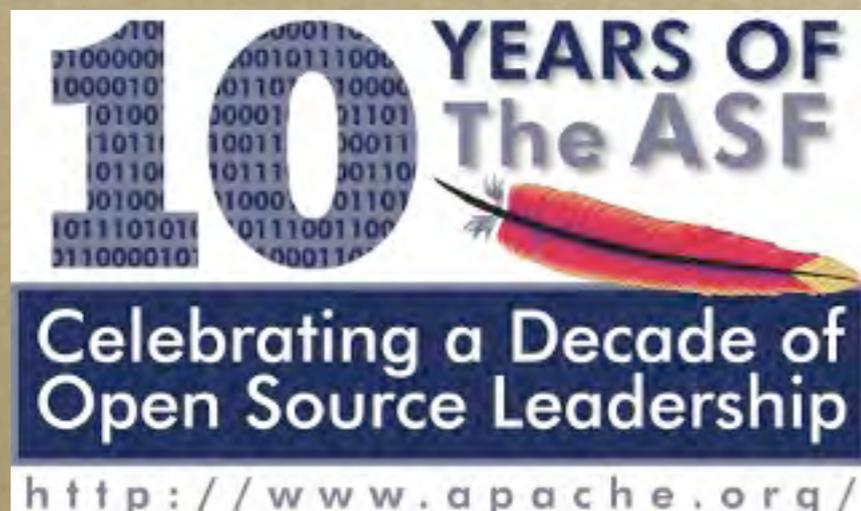


# An Overview of The Apache Software Foundation



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# Why should I pay attention?

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- *Committer to Apache HTTP Server, APR, Subversion (now incubating!), and Serf*
- *President, The Apache Software Foundation*
- *Chief Architect, Joost*
- *Ph.D. from UC Irvine*
  - *Computational REST (next-gen web arch.)*

# Geographic Diversity



<http://people.apache.org/map.html>

*Challenges and advantages arise from this!*

# Project Diversity

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- *Seventy top-level projects (TLPs)*
  - *Java, C, C++, Perl, etc. projects...*
- *Over thirty projects currently in “pipeline”*
  - *Incubator: train new projects*
  - *Labs: committer sandboxes*

*Apache aims to provides a pragmatic non-technical framework to its projects*

# Apache's mission

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*The Apache Software Foundation provides support for the Apache community of open-source software projects. The Apache projects are characterized by a collaborative, consensus based development process, an open and pragmatic software license, and a desire to create high quality software that leads the way in its field.*

# Apache's mission (redux)

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- *Let developers focus on what they do best: code. Foundation exists to do rest.*
- *“The Apache Way”*
  - *Open development vs. open source*
  - *All technical decisions about a project are made in public (mailing lists)*

# Founding of Apache

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- *Started as “Apache Group” (8 members)*
- *Resumed work on NCSA httpd*
  - *UIUC put httpd in public domain, but essentially abandoned it*
  - *Chose permissive licensing (more later)*
- *Informal corporate structure until...*

# Creation of Foundation

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- *Incorporated with 21 members in 1999*
  - *274 members and 52 emeritus today*
- *Provides formal corporate structure*
- *Membership-based organization*
- *IRS 501(c)3 public charity status*
  - *Donations by individuals tax-deductible*

# Organization of ASF

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- *Each Apache project is independent*
- *Grouped as 'top-level' PMCs (TLP)*
  - *Board: Social - not technical - guidance*
- *Some TLPs have 'sub-projects'; discouraged*
- *Karma in one PMC doesn't grant rights in another PMC - earn karma independently!*

# Board of Directors

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- *Elected yearly by membership*
- *Shane Curcuru (IBM), Doug Cutting (Cloudera), Justin Erenkrantz (Joost), Roy T. Fielding (Day), Jim Jagielski (VMWare), Geir Magnusson, Jr. (Gilt), Brian McCallister (Ning), Brett Porter (G2iX), Greg Stein (Independent)*

# Executive Officers and Staff

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- *Exec officers appointed by Board ; unpaid volunteers*
  - *Chairman, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Vice President*
- *PR firm to help with publicity*
- *2 full-time system administrators*

# Hardware infrastructure

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- *Bulk of work done by volunteers*
  - *If a project wants it, they must volunteer!*
- *2 paid system administrators fill “holes”*
- *Main data centers: OSU OSL, SURFnet (.nl)*
- *Off-site at UC Irvine; Build farm at Traci.net*
- *Will be adding Australian presence soon*

# Committees

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- *ConCom: responsible for events*
  - *ApacheCon and smaller events*
- *Legal: Deal with lawyers*
  - *Pro-bono: EFF, SFLC, & Larry Rosen*
- *PRC: Deal with press/outside world*

# Budget

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- *2009-2010FY Budget (May 1 - April 30)*
- *Projected income: \$540,000*
  - *Rely upon public and corporate sponsors*
- *Projected expenses: \$404,000*
  - *Biggest expense is infrastructure: \$150k*

<http://www.apache.org/foundation/records/>

# ASF Sponsorship Program

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- *Platinum (\$100,000 per year)*
  - *Yahoo!, Microsoft, Google*
- *Gold (\$40k/yr): HP*
- *Silver (\$20k/yr): Covalent, Progress (IONA)*
- *Bronze (\$5k/yr): AirPlus International, BlueNog, Intuit, Joost, Matt Mullenweg, Two Sigma Investments*

# Participation in Java Standards

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- *Many of our projects implement JSRs*
- *Our goal is to put the “Community” in JCP*
- *Member, Exec. Committee for J2SE/J2EE*
- *Harmony and JCK ; “field of use”*
- *Voted JCP Program Member of the Year:  
2007, 2008, 2009*

# Comparison with Eclipse

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- *Eclipse: 501(c)6 / trade association*
  - *Corporate members give money and staff*
  - *Pro-active legal review*
- *Apache: member-centric organization*
  - *Individuals (not companies) invited to join*  
*In Apache, merit follows individuals!*

# Contributions

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- *Apache wants voluntary contributions*
  - *Not copyleft!*
- *Many forms of contributions*
  - *evangelism, bug reports, testing, documentation, code, design feedback*
- *Contributing is easier than you think!*

# Where decisions happen

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- *Can't kibitz in the morning over coffee*
- *First time meet face-to-face is at events*
- *Mailing lists are the pulse of the project*
  - *IRC, AIM, Jabber, etc. not for decisions*
- *Roy's mantra: "If it doesn't happen on-list, it didn't happen."*

# Finding that list!

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- *Should be listed on every project's site*
- *dev@ - dev-to-dev discussions (**primary list**)*
- *commits@ - automated source changes*
- *users@ - user-to-user help (optional)*
- *private@ - discussion of people (committers)*
- *[http://mail-archives.apache.org/mod\\_mbox/](http://mail-archives.apache.org/mod_mbox/)*

# Find a bug? File an issue!

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- *Be descriptive: provide reproduction recipe (step-by-step instructions of what you did!); provide version info (latest version?), etc.*
  - *How to report bugs effectively:*  
<http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/bugs.html>
- <http://issues.apache.org/>
  - *Either Bugzilla or JIRA are used*

# Fetching that latest version

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- *Subversion is the version control system*
- *<http://svn.apache.org/repos/asf/>*
  - *(DNS load-balanced with US & European server)*
  - *ViewVC Browser: <http://svn.apache.org/viewvc/>*
- *We are experimenting with git-svn*
  - *<http://wiki.apache.org/general/GitAtApache>*

# Quick guide to Subversion

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*% svn co http://svn.apache.org/repos/asf/apr/apr/trunk/ apr*

*% ...make changes...*

*% svn diff*

*% ..file patch in issue tracker, email that patch to list, etc...*

*O'Reilly SVN book (free):  
<http://svnbook.red-bean.com/>*

# Creating patches for review

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- *Send to right developer mailing list*
- *Unified diff (`svn diff` outputs this by default)*
- *Subject: [PATCH] <one-line description>*
- *Include log message: describe “why”*
- *Comments in code: describe “how”*

# Scoping contributions

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- *Do not do “powerplant” contributions*
  - *Break patches up into small chunks*
  - *Large changes are hard to review*
- *Before starting large changes, email plan to developer list - explain how and why*
- *Try to get feedback early and often*

# Expectations around feedback

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- *You may have the greatest and most obvious change in the world, but you get dead silence*
- *Not your fault - may be a busy time or 'right' person may be on vacation*
- *If you don't get a reply in a week, do try again. Keep trying, but don't be rude.*

# Voting

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- $+1?$   $-1?$   $+0?$   $-0?$
- *“Binding” vote given to committers*
  - *Everyone should feel free to vote*
- *Cast your vote on-list*
- *...what about vetos?*

# The dreaded -1 (veto)

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- *Power given to all committers to absolutely stop an action*
- *Code can be vetoed - releases can not*
- *Some projects have an 'override'*
- *Vetos should only be cast as a measure of last resort; use judiciously!!*

# Rule of 3 and 72

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- *3 voters is minimum acceptable quorum*
  - *Ensures diversity and true community*
- *72 hours minimum time frame for votes*
  - *Accommodate long weekends too*
  - *Generally err on side of caution*

# Apache commit policies

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- *RTC - Review than Commit*
  - *3 +1s (more + than -); no vetos*
- *CTR - Commit than Review*
  - *Lazy consensus - assumed okay*
- *Different policies per PMC or codebases*
  - *Stable: RTC, Trunk: CTR*

# Spotting Poisonous People

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*“How Open Source Projects Survive  
Poisonous People (And You Can Too)” by  
Ben Collins-Sussman and Brian Fitzpatrick*

*<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4216011961522818645>*

- Most people are nice; there are dingbats, or may just be someone having a bad day*
- Trolls exist...don't feed them.*
- Don't become a poisonous person.*

# Legal framework

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- *ASF philosophy is that code can be used commercially without restrictions*
  - *Just don't call it Apache Foo!*
- *Apache License, version 2.0*
  - *Grants copyright and patent licenses*
- *Many non-ASF projects use ALv2 now*

# What am I signing?

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- *Contributor License Agreement (CLA)*
  - *Gives ASF 'license' - not ownership*
  - *Required before getting SVN account*
  - *Fax or email to [secretary@apache.org](mailto:secretary@apache.org)*
- *Corporate CLA form - when needed?*

# Incorporating third-party code

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- *ALv2 is GPLv3-compatible - can be used by GPL projects but no GPL within ASF*
- *<http://www.apache.org/legal/3party.html>*
- *<http://www.apache.org/legal/resolved.html>*
  - *List of licenses permitted / disallowed*
- *Questions to [legal-discuss@apache.org](mailto:legal-discuss@apache.org)*

# Starting new Apache projects

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- *Incubator - “podlings” can be nominated and eventually “graduate” to be a PMC*
  - *Needs foundation member to **mentor***
  - *Usually legal and/or community issues*
- *Labs - once you are a committer, you can have a sandbox (shared mailing list, no non-committers, no releases)*

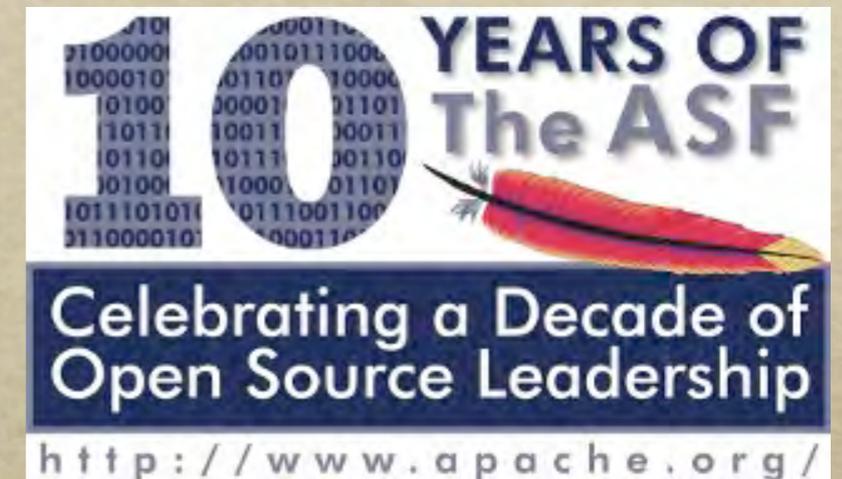
# Beyond a committer...

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- *Once you are committer, you can then become a PMC member, foundation member, Director...even President!*
- *You can nominate other foundation (or PMC) members; can serve as mentor for Incubating projects; vote for Board.*
- *Maybe you too can then give this talk!*

# ApacheCon US 2009

- *Oakland Convention Center*
- *November 2-6, 2009*
- *Trainings, talks, meetups*
- *Free BarCampApache and birthday party!*
- *<http://www.apachecon.com/>*



***ApacheCon NA '10; Atlanta, GA***

# Thanks! Questions?

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## *Other Recommended Resources*

- *Producing OSS*  
by Karl Fogel - <http://producingoss.com/>
- *Getting Started in Open Source: An Overview for Newbies*  
by Leslie Hawthorn and Cat Allman (at SCaLE 7x and OSCON 2009)
  - [http://scale7x.socallinuxexpo.org/sites/scale7x.socallinuxexpo.org/files/SCALE\\_Final\\_allman\\_lhawthorn.pdf](http://scale7x.socallinuxexpo.org/sites/scale7x.socallinuxexpo.org/files/SCALE_Final_allman_lhawthorn.pdf)