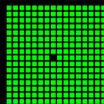


MF#K Meetup Group,

from none to +750 members in just four years
(Growing and Tending Open Source Communities)

2017-09-05, Techfestival @ ISSUU

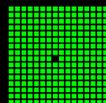


Overview

- About me (very shortly)
- Background
 - What we didn't want to (and don't) do
- Harsh days: The beginning
- Good days: Collaboration with Prosa for a recurring location
- Better days: Reducing the amount of Meetup Events
- Thanks to everybody who made/makes this possible

Note: Slides are released under the CC BY-SA license

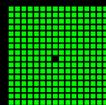
- Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike (“copyleft”)



About me (very shortly)



- Ramón Soto Mathiesen (Spaniard + Dane)
- MSc. Computer Science **DIKU/Pisa** and minors in Mathematics **HCØ**
- **CompSci @ SPISE MISU ApS**
 - “**Stay Pure, Isolating Side-Effects**” -- Michael Werk Ravensmed dixit
 - “**Make Illegal States Unrepresentable**” -- Yaron Minsky dixit
 - Trying to solve EU GDPR with a scientific approach (Computer Science and Mathematics)
 - **Elm (JS** due to ports) with a bit of **Haskell** and a bit of **F#** (fast prototyping)
- Elm / Haskell / TypeScript / F# / OCaml / Lisp / C++ / C# / JavaScript
- Founder of **Meetup for F#unctional Copenhageners** (MF#K)
- Volunteer at **Coding Pirates** (Captain at Valby Vigerslev Library Department):
- Blog: <http://blog.stermon.com/> and Twitter: [@genTauro42](https://twitter.com/genTauro42)

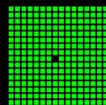


Background



- F#unctional Copenhageners Meetup Group will try to get more and more software projects to be based on functional programming languages
- We mainly focus on F# and Haskell, but other functional programming languages like Scala, Lisp, Erlang, Clojure, OCaml, etc. are more than welcome
- We expect to meet at least twelve times a year, if not more, to share experiences with regards of the use of functional programming languages in software projects that are in / or heading to production

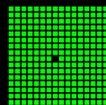
Note: Even though our logo is based on [Thompson-Wheeler Haskell logo](#), we aren't only about Haskell and even though we have F# in our name/abbreviation, we aren't only about F#



Background



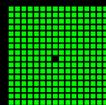
- A former fellow CS student, [Joakim Ahnfelt-Rønne](#), and I founded the Meetup Group in **2013-09-10**, almost 4 years ago
 - We wanted to showcase how functional programming languages also could (should) be used in production
 - We aimed for free talks, money shouldn't keep people away
 - Most slides and source code are released after the talks
 - Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/MoedegruppeFunktionelleKoebenhavnere/files/>
 - GitHub: <https://github.com/FunctionalCopenhagenersMeetupGroup>
 - We also didn't want to be known as the Meetup Group that attracts people by giving free food or beverages. We wanted to provide quality talks instead
- Note:** After events we go to the nearest bar and have a beer or two



Background: What we didn't want to (and don't) do



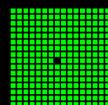
- If we use a venue, we don't give them our Members information
- We try to keep SPAM to a minimum, mostly event related
- We don't help head hunters to get in contact with our Members
- We don't have non functional related talks. There are plenty Meetup groups for those
 - Even though we actually have joint-venture Meetups with other groups if we can combine functional and other domains



Harsh days: The beginning



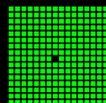
Let's learn F# together



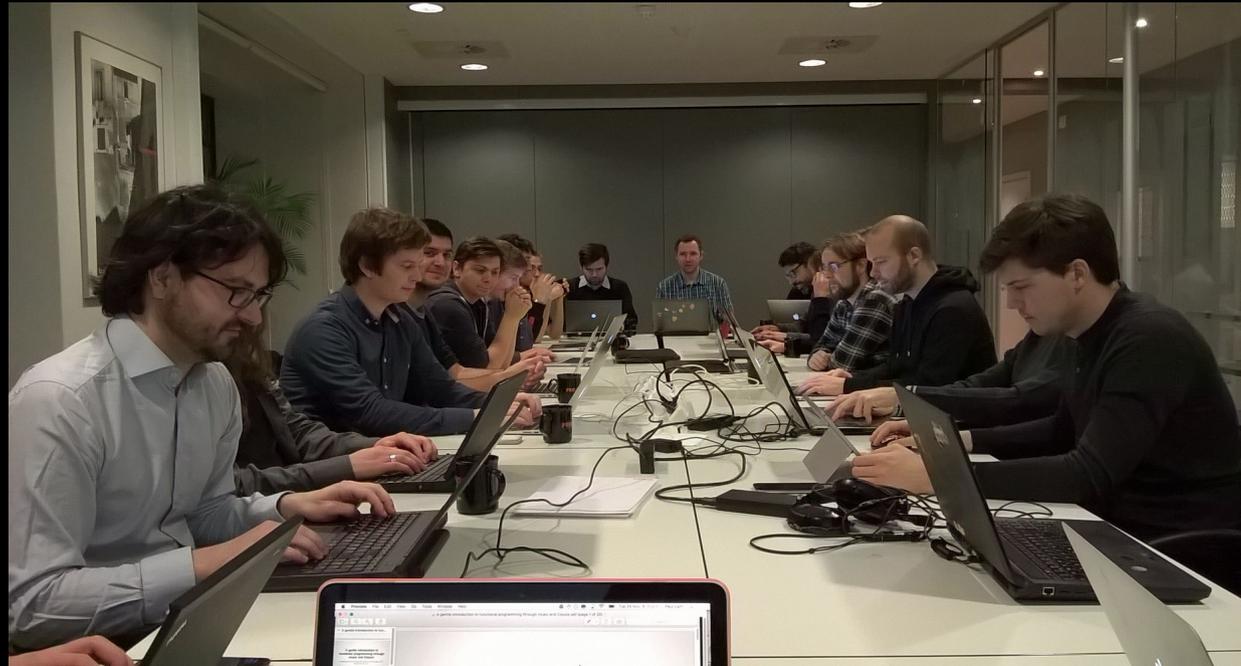
Harsh days: The beginning



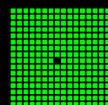
- Difficult to get speakers and location
- Relied on workplaces, which in some cases were far away from Copenhagen Centrum (kept many away)
- If we got a good speaker, others tried to sabotage us or make money on our behalf, special mention to:
 - **(Name omitted)**, who deliberately tried to make money on our members by moving Conference dates so TomASP.NET couldn't give a talk for us. Btw, the Conference doesn't exist anymore. Karma is a b ... :)
 - **(Location omitted)**, in order for us to use their location, they wanted us to say that they brought Don Syme to Denmark ... (he was in town for an International Conference on Functional Programming event)
 - **(Location omitted)** charged one of our members +15.000 DKK (ex VAT) for a small location in order to have a hands-on with TomASP.NET (if I had known before, I would have cancelled the event)



Good days: Collaboration with Prosa for a recurring location



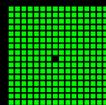
Intro to functional programming through music & Clojure



Good days: Collaboration with Prosa for a recurring location



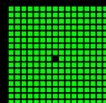
- It was $\alpha\Omega$ for this Meetup Group to setup a collaboration with **Prosa** in order to get a permanent and central location (bike distance and close to Vesterport St.)
 - The **ADA** meeting room fits about 25 people
 - If we need more space, we can use the canteen (**PASCAL**), which has a capacity of at most 50 (fire regulation)
 - We had a few initial issues
 - Alarm and access to the building
 - Wrong address on events
 - The title: “*MF#K Odd Tuesdays meetup (in combination with PROSA Elektronik & Mekanik)*” was not very helpful. Always use speakers name and title (and abstract if provided)
 - But now all is good and our main focus is on getting good speakers
- Bonus:** Close to a very good beer bar (Ørsted Ølbar)



Better days: Reducing the amount of Meetup Events



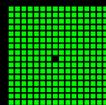
Phil Trelford (F# MVP): HP data structures for Big data



Better days: Reducing the amount of Meetup Events



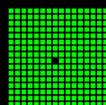
- We went from every Odd Tuesdays (at least two Meetups a month) to last Tuesday of every Month (except July due to holidays). Quality, not quantity
- Even though we have a permanent location, we do collaborations with Academia and Companies in order to spread the word. Examples:
 - [IT University of Copenhagen](#) (Academia): Zippers, pure functional cursors into datatypes (with PhD David Christiansen)
 - [SimCorp](#) (Commercial): High performance data structures for handling Big data (with Phil Trelford an F# MVP)
 - [DIKU Business Club, Laboratory for Applied Statistics](#) (Academia): MF#K + CopenhagenR, Machine Learning with F# and R (with 2 × F# MVPs, PostDoc Evelina Gabasova and Mathias Brandewinder)
 - [SiteImprove](#) (Commercial and upcoming this month): From Dependency injection to dependency rejection (with Mark Seemann an F# MVP)



Thanks to everybody who made/makes this possible

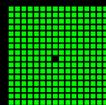


- Special thanks
 - To **Don Syme** who gave a talk when the group was starting. He put us on the map
 - To **Joakim Ahnfelt-Rønne** because he is able to make high quality last minute talks when we can't get speakers for an event
 - To **Prosa** because now we can use all our resources to look for speakers instead of looking for venues
- And last but not least, to all of our many speakers:
 - Jesper Osgaards, **Tomas Petricek** (x2), **Torben Rahbek Koch** (x2), **David Christiansen** (x2), **Phillip Trelford** (x4), Don Syme, Michael R. Hansen, Hans Rischel, Jesper Louis Andersen, Claes Worm, Oscar Toro, **Paul Lam** (x2), Kristian Schmidt, **Ahmad Salim Al-Sibahi** (x2), Alessandro Bruni, Troels Henriksen, Jannick Johnsen, Ulrik Rasmussen, Evelina Gabasova, **Mathias Brandewinder** (x2), Philip Nilsson, Rasmus Lerchedahl Petersen, Mark Seemann, ...
- that gave talks about these languages:
 - F#, Scala, Idris, F# + “R”, Haskell, Agda, Erlang, OCaml, Elixir, Clojure, F*, Futhark, “Rust”, Kleenex, Elm, ...



Summary

- Lessons learned
 - Get a permanent location ASAP
 - Reach out mainly to the local community for speakers
 - Then reach out to global community for speakers if they are in town for Conferences or leisure
 - Name (F#) and logo (Haskell) can attract/discourage people to/from attending events, have that in mind
 - Make events titles relevant to content and don't use a generic title
 - Fewer talks. Quality, not quantity
 - Be professional, ensure a wide variety of languages and the right mixture between commercial and academic talks. Go for hands-on if possible as it involves the audience
- A grateful surprise about ISSUU:
 - 6 years of OCaml in production (4 + 2)
 - 9 projects on GitHub (2 own and 7 forked)



Q & A

Any Questions?

