How to get more involved in Apache Open Source Projects?

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Apache Roles

User   Contributor   Committer   PMC   ASF Member

Less Involvement →→→ More Involvement

- Apache Contributors/Committers are viewed as individual contributors, independent of their potential company affiliation
- Individuals are recognized for their contributions and can assume more responsibility as they gain karma.
- Products are owned by project community.
- Emphasis on community stewardship.

Aaron Farr, http://www.slideshare.net

Apache Roles Definition (1 of 2)

- **User**

  - Uses the software and provides feedback in the form of bug or feature requests.

- **Contributor/Developer**

  - Contributes to the development of the project.

  - Takes the extra steps to participate in the project: Active on the mailing list, participate in discussions, provide patches, documentation, website updates, new features, etc.

- **Committer**

  - Committer is a developer that has been given write access to the code repository and has a signed Contributor License Agreement (CLA) on file. They have an @apache.org mail address

Apache Roles Definition (2 of 2)

- **PMC (Project Management Committee) Member**
  - Each project has a project management committee who makes decisions for the project, such as software releases and community related decisions.
  - A committer become a PMC member as a result of their involvement in the community matters related to the project.

- **PMC Chair**
  - The Chair of a Project Management Committee (PMC) is appointed by PMC Members.
  - The Chair is the interface between the Apache Board and the Project. He/she reports status of the project on a regular basis.

- **Apache Software Foundation (ASF) Member**
  - An ASF member is a person that was nominated by current members and elected due to merit for the evolution and progress of the foundation. Members care for the ASF itself.

The Apache Philosophy – "The Apache Way"

The Apache Software Foundation
Meritocracy in Action.

- **Meritocracy** – It's about what you do, **those who contribute decide**

- **Peer to Peer**
  - We work with people, not companies.
  - Committers and members should hold one another with respect.
  - All votes hold the same weight.
  - Community over code.

- **Consensus decision making**
  - Most decisions made on mailing list without voting, sometimes by way of lazy consensus
  - Typically use Wikis for proposals and design sharing
  - Voting rules : Yes (+1) Abstain (0) No (veto or -1)
    - A -1 veto requires proposal of an alternate solution

- **Open, online communication**
  - Email lists are preferred form of communication. ← The most used and preferred
  - Most communication is publicly archived.
  - Most lists are open to any subscriber

- **Responsible oversight**
  - Security is mandatory
  - Ensure license compliance
  - Release only high quality software
  - No abuse of Apache brand or community

What is Karma ?

因 果

- A Buddhist/Hindu conceptions of the sum of a person's actions which dictate his future (lives).

- Now, with regards to open source, your good actions and contributions come back to you as "karma" or "permission to a given resource" (e.g. when you become a committer, you receive karma to source code repository).

How to Become a User?

因 果

- Simply download and use the open source project.

- Report bugs

- Talk to the project community through user mailing list
  - Ask questions that will help you build your solution. Your questions will benefit others in the community who are not asking those questions themselves!
  - Share use cases, tests
  - Share your experience
    - **Usage feedback is important** - Examples, here is how we are using the project. It is working well in these cases and it can be improved in these cases.
      - Helps the developers to create software that addresses real use case scenarios.
      - Creates a user community who can help each other to use the software properly

How to become a contributor?

因 果

- Actively participate on the project mailing list by answering user questions

- Participate in requirement, design discussions, etc.

- Provide fixes (patches) and enhancements: code, documentation, website, tests, …

- Be interested in the project and help in whatever way you can

How to become a committer ?

因 果

- Each project has a Project Management Committee
- PMC recognizes individual's contributions to the project and extends the committer role to project's high contributors. This means:
  - Write access to code and an @apache.org mailing address.
    - It requires a signed CLA in place.

- One gains committer status through contribution as well as by gaining the trust of the PMC.
  - The criteria is really defined by the character of each project, that is what the PMC believes is important to the project. Some general characteristics:
    - Dedication to doing the right things
    - Attention to code quality and project guidelines
    - How well this person collaborates with the rest of the community
    - How openly they work
    - How much they contributed

Summary

因 果

- Anyone can get involved in Apache open source projects
- You define your role in the Apache through your dedication and contributions. The karma you gain.