

Organization of the CGAL Project

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Project Goal

Original mission statement from 1996

"make the large body of geometric algorithms developed in the field of CG available for industrial applications"

A bottom-up approach towards applications.

Technical criteria

Robustness, efficiency, ease of use, homogeneity.

A strong connection to ongoing research.

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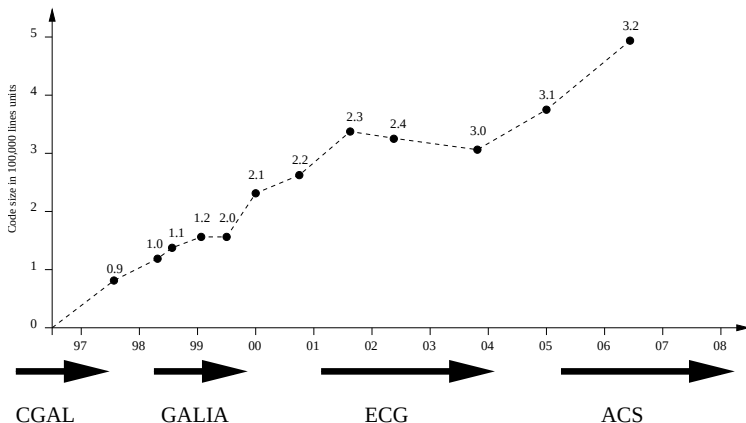
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Project History

Release history, code growth, underlying European projects.



CGAL in Numbers

500,000	lines of C++ code
10,000	downloads/year (+ Linux distributions)
3,000	pages manual
4,000	subscribers to cgal-announce
850	subscribers to cgal-discuss
120	packages
40	active developers
12	months release cycle
7	Google's PageRank for cgal.org

Consortium Partners

- **Main partners:** INRIA, Max-Planck Institute Saarbrücken, Tel Aviv U., ETH Zurich
- **Former or secondary:** U. of Athens/FORTH, Utrecht U., Free U. Berlin, U. of Groningen, Stanford U., SciSoft, U. of Florida...
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Plus several other individual contributors

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Current Interaction Process

Until now: the main *formal* link is the European research projects.

Currently: we are working on a more *formal* and *perennial*, Consortium Agreement.

Developing CGAL further requires a legal structure that:

- lasts beyond 3 years contracts
- takes into account partners not attached to such projects
- is more open to institutes/universities/companies
- gives the project an enhanced visibility and representation
- improves the decision process for long term direction
- opens a door for companies interested in helping CGAL

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Commercial Aspects of CGAL

GeometryFactory: founded by Andreas Fabri in 2003,
with support from INRIA-Transfert.

Activities: selling licenses of CGAL components, support,
custom developments, training...

Customers: >30 companies in various application domains.

Personnel: currently 2 persons

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License: Open Source and Commercial

Dual goals:

- **Open Source**: to make it a "de facto standard" and to allow external contributions
- **Commercial**: to get money to improve CGAL further

The *Open Source* license has some *constraints*:

- **QPL**: most of CGAL (prohibits commercial use)
- **LGPL**: core parts like the kernel (free to use)

Summary: users developing non-Open Source code, have to buy commercial licenses of CGAL (special price for academy).

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Technical Coordination: the Editorial Board

The Editorial Board (10 members):

- reviews submissions of new packages
- is responsible for the quality and homogeneity of CGAL
- promotes the recognition of package authors
- coordinates the communication and promotion (workshops)
- decides technical questions
- plans releases
- ...

Day-to-day Work

- A [GForge](#) system hosting an [SVN](#) repository for the code
- Daily [internal releases](#) with distributed [test-suites](#) for portability
- Our own [documentation tools](#): $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X} \Rightarrow \text{PDF, HTML}$
- Developers manual and mailing-list
- 2 one-week [developers meeting](#) a year

Developers Meetings

A key communication channel for boosting development...



Developers Meetings

... and a social link !



How to Get Involved ?

As a [group/institute](#):

- For large multi-years contributions, discussion on strategy is required with the other Consortium partners.

As an [individual](#) contributor:

- Being a user first is best to become familiar with the style
- Submit improvements to the existing code, or
- Submit a new package completing the library or opening a new domain

In any case: [contact us](#) !

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Thank you for your attention

