GOBLET

Genesis/Evolution

Amsterdam, 28 November, 2012
Overview

• The BTN
  – the roots of GOBLET
• The B3CB meeting
• Update on status of GOBLET
• What we have to do today…
BTN is/was a global community-based network

Aiming to:
- bring together bioinformatics trainers & organisers
- provide a centralised facility to share materials, to list training events (incl. course contents & trainers)
- share & discuss training experiences

It emerged partly from the ELIXIR Training Strategy Working Group & from the SLING project (FP7)
- Serving Life-Science Information for the Next Generation

SLING WP02 User Training (Cath Brooksbank, EBI)
The BTN

**Founders in 2009**
- UK: Vicky Schneider, Teresa Attwood, Jennifer McDowall, Phil Jones, James Watson, David Judge, Cath Brookbanks
- Switzerland: Marie-Claude Blatter
- Germany: Aidan Budd, Kristian Rother
- Portugal: Pedro Fernandes
- Italy: Allegra Via
- South America: Javier De Las Rivas
- Finland: Tommi Nyronen
- Denmark: Thomas Blicher
- Belgium: Wouter van der Gool

**Joined in 2010**
- Belgium: Joachim Jacob
- Canada: Michelle Brazas
- The Netherlands: Celia van Gelder

**Joined in 2011**
- Africa: Nicky Mulder
- Spain: Federico Moran

Who’s involved in BTN 2012:
- >20 representatives from >13 countries
- BTN Organising Committee:
  - Allegra Via (Chair), Teresa Attwood (Co-chair), Celia van Gelder (Secretary)
BTN Activities

- Annual meetings, for trainers to meet/discuss/share/Act...
  - 2009-2011, hosted by EBI in the UK, funded by SLING
  - 2012, hosted by NBIC in NL, travel funded by BTN members
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• Publish (articles/position papers/policy documents…) on bioinformatics training
BTN Publications

2010

Bioinformatics training: a review of challenges, actions & support requirements.
Schneider, M.V. et al. (2010), Briefings in Bioinformatics, 11(6), 544-551.

2011

Bioinformatics Training Network (BTN): A community resource for bioinformatics trainers

10 simple rules for developing a short bioinformatics training courses

2012

SLING deliverable: Bioinformatics training for life scientists – Guidelines for best practice

In preparation: Position Paper on Best Practices

T.K. Attwood EMBnet
The University of Manchester
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- Publishing (articles/position papers/policy documents…) on bioinformatics training
- Organising events (e.g., workshops)
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  - 2009-2011, hosted by EBI in the UK, funded by SLING
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- Publishing (articles/position papers/policy documents…) on bioinformatics training
- Organising events (e.g., workshops)
- Developing & populating www.biotnet.org
  - freely available bioinformatics course materials
  - uploaded by registered trainers
Technical support
Peter Walter, EBI External Services Group
(Group Leader, Rodrigo Lopez)
BTN Evolution

• **Sustainability**
  
  – SLING funding ended August 2012
  
  – seek new financial model

• **Independent website hosting**
  
  – BTN provided a prototype from which we have learned lessons & on which we can build further functionalities
  
  • need to evolve towards a centralised resource, **owned by everyone, possessed by no one**
International Alliance of Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Biocuration & Computational Biology networks & societies

To ‘join up’ world-wide training initiatives
• **General consensus**
  – a global bioinformatics training organisation would be useful

• **A natural evolution of the BTN**
  – extending its reach world-wide

• **BUT it had to have a new name!**
  – after several false starts
    • e.g., GloBixT, GloBIT, GloBINET…
GOBLET

Global Organisation for Bioinformatics
Learning, Education & Training
Agreed to establish an umbrella organisation, to

- provide a global, sustainable support structure for bioinformatics educators/trainers & students/trainees
- facilitate capacity development in bioinformatics in all countries
- develop standards & guidelines for bioinformatics E & T
- act as a hub for fund gathering
- reach out to, amongst others, teachers at high schools, to bridge the gap to the next generation of bioinformaticians
- foster the international community of B3CB trainers
With an ethos embracing

- inclusivity (welcoming all relevant organisations, networks, societies)
- sharing (expertise, best practice, materials, tools, compute resources)
- openness (using Creative Commons Licence)
- innovation (welcoming imaginative ideas & approaches)
- tolerance (transcending national, political, cultural, social boundaries)
Would require commitment & funding
   - it would need an orchestrating governing body & user-group
     • with a formalised manifesto
     - & should be embodied in a neutral foundation
       • registered in The Netherlands

Ideally, engaging a dedicated, part-time assistant
   - to help drive the initiative, maintain momentum, help with strategic planning, scheduling meetings, etc.
The following actions were agreed:

- synthesise & circulate meeting notes (2 weeks, TA)
- draw up an MoU (3 weeks, TA)
- agree a new name (4 weeks, All)
- set up neutral place-holder website (4 weeks, TA)
- establish the foundation (4 weeks, GV)
- draft an open letter (6 weeks, TA)
- convene kick-off event in Nov ‘12 alongside BTN AGM (NBIC)
- agree list of participants (6 weeks, All)
The following actions were agreed

- synthesise & circulate meeting notes (2 weeks)
- draw up an MoU (3 weeks, TA)
- agree a new name (4 weeks)
- set up neutral place-holder website (4 weeks)
- establish the foundation (4 weeks)
- draft an open letter (6 weeks)
- convene kick-off event in Nov ‘12 alongside BTN annual meeting
- agree list of participants (6 weeks)
• Came into force on 6 July 2012 with its 1st 5 signatures

• Other organisations have since shown interest in joining
• We agreed the following actions
  – synthesise & circulate meeting notes (2 weeks)
  – draw up an MoU (3 weeks)
  – agree a new name (4 weeks)
  – set up neutral place-holder website (4 weeks, TA)
  – establish the foundation (4 weeks)
  – draft an open letter (6 weeks)
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  – agree list of participants (6 weeks)
GOBLET
Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning. Education & Training

Empowering people, harnessing competence

Under the auspices of EMBnet, leaders of a number of International Bioinformatics Training Networks met in Uppsala to discuss world-wide bioinformatics training initiatives, including the future of EMBnet. EMBnet had first organized a meeting for this meeting of Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Biocuration and Bioinformatics Training Networks was B3CB. The participants concluded that, as a network of networks the Bioinformatics Training Network (BTN), a Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Training (GOBLET) is needed to coordinate world-wide bioinformatics training initiatives, to share, not duplicate, cost effective methods and a sustainable future.

It was therefore agreed to establish GOBLET as a legally registered entity.

1. Provide a global, sustainable support structure for bioinformatics trainees
2. Facilitate capacity development in bioinformatics in Africa
3. Develop standards and guidelines for bioinformatics training
4. Act as a hub for fund gathering
5. Reach out to, amongst others, teachers at high schools around the world;
6. Foster the international community of B3CB trainers and support organisations

And an ethos that embraces:
• inclusivity (welcoming all relevant organisations, nations, individuals),
• sharing expertise, best practice, materials, tools, cost effective methods
• openness (using Creative Commons Licence)
• innovation (welcoming imaginative ideas and approaches)
• tolerance (transcending national, political, cultural divides)

Inaugural B3CB meeting

Uppsala, 2 June 2012

Programme

Worldwide Bioinformatics Training

09:00 Intro/welcome - Terri Attwood, Erik van Ooijen
09:15 EMBnet - Terri Attwood
09:30 ISCB - Reinhard Schneider
09:45 APBioNet - Christian Schönbach
10:00 ASBICB - Nicky Muler
We agreed the following actions

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- draft an open letter (6 weeks)
- convene kick-off event in Nov ‘12 alongside BTN annual meeting
- agree list of participants (6 weeks)
Established with an interim ‘Acting’ Exec

- TKA, Chair
- AV, Secretaris
- CvG, Treasurer
- BvK, Member

- for ease of continuity with the BTN Organising Committee

In the coming months, we need to establish GOBLET statutes & byelaws

- nominate & elect its Executive Board
- nominate & elect its Committee/Task-force Chairs
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- draw up an MoU (3 weeks)
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- draft an open letter (6 weeks, TA)
- convene kick-off event in Nov ‘12 alongside BTN annual meeting
- agree list of participants (6 weeks)
• **Current draft circulated**
  – Sarah Blackford (SEB) suggests ‘sexing it up’ for, for example, *Nat.Biotechnol.* or PLoS
  – also suggests a press release, when we’re ready
    • meanwhile, current draft can be published as a meeting report in *EMBnet.journal*
We agreed the following actions

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- establish the foundation (4 weeks)
- draft an open letter (6 weeks)
- convene kick-off event in Nov ‘12 alongside BTN AGM (NBIC)
- agree list of participants (6 weeks)
• And here we are
  – credits to Celia van Gelder & Jacintha Valk-van Beemen for local organisation

• Participants are
  – BTN, EMBnet, ISCB, APBioNet, ASBCB, SolBio, NBIC/CMBI, EMBL-EBI, ISB, SeqAhead
  – SIB, bioinformatics.ca, IGC, SEB (by proxy), ABN (by proxy), TGAC, CPGR (by proxy), Itico (by proxy), TSL (by proxy), SGBC
  – CSC (observer)
• Discuss
  – the prototype website
  – the structure & governance of the Foundation
    • types of membership
    • member rights, roles & responsibilities
    • member benefits & fees/contributions

• Agree
  – action lines for GOBLET
  – a Committee/Task-Force structure necessary to achieve this
  – an action list per Committee/Task-Force
What we have to do today

• Discuss the prototype website

Home

Information about how to log-in and potential topics to discuss

This is a demo. Feel free to try and make changes.

For the front page so far we have a mock-up proposal drafted by Terri. I would like to work on the front page once we agree on one design (drupal theme). More feedback during the meeting will be welcome.
What we have to do today

- Discuss the structure & governance
  - incl. forms of membership
Why this matters...

• Because people are already taking GOBLET seriously & funding our activities...

• The ELIXIR-UK/GOBLET Trainers Workshop

• Organising committee
  – Vicky Schneider-Gricar (TGAC)
  – Teresa Attwood (GOBLET)
  – Dawn Field (NERC EOS)
  – Carole Goble (ICT Sector, University of Manchester)
  – Chris Ponting (CGAT)
Why this matters...

- This is our chance to shape the future...together
Why this matters...

Some people want it to happen
some wish it would happen
others make it happen

Michael Jordan
Questions?