

Hi, I am Robert and I want to run for the OSM President position.

For people who don't know me I will give you an overview of what I have done and what my position on certain things are.

History of my involvement

I started with Mambo and was part of the German Translation Team. I was helping in the German Forum and because having only online communication has some downsides I started organising with a team 2005 the German Mamboday. Our idea was that people should know the real persons behind the forum avatars. Communication is more polite when you know the person from real life. In 2005 it was quite unique to have such a meeting. It was very successful and we continued doing this.

Not so successful was my attempt to convince the Joomla Leadership at that time to make an international event. So in 2009 at the German Joomladay in Bad Nauheim late at the bar we decided to make an International Event and because we wanted to look further than Joomla we called it JandBeyond. This took place in 2010 in Wiesbaden. We learned a lot about how you make such events, one funny thing was that we learned that a normal router can't handle 300 connections so without the internet people had to talk to each other and this resulted in a very nice atmosphere. It felt like a family gathering.

After some time I joined the OSM Board as event team leader and organised the first Joomla World Conference in San Jose, USA. After the event I left the board and took a little break from the Joomla Leadership.

I don't remember the exact year, but I think 2015, I joined the PLT and after the structure change I was team lead of the automated testing team and am currently the team lead of the CMS Maintenance Team. I was also Release Lead for Joomla 3.7.

Looking back over all this I am proud of how the German Community has grown and all the successful events we have had. You can't do things alone so I want to give some credits to people without whom this wouldn't have happened:: David Jardin, Brian Teeman and Stefan Wendhausen and many more.

Team leading

In a fully volunteer organisation you need to find new ways to build a successful team. For me the most important thing is that we need to build a safe environment. Team members should have fun doing tasks and feel responsible for the success of the team. If you do things you will make mistakes, not saying this is required but this is expected. Making mistakes is nothing bad and we as a community should understand and accept that moving forward never goes on a straight line.

As a team lead I usually let my team work. Team members most of the time know what we need to do. This doesn't mean not being available when help is needed.

This sounds like a lot of freedom but I also have my limits. If someone says I will do it then I expect that it will be done or at least communicated that something happened and we need to find another way. To summarise I like to use a quote from a Star Wars character: "Do or do not, there is no try."

Hippie or big business

There is often the discussion if we should try to find ways to commercialise Joomla. Besides that I don't have a good idea how, I don't like the idea. The other discussion is if we should pay people for doing work.

People work for Joomla and they do it in their free time and hopefully they have fun doing it. If we would pay people for let's say development we would split the community in parts. Why should I fix a bug if there are people getting money for it.

So I don't see OSM as an employer, at least not in areas where we have volunteers.

On the other side we can't deny that people are making money with Joomla and that with Joomla people pay their bills. So Joomla has a commercial part, it is not directly inside the organisation but part of the community. I am very open to the idea that companies spend human resources on the project. These people could work in teams and help the project in this way.

Local Communities

I was disappointed that after the structure change that the Local Community Department wasn't implemented. I saw a big opportunity for Joomla.

When a local community is healthy then this has a positive impact on the global Joomla community. We have seen this over the past years. Where we have a good working local community then many people from this community are also in teams and contributing to Joomla.

It may take some time to achieve but if we don't start we will not see results. I want to start this and spend time to build this for the future of Joomla.

The elephant in the room

Let's face it: We are in a bad situation. The financial problems and issues that came up recently are far from nice. Trust has been abused and OSM failed at their main job: Make sure the finances are done properly.

I don't see that we will get some of the money back and I am against spending more money on lawyers to go to court with an unpredictable incalculably outcome. I would vote and work to make sure that this can't happen again and then move forward.

I was not involved in budget decisions over the last years so I don't have any kind of legacy here. On the other side I am long enough in the project to understand the financial things. I think I can do this job in the best way for the community.

Thanks for reading and I would be happy if you support me and join with me to work together and take Joomla forward.

Robert