

**Ветка сообщений:** <https://roamresearch.slack.com/archives/CN5MK4D2M/p1700830500560929>

Вообще, она длинная, там 40+ сообщений, многие пользователи высказали своё мнение. В том числе, прошлись про Obsidian (использование его как второе приложение под узкие задачи — частый кейс).

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**Первоначальный пост от lex meier 24.11.2023**

[3 days ago](#)

Posting it here... I think I put it in the wrong channel:

hey guys, testing our the roam waters after being away for 1.5y. Wondering about a few things that come across very concerning.

- Bad communication from the Dev's outside this Slack-channel (basically none)
- Local storage outside the browser cache, still not their should have been their years ago...
- No public roadmap, WTF?
- Company communication seems arrogant... as in we don't need to be transparent of what we plan, how we doing wehre we go...
  - if you look for roam on YT etc... nobody talks about switching to it... rather the opposite. That used to be very different.
  - The company seems to have a stick Head in the sand approach... I'm not seeing this trend 🙄🙄 lolalal. This is just so strange
- Overpriced compared to the progress they making.
  - What is up with that so many starting to copy roam and making more headway?
  - Their should be at least some more adjusted pricing

They might be uncomfortable topics. But I'm wondering where I can find informations (reasons) on these before maybe dumping my second brain back into a software that has all the hallmarks to the public that it's not doing well. Not trying to provoke anything, or look for beef. But right now Roam looks not trustworthy (change-logs not enough these days, sorry). And would love to have some reassurance

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**Ответ от Vaibhav Bista (инженер команды) 25.11.2023**

Hey yall,

Baibhav from the Roam Engineering team here

Most of what I want to say is in the reddit post people have already [linked above](#) (thank you for [the screenshots](#) too since I block reddit, hackernews, youtube and the like for most

of the day and it is right now currently blocked 😊). So, if you haven't yet, you probably want to read that too.

Some things I think I missed in the post/would like to emphasize more on:

1. Totally agree that we could do with a lot more communication (this is why I'm kind of glad you brought up the issue here [@lex meier](#))
2. Roam is much more a research company than most people realize. A significant portion of our effort and time go towards research into new and better approaches to augment (individual & collective) intellect. This research is really important and sometimes really fruitful (for example: the set of features that propelled Roam and arguably renewed the TFT landscape in 2019/2020 started from a period of intense research by Conor&Josh). However, almost by definition, the outputs of research cannot be guaranteed to happen within a particular period of time. We currently (and over the past few years) have had a number of research directions, and, from the public POV, this can look like no work was done. (Additionally, this high emphasis on research also means that roadmaps do not work that great for us 😊)
3. We have a strong focus on reliability, not breaking things (especially NOT losing data), and improving performance to keep ahead of even our most heavy users
  - a. I think the NOT losing data is a very important rule that most apps do not take as seriously as us. We have a battle-hardened sync system that works even when offline, when using multiple clients, across multiple users. Other than that, we have multiple pathways to recover data even if somehow lost. (If anyone encounters such issues, do let us know at [support@roamresearch.com](mailto:support@roamresearch.com) and we will recover the data for you)
4. Our extensions ecosystem (Roam Depot) is also undervalued IMO. We have a lot of great extensions and awesome builders. In contrast to other apps, we share our revenue with the extension developers which we hope will foster a long term and healthy extension ecosystem (while keeping the extensions free for our users)
  - b. Another point re: extensions is that unlike other apps, all the updates to the extensions also pass through security reviews (which IMO is a must for not releasing exposing Roam graphs to vulnerabilities)
5. I'm probably biased here, but if you take a look at this space in the long term, I expect that you'll see a lot of products go through hype cycles and later shut down, but you will find Roam merrily chugging along, building more features, and (hopefully every couple of years) contributing better foundational ideas to the TFT space.
  - c. I think our current approach is a good one for the long term (except for the fact that our communication can be much improved)
    - i. Another point for the long term view of your notes is that our export both contains all data (& metadata) and is widely supported throughout the industry.

These are both important points contributing towards long term support of your notes - even in the worst case scenario where Roam ever fails

So, in the spirit of better communication, here are some things you all can expect over the next couple of months:

6. A new append API (different from the Backend API since this API will work for encrypted graphs as well)

d. and things that build on top of this - Zapier and [make.com](https://make.com) integrations, new update to Raycast extension, etc The Readwise team is also using this to build a better integration - and one that works on encrypted graphs too

7. Improvements on the mobile app (edit mode on the beta features, better quick capture, etc)

8. A number of AI features

9. A bunch of Quality of Life Improvements

10. ... and a few others that are secret as of now

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#### **Вопрос от Adam A Goldstein**

Hi [@Baibhav Bista](#), can you tell us who and/or how many developers are left on the Roam Research team? Is it just you, Josh and Conor at this point? (Don't see any sign that Nikita Tonsky is still at Roam.) It's tough not knowing how the company is doing business-wise when my daily life relies so much on this app. Based on social media activity, it sure seems like the user base has become quite small at this point.

#### **Ответ Baibhav Bista**

The dev team has been mostly the same size since a few years (except for Tonsky, yeah he is no longer on the team)

So there are 5 people - me, Josh, Conor, [@Baptiste Dupuch](#) and Christophe Grand (looks like his account here might be under a nickname, couldn't find in search here)

The reason you've probably not interacted with Baptiste or Christophe might be because they are focusing on the backend and more so on the mobile app (They are the creators of [ClojureDart](#) which our mobile app is built using)

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#### **Комментарий ещё от одного инженера Baptiste Dupuch, 25.11.2023**

Hey, [@Baibhav Bista](#)'s colleague here. I focus mainly on the backend and the mobile app. These can be difficult challenges to tackle (+75 servers on the backend and writing a text editor on a mobile device is never "easy"). Anyway we do read feedbacks and we try to take them into account when possible.

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## Комментарий от Josh Brown, CTO, Co-Founder. 25.11.2023

Hey all, lots of good points in the thread.

First off I want to apologize for myself not being as active over the last few weeks. I had some planned vacation, then I got married (I was engaged but the date was as unplanned ahead of time, CWS also got married) then I came down with covid pretty bad and now I have a baby due in a few weeks so things have been hectic on my end and I let my activity here slip.

I agree with baibhavs post and want to add a few things. Yes Nikita left, but he was working on a long shot open source project for us most of the time so it didn't change dev capacity very much. Roam as a business is doing fine, yes we have lost users but we are still profitable and have enough runway to operate for 10 years even if we stopped being profitable. [@lex meier](#) to your point on obsidians business model, yes we are probably leaving a bunch of money/growth on the table in a number of places but Conor never wanted free users. Roam is a research company founded to solve collective intelligence and the current app has fallen way short of that goal, but keeping that in mind is why you can see us make different choices than obsidian, Roam was never meant to be only single player so offline first didn't make sense for us to build the entire app around.

We do care deeply about your privacy, and I thought we had been very vocal that Roam does not sell your data, and we offer encryption or offline (admittedly the browser cache isn't as good as being in the file system). if you use obsidian or logseq's sync doesn't that give them access to your data all the same?

On competitors, obsidian is a very different tool, built with different things in mind. Logseq is still not "there" even after years of copying us directly so will they ever catch up? Athens died already and I'd expect logseq to come next. Tana is the only one I take seriously now a days, but it seems they have a long way to go and I'm biased but I didn't like the feel of their tool...

I can assure you Roam is still in development, and hopefully big improvements coming soon such as the mobile app and zapier integrations as Baibhav mentioned.