

Finding your way around Apache

Hi. I'm new here. Sort of.



Who am I?



**We're
hiring!!**

Not terribly new here...actually...

- bigbluehat@apache.org
- Apache CouchDB committer
- 8 years in the CouchDB community
- 16+ years doing open source
- Built 6k+ plus web site on Apache Cocoon around 2000-2001



...the foundation...not the web server...

WHAT IS APACHE?

The ASF

- Formal founding in 1999
- Originally the Apache Group
- Now The Apache Software Foundation
 - ...not the Apache Foundation
- 501(c)(3) Foundation
- 9 member Board of Director
- 2.5k+ volunteers

Some Numbers

- 300+ open source initiatives
- 167 committees managing 278 projects
- 5 special committees*
- 44 incubating podlings

meritocracy

COMMUNITY OVER CODE

Community over Code

- Meritocracy
 - government by merit.
- [The Apache Way](#)
 - Not my talk ;)
 - Read it, understand it, do it.

You're here to collaborate & build community.

The rest is either plumbing or the output.

Code of Conduct

- Be open.
- Be empathetic, welcoming, friendly, and patient.
- Be collaborative.
- Be inquisitive.
- Be careful in the words that we choose.
- Be concise.
- Step down considerately.

Empathy?!

“vicarious participation
in the emotions, ideas, or opinions of others;
the ability to imagine oneself in the
condition or predicament of another.”

the plumbing

HOW

Mailing Lists

- Mostly where the action happens
- More important than you might think
- private@
- {project}@
- Archived at <http://{project}.apache.org/....>

Source Control

- SVN...usually
 - It's an Apache project!
- Git(Hub) sometimes
 - Depends on the project
- Other?

Issues

- Jira...usually
- GitHub soon?
- others...if the project previously used them
 - Or the project **is** an issue tracker

all things ASF != code projects

META PROJECTS

Meta Projects

- community.apache.org
- incubator.apache.org
- attic.apache.org
- labs.apache.org
- people.apache.org
- projects.apache.org
- infra.apache.org
- apache.org
- apachecon.com

Meta Code Projects

- [ASF CMS](#)
 - Pretty geeky stuff...
 - Tried the bookmarklet
 - ...did it wrong...apparently
- [paste.apache.org](#)
- [mail-archives.apache.org](#)
 - mod_mbox based

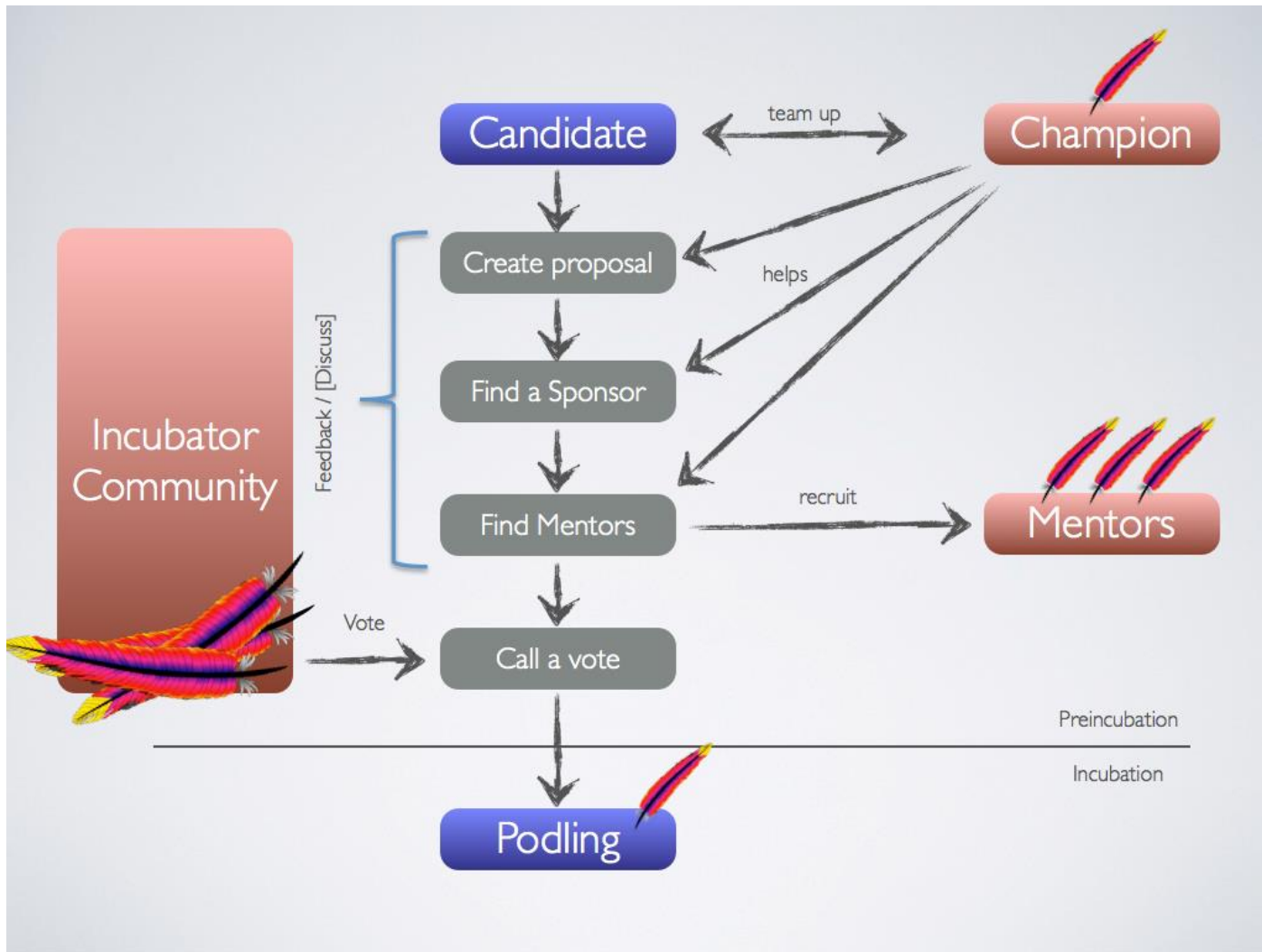
Incubation

- Projects start here
- Some become projects
- Some don't
- All the communities exit with understanding

Incubation (cont)

- Formal submission process
- 80% about community quality
- 20% legal
- ...maybe a micro-% about the code
 - Totally just my fabricated numbers ;)

Apache Incubator Flow Chart



Project Health

- Voting
- Status reports
- Committer pool
- Committer diversity

Attempting Annotator => Apache

- Didn't make it.
- Didn't quite start...in fact.
- Code need(s) provenance curation.
 - Dual licensed mess (MIT & GPL)
 - No CLA
- Community wasn't ready.
 - Too few active core developers.
 - Plugin community too detached from core.

Attic – fun stuff up here!

- It is intended to:
 - Be non-impacting to users
 - Provide restricted oversight for these codebases
 - Provide oversight for active user lists with no Project Management Committee (PMC)
- It is not intended to:
 - Rebuild community
 - Make bugfixes
 - Make releases

Labs

- The Innovation Laboratories of the Apache Software Foundation.
 - Did you know we had this?!
- “a place for innovation where **committers** of the foundation can experiment with new ideas.”

how all this gets done

OVERSIGHT

“Management”

- Committer
 - code oversight
 - short-term project decisions
- Project Management Committee (PMC)
 - (collectively!) controls the project
- PMC Chair
 - Interfaces with the Board
- ASF Member
 - care for The ASF itself
 - nominated by current members; elected due to merit

ASF Board of Directors

- Rich Bowen
- Shane Curcuru
- Bertrand Delacretaz
- Jim Jagielski
- Chris Mattmann
- David Nalley
- Brett Porter
- Sam Ruby
- Greg Stein

Remember...

“All projects are composed of **volunteers** and nobody (not even members or officers) are paid directly by the foundation for their job”

Decision Making

- +1 - a positive vote
- 0 - abstain, have no opinion
- -1 - a negative vote
- ...plus math

- “negative vote[s must] includes an alternative proposal or a detailed explanation...”

LEGAL BITS

Apache License 2.0

- Liberal license
- Patent friendly
- Enterprise friendly
- Trademark friendly
- Future friendly

IANA & TINLA

iCLA – Individual Contributor’s License Agreement

- Copyright **& Patent** Grant
- Good for you
 - Keep your code **and** contribute it!
- Good for Apache
 - Can protect the code
 - Without your “help”

IANA & TINLA

cCLA – Corporate Contributor’s License Agreement

- Essentially the iCLA but for companies
- Signed by company’s legal department
- Covers stuff done at work
 - When you’re under a “work for hire” agreement

IANA & TINLA

Software Grant

- Signed for initial code drops
 - Entering Incubation
 - Added sub-project code
- “a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, irrevocable copyright **& patent** license”

IANA & TINLA

Need more legalese?

- [ASF Bylaws](#)
- Project Bylaws
- [Trademark Policy](#)
- Like legal? legal-discuss@apache.org

lost yet?

WHERE TO START?

No front door...lots of them!

- apache.org can lead you to ASF content and out to projects
- Usually best to start at a project, and work in.

Ocean Boiling

- Start small
- Pick a single project
- Focus on a single objective / contribution
- Communicate
 - More reading than talking
- Iterate ^_^

Communicating

- Mostly mailing lists
- Some IRC (depends on the project)
- Jira / GitHub Issues
- Blogs? (depends on the project)

- Outbound?
 - Twitter, Advocacy Hub, Project Blog / “Weekly News”

- More reading than talking...still

Coding

- The easy part ;)
- Pick your project(s)
- Keep your commitments
- Contribute where you can
- Share more than code
 - Schematics
 - Ideas
 - Plans

Not Code

- Design
- Documentation
- User Support `user@{project}.apache.org`
- Promotion / Marketing
 - Use
 - Advocate!
 - `marketing@{project}.apache.org` (sometimes)
- [Mentoring](#) / [Summer of Code](#)

Contributing

- Start now!
- Be patient
- Committer status comes in time
 - Because merit.

Curating?

- So much good stuff here!
- Help Apache find Apache
- Contribute to meta projects
- Make new ones?
- Annotate?
 - <http://via.hypothes.is/apache.org/>

CLOSING CALLS TO ACTIONS

Be the Apache You Wish to See

- Meta Projects!
 - Hack on Apache at Apache
- Community over Code
- Tool makers wanted
- Be a mentor!
- Be welcoming
- Be collaborative
- **Be kind**

Improve Mailing Lists?

- We live in a crumbling house
- Needs a new archive UI
- Needs a database (or two)
- Needs an API (or two)
- Needs you!
- ...and your project!

- **Be kind.**

Improve Web Sites

- Make 'em mobile
- Connect them via feather widget (let's talk!)
- Improve [ASF CMS](#)?
- Offer other CMS options?
 - We have several CMS's at Apache

Design @ Apache

- Everyone's a designer.
- Mailing list “protocol” for design:
 - Show an image / design draft.
 - Get large bodies of (opinionated) text in response.
 - ☹️
- Need better tools?
 - Use Jira?
 - Fork-able design?

Thanks!



- bigbluehat.com
- [@bigbluehat](https://twitter.com/bigbluehat)
- github.com/BigBlueHat
- bigbluehat on irc.freenode.net
 - #couchdb #pouchdb #hypothes.is
- bigbluehat@apache.org
- byoung@bigbluehat.com
- bigbluehat@hypothes.is

Starfish & the Spider

"The Starfish and the Spider is a compelling and important book."
—PIERRE OMIKYAR, CEO, Omidyar Network; founder and chairman, eBay Inc.

THE STARFISH AND THE SPIDER



THE UNSTOPPABLE POWER OF
LEADERLESS ORGANIZATIONS

ORI BRAFMAN and ROD A. BECKSTROM

Also read...

THE CATHEDRAL & THE BAZAAR