

The Apache Software Foundation

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

State of Apache: Y2K+1

Roy T. Fielding

Chairman, The Apache Software Foundation



Chief Scientist, eBuilt, Inc.

www.eBuilt.com

Overview



- A bit of history
 - HTTP server project
 - Learning to make technical decisions
- What makes a project an Apache project?
 - Vision of collaborative software development
 - Communities, OSS Licenses, and other sticky bits
- The Apache Software Foundation
 - Rationale and Mission
 - Members and Projects
 - Learning to make corporate decisions without impacting the technical decisions

Apache HTTP Server Project

- Founded in 1995 with a common goal
 - To maintain an open source, secure, efficient and extensible server that provides HTTP services in sync with non-proprietary World Wide Web standards
- Apache Group (HTTP Server PMC)
 - Self-selected volunteers that guide the project and perform most of the development work
- Current status
 - #1 server
 - *Over 17 million web sites*
 - *60% of the public Internet sites*
 - Focus on 2.0 release, with some minor changes to 1.3.x

Why call ourselves Apache?

- No, it isn't an attack helicopter
 - unless you happen to work for Microsoft
- A Patchy Server? Nope, that's just a pun.
- A reference to our development philosophy:

“Characteristic of both Eastern and Western Apache, with the exception of the Kiowa Apache, was the lack of a centralized tribal organization. The band, an autonomous collection of small local groups within a given locality, was the primary political unit as well as the primary warring and raiding unit. The strongest headman of the local groups was recognized as an informal chief, and several bands might be united under one leader. Chieftainship was thus not generally hereditary.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica

Apache Development Process



- Trusted “core” developers
 - write access to the CVS repository (shared space)
 - work on what they want, when they want
 - release pressure expands what they want to include the common goal of a complete distribution
- Development creates issues and conflicts
 - choosing among features and alternative fixes
 - avoiding server bloat
 - setting project direction
- Voting is used to resolve conflicts

Conflict Resolution via Voting

- We need a way for the group to make a decision without requiring the whole group to be involved in making every decision
- Small quorum consensus
 - votes: +1 = yes, 0 = *shrug*, -1 = no/veto
 - three +1 and no veto required for approval
 - lazy consensus when consensus is likely
- Emphasizes code review
- Attempts to minimize interruptions in the flow

A Volunteer's Perspective



"Apache is about open collaboration.

It is a place where you can emerge by your own merits, where you can make yourself heard, where you can change the world with your ideas, and feel proud and respected in doing so"

—***Stefano Mazzocchi***

The Apache Vision



- Real innovation occurs when a contributor is able to implement their own ideas, at their own pace, and for their own purposes
- Effective long-term development and maintenance of a free, commercial-grade, open source product requires an organization that will outlive any single contributor or volunteer
- Community-based development fosters collaboration towards a common goal by supporting the work of individual innovators

Apache License Philosophy

- We want our software to be usable and modifiable by the largest number of people for any purpose they see fit
 - Open source derives benefit by trusting community
 - Any forced contribution is a worthless contribution
 - This implies a license with very few restrictions on redistribution and use
 - The ASF license is based on the BSD license
- A license can ruin a perfectly good piece of software – *Jon Stevens*

Apache won't redistribute

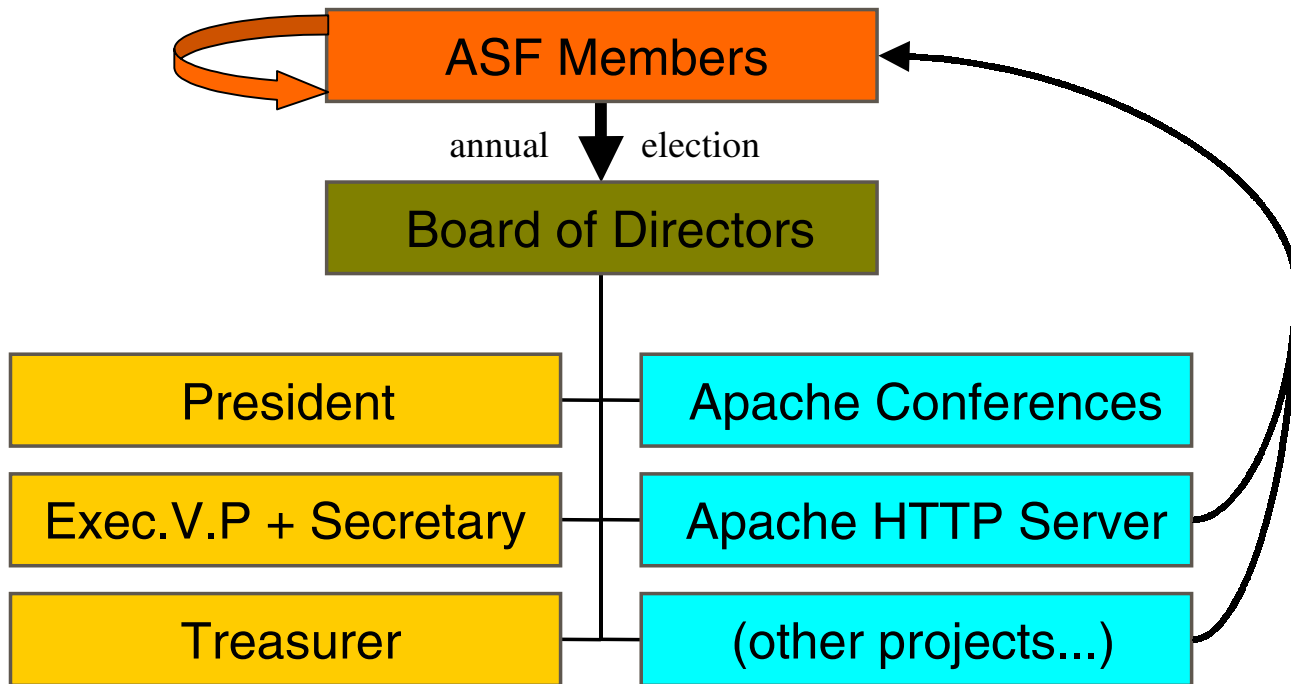


- Code with viral conditions
 - stickiness of their license must not cause our code to become sticky, nor can it place additional constraints on what can be combined with our code
- Code that excessively limits modifications
 - everything must be maintainable by us and our users
 - “derived work” must be based on source code
 - license grants on modified work must be limited to what was actually modified by the contributor
 - modifications do not imply public distribution

The Apache Software Foundation

- Mission: The ASF exists to provide organizational, legal, and financial support for the Apache open-source software projects.
- A membership-based, not-for-profit corporation
 - to ensure that the Apache projects continue to exist beyond the participation of individual volunteers
 - to enable contributions of intellectual property and funds on a sound basis
 - to provide a vehicle for limiting legal exposure while participating in open-source software projects

ASF Corporate Structure



ASF Members

*Rob Hartill
Sameer Parekh
David Robinson
Andrew Wilson*

Thies C. Arntzen
Stig Bakken
Donald Ball Jr.
Brian Behlendorf
Stas Bekman
Ryan Bloom
Scott Boag
Stefan Bodewig
Eric Cholet
Ken Coar
Mark Cox
James Duncan Davidson
Lars Eilebrecht
Ralf S. Engelschall
Roy T. Fielding
Tony Finch
Pier Paolo Fumagalli
Dean Gaudet

Dirk-Willem van Gulik
Andi Gutmans
Ask Bjørn Hansen
Brian Havard
Jason Hunter
Ben Hyde
Jim Jagielski
Manoj Kasichainula
Ed Korthof
Alexei Kosut
Martin Kraemer
Ben Laurie
Rasmus Lerdorf
Daniel Lopez Ridruejo
Doug MacEachern
Stefano Mazzocchi
Craig McClanahan
Aram Mirzadeh
Chuck Murcko

Giacomo Pati
David Reid
William A. Rowe, Jr.
Sam Ruby
Wilfredo Sanchez
Arved Sandstrom
Sascha Schumann
Cliff Skolnick
Marc Slemko
Joshua Slive
Greg Stein
Jon S. Stevens
Bill Stoddard
Zeev Suraski
Paul Sutton
Randy Terbush
Jeff Trawick
David N. Welton
Jim Winstead

Projects



- httpd, httpd-proxy, APR, apr-util
- Jakarta (nee Java-Apache)
 - Ant, ECS, JAMES, Log4j, ORO, Regexp, Slide, Struts, Taglibs, Tomcat (Catalina and Jasper), Velocity, Watchdog
 - Alexandria, Avalon, JServ, JSSI, Jetspeed, Jyve, Turbine, Jyve
- XML
 - Batik, Cocoon, FOP, SOAP, Xalan, Xang, Xerces
- Perl
 - mod_perl, Apache:: module hierarchy
- TCL
 - mod_tcl
- Conferences and Foundation

Apache Futures



- The future is what you make of it
 - all Apache work is based on someone needing something at some point and just doing it
 - all Apache technical decisions are discussed and implemented on public mailing lists
 - all you have to do to start is subscribe and participate
- Open Source == Shared Custom Software
 - community is more important than code
 - but the code is needed to form a community
- We'll distribute the future when it's ready

Questions?

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