selection (and their work in general) responsibly, to maintain their good standing and to continue to prove the effectiveness of the program overall.

License

The work done by the candidate will be licensed as GPL2+, and the copyright will be with the SFC.

Evaluation

Merge Requests financed by this proposal will be assigned a unique tag by the contractor to make the allocation of users’ donations visible and to facilitate evaluation.

The progress of the project will be a (potential) discussion item at the weekly developer meetings.

At the vectors team’s discretion, a brief report on the project will be presented as news article.

Changes compared to last year

- No fixed list of contractors at the time of the vote; instead Call for applications like with the GTK4 internal contractor + hiring team.
- Scenario of a contractor dropping out is explicitly covered; extension for the 1.4.x release series contained in the proposal.
- Clarification that the selection of issues to work on is done primarily by the project .

- Simplification of contract section.