

# Off-cycle release process proposal

Proposal for an off-cycle release process.

Feedback is welcome.

## Context

The Merge exposed some problems with the current Besu release process when it comes to critical bugs or hotfixes. Multiple off-cycle and cherry-picked releases caused frustration for contributors and confusion for some users. This document intends to create a proposal for a new hotfix (off-cycle) release process.

## Process Proposal

Off-cycle releases - a new release category.

An off-cycle release is defined as:

- A release outside of the scheduled times [here](#)
- A release not on the typical Wednesday or Thursday slots
- A cherry-picked release (not off main branch)

Process:

- Any besu contributor may bring forth the need for an off-cycle release
  - including justification of why the release is warranted
  - via the **besu-contributors** channel in Discord
- Scope for the release also needs to be agreed.
  - via the **besu-release** channel in Discord
- ~~If the contributor that brought forth the need has the support of one external group (defined as a contributor outside of their own organization, i.e. ConsenSys), the release can continue at an agreed upon time~~
- ~~If no consensus is reached after 24 hours, a singular organization or group of contributors may propose a release, and request approval following normal PR review process~~
- Ideally, consensus is reached. Allow a 48 hour voting period to allow for objections.
  - Justification must be given if objecting to the release
  - If there are no objections, the release can continue at an agreed upon time.
  - Any objection and the justification given must be seriously considered and weighed against the reasons for the release.
  - This discussion must happen in the **besu-release** channel in Discord.

Justification for release (examples)

- critical bug affecting a number of users which requires a patch
- regular release process will not address the issue in time

Justification for objection (examples)

- technology X introduced is bad for Y reasons