

REFEDS Schema Editorial Board

- <https://wiki.refeds.org/display/STAN/Schema+Editorial+Board>
- schema-discuss mailing list

The COmanage Project

Sustainability and Governance

<https://www.internet2.edu/comanage>



spherical cow
group

Sustainability

Ensuring the long term viability of the project:

- Sustainability of contributions to the code base via licensing, IPR management
- Sustainability of contributors to the code base via funding
- Sustainability of the community via participation guidelines and governance

COmanage Project History

- Started by Internet2 with various grants
- Three abandoned versions
- Current COmanage Project started in 2009 with funding from US National Science Foundation (NSF)
- Since 2014, funding from Internet2 and contributors
 - NIH/NIAID (US), CILogon (U Illinois), Lafayette College, MLA/Mellon, SUNET, SURFnet, GÉANT, others
 - GRNET, Syracuse University, others

Tooling

- Source Repo (git, GitHub)
- Issue Tracker (JIRA)
- Document Repository (Confluence)
- Email Lists (Sympa)
- Chat / Messaging (Slack)
- OSS tools offer better sustainability but require more work
 - Long term archival vs cloud hosting and subscription plans
 - Since I2 runs our services, it's their problem to switch

Licensing (Outbound)

- Apache2
 - All Internet2 projects use Apache2, so decision was easy
- General considerations
 - Copyleft (GPL) or not
 - License compatibility (when using libraries, plugins, etc)
 - <http://www.apache.org/legal/resolved.html#category-a>
 - Pick a well known license!
 - Already almost 100 Open Source licenses
 - <https://opensource.org/licenses/alphabetical>

Licensing (Inbound)

- Internet2 requires Contributor License Agreement
- General considerations
 - Require CLA or not? Alternate: Inbound = Outbound
 - CLA process is hard, usually involves legal, with country specific considerations
 - CLA benefits are esoteric: relicensing, IPR disputes
 - Low likelihood, high impact
 - <https://www.apereo.org/licensing>

IPR and Sustainability

- Internet2 is the legal home of the project
- IPR home needs to be a legal entity
 - Virtual Organizations cannot host projects
- Similar: Apache Foundation, Linux Foundation, Apereo Foundation, Commons Conservancy, etc
- Entities that exist primarily to maintain the software
 - Typically provide some level of guidance on governance and provide a mechanism for handling funding

Alternate IPR Models

- Hosted at a University
 - Historical approach, problematic when the University is no longer interested in maintaining the project
- Hosted by a Commercial Entity
 - Commercial interests can change over time
 - Tensions over contributions from other parties
- Dumped on ~~SourceForge~~, GitHub
 - Not really a sustainable model, just a technical repo

Funding and Sustainability

- Internet2 provides "operational" funding for project
 - Looking to broaden the set of supporting funders
 - Not looking to create yet another IPR home
- New feature development funded by parties of interest
 - Aligns development priorities with funding
 - Prevents prioritization of features from non-funding parties
 - (except where funding can be pulled from operations)

Community Management and Governance

- Various existing models
 - Apache
 - <https://www.apache.org/foundation/how-it-works.html>
 - Shibboleth
 - <https://www.shibboleth.net/consortium/documents/>
- COmanage Project wanted "lightweight" governance
 - Not enough people to warrant "heavy" governance
 - Unresolved issues around funding, etc

COmanage Community Working Group (CCWG)

- Community
 - Provides input into project direction
 - Rubric established for reviewing and prioritizing RFEs
 - Currently non-binding, pending resolution of funding model
 - Currently participation by invitation, pending further discussion of participation models
 - Collateral expected to be publically available
- Developers
 - CLA → Contributor → Committer → Component Lead