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Reply to: Nico Josuttis (nico@josuttis.de)

2019 Cologne Meeting Invitation and Information

Welcome to the Summer 2019 WG21 working meeting in Cologne, Germany.

The meeting will be held on

July 15 – 20, 2019

at

Hotel: **Maritim Hotel Köln**

Street: Heumarkt 20

City: **Cologne** (Germany)

Contact: +49 221 2027-0, info.kol@maritim.de

The hotel is both the meeting location and the recommended lodging location.



Hotel reservations. We recommend attendees stay at the meeting hotel if possible to take advantage of the included breakfast and negotiated room rate.

Register [using this link](https://www.maritim.com/en/home?hotel=43&startdate=14.07.2019&enddate=20.07.2019&bookingcode=ISOCPP) before the registration deadline of **May 10, 2019** (booking code: ISOCPP):

<https://www.maritim.com/en/home?hotel=43&startdate=14.07.2019&enddate=20.07.2019&bookingcode=ISOCPP>

This will ensure you are registered in the room block reserved as part of the arrangement for this meeting and will get the negotiated rate of 129€ - 159€ (about \$145-\$165, depending on the category) for single occupancy per night, which **includes** free breakfast, free Internet (download/upload 512/128 Kbits/s), and tax. For double occupancy, the cheapest rate is 168€. Please note that the cheapest rate is limited.

Travel and Transportation. If you come from overseas, the most convenient way is to fly to Frankfurt (**FRA**) and take a 1h high-speed connection train. Note that the train ride might be offered as “connection flight” to **QKL** (explicitly ask for it; e.g. United doesn’t offer this option unless you explicitly request it as destination). But you can also fly to Cologne (**CGN**) or Düsseldorf (**DUS**) directly or as connection flight from several major cities in Europe.

Details for the **Frankfurt option**: Cologne is a 1h train ride away from Frankfurt Airport (FRA), which is one of the biggest airports in Europe and which provides services for a huge number of airlines and alliances. A fast train "ICE" goes twice an hour directly from the airport station "Fernbahnhof" (long distance train station) to Cologne. These trains act like airplanes, providing a safe environment, high standard, and offering first class seats if you want to sit even more comfortable. With some airlines you can even book this train ride as "connection flight" to Cologne (they have official Lufthansa flight numbers with **QKL** or **QKU** as destination). You can buy train tickets online in ahead here:

http://www.bahn.de/p_en/view/index.shtml or in the stations or even pay in the train (with a surplus of approx.10€). Ideally, book from "FRA Frankfurt Airport" to "COLOGNE". The train costs approx. 75€ one-way (flexible travel time), but note that booking it as a connection flight might be a lot cheaper. You can alternatively take the 2h "IC/EC" train (taking a beautiful different route along the Rhine river via Mainz/Koblenz) for about 20€ less.

Details for the **Cologne airport option**: Cologne itself has its own airport (**CGN**) serving several direct flights especially from Europe, from where you can also take a short distance train to central Cologne (3€) or a taxi to the hotel (35€).

In Cologne, you can take a taxi from one of the central train stations you arrive (main station, called "Hauptbahnhof" aka "Hbf", or "Messe/Deutz"). Or you can take the short or underground train (**S** or **U**) to go to "Heumarkt" (5 minutes). Another option is a nice 15 minutes walk from Cologne main station or Messe/Deutz along/over the Rhine river.

Using a rental car is definitely not recommended.

Meals and refreshments. Breakfast is included in the guest room rate for attendees staying at the meeting hotel (therefore double occupancy is more expensive). Refreshments will be served at the meeting for mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks.

Attendees will be responsible for their own lunch and evening meals, which can be taken in the hotel restaurant or in many restaurants in walking distance. In Cologne near the hotel you will find shops and restaurants all over the place.

Attractions. Cologne is well known for its Cathedral, the crazy Carnival days, the old town (which is directly next to the hotel), and the Kölsch beer. See <http://www.cologne.de/top-of-cologne.html> for details and more.

Weather. Cologne average weather in July is around 70F/20C on average, that is we have summer (with sun and/or rain) with highs up to over 90F/32C.

Host and Sponsors. The meeting is hosted by Nicolai Josuttis.

Proud sponsors are:

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We are still looking for additional sponsors to improve hosting the breaks ;-)