



# Open Source collaboration tools are good for you!



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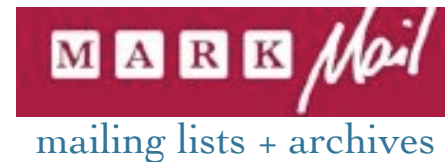
<http://grep.codeconsult.ch>

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ApacheCon Europe 2009, Amsterdam

slides revision: 2009-03-17

## Using the right (types of) collaboration tools in the right way...



Instant messaging



logos: Adium, Roller, Colloquy, MoinMoin

# ApacheCon



The **Apache Software Foundation**

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

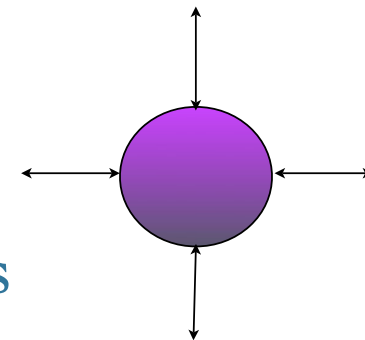
More than **60** top-level projects, many  
are “industry standards”

Close to **2000** committers

Close to **300** members

Tens of releases every year

No offices  
(almost) no f2f meetings  
all decisions on mailing lists  
recipe for failure?



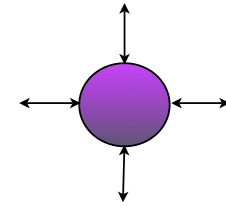
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The **Apache Software Foundation**

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

## It works for us!



revision control system



blogs



mailing lists + archives



IRC



issue tracker



Instant messaging



automated builds



Wikis

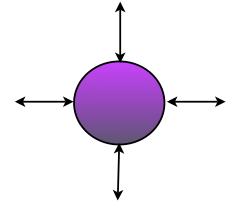


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of Open Source

● Day



Can we define  
“requirements”  
for a set of  
collaboration tools?



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Without a vision...



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What's our status right now?



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Where can I help?

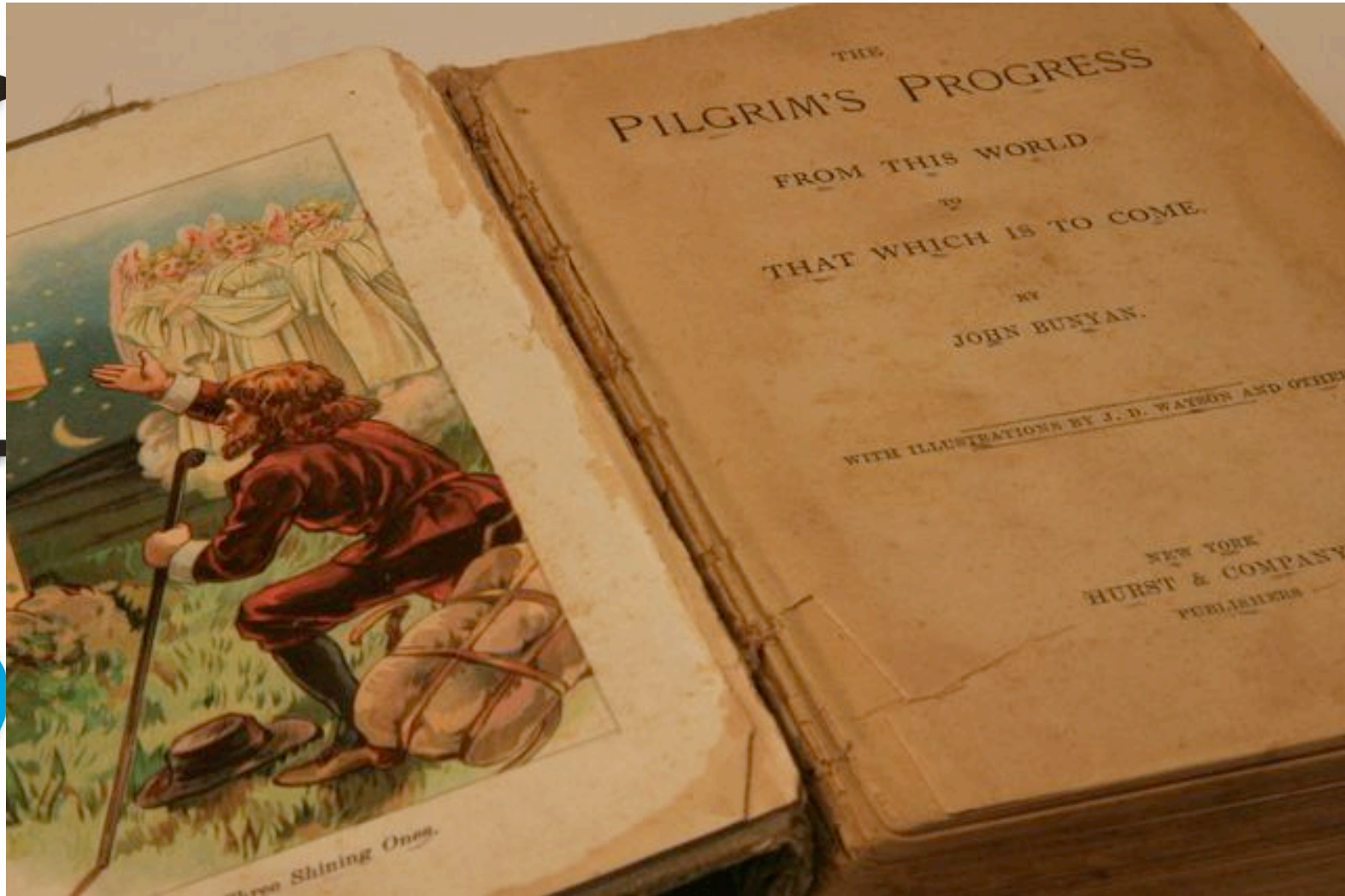


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Why did we do this?



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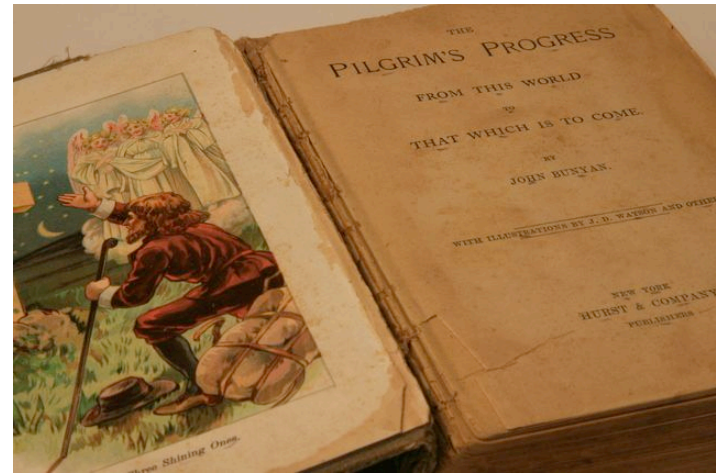
Shared vision



Real-time updates



Real-time help requests



Self-service archives



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## Sharing the Vision

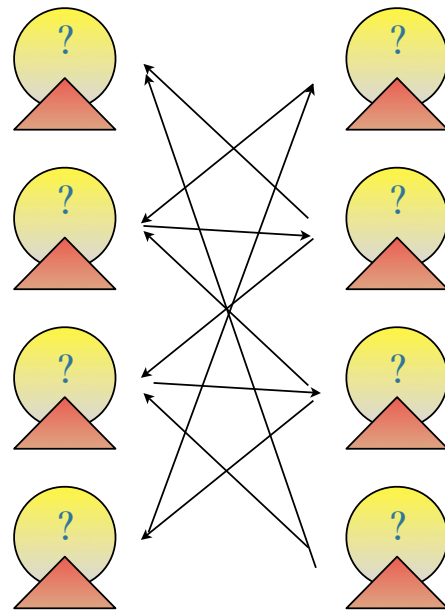


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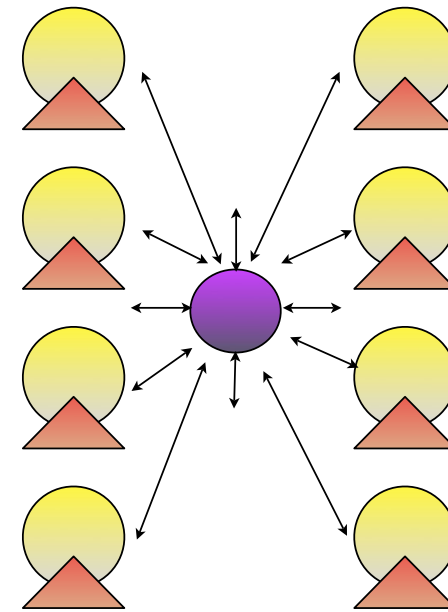
● Day



## Sharing the vision?



Mess Media?  
oral tradition?



Central Hub  
permanent record

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Sharing the vision.  
*verba volant, scripta manent...*



mailing lists + archives

Searchable mailing lists  
instead of 1-to-1 email



Wikis

Wikis instead of email  
attachments



blogs

Blogs help for out-of-  
band conversations

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## Real-time updates



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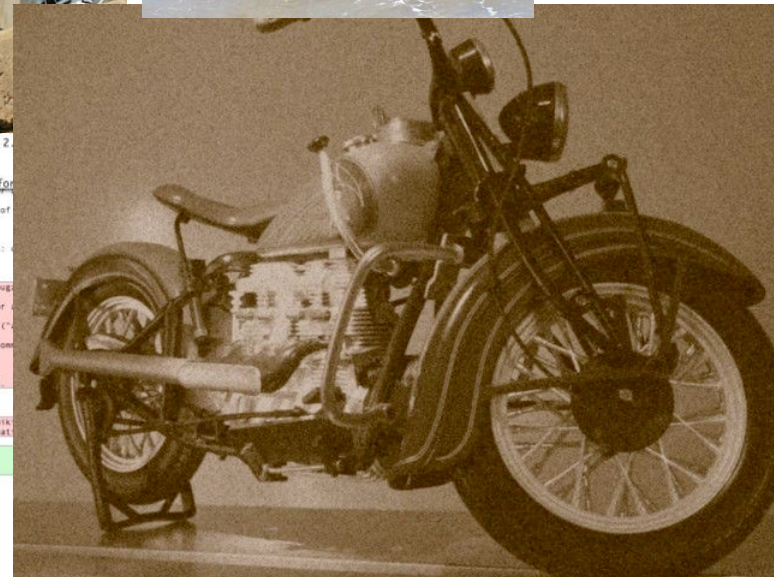
# ApacheCon



## We need fast feedback

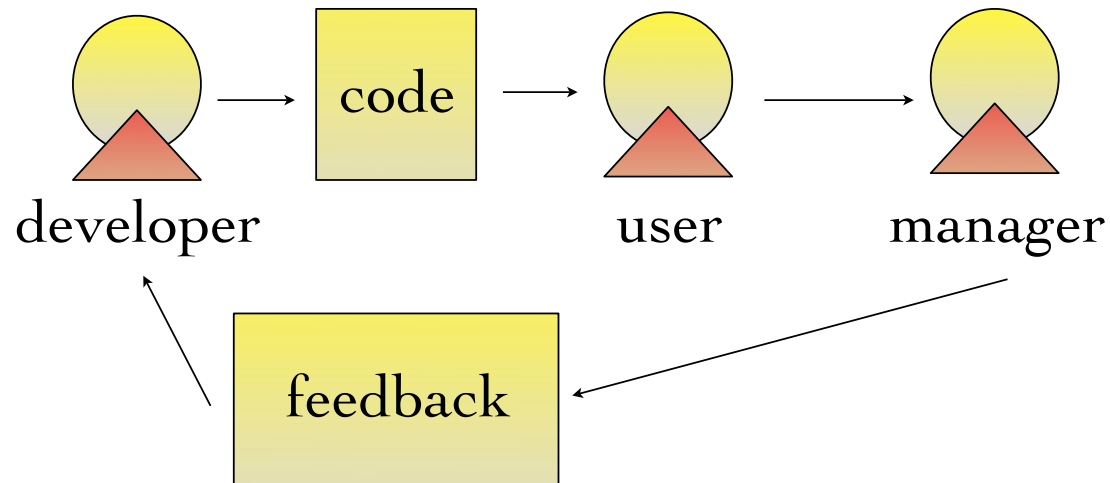


```
Working file: status.xml 1.155 (antonio 25-Sep-03): Update lib commons-lang to 2.0
head: 1.158 1.154 (antonio 25-Sep-03): </action>
----- 1.151 (sylvain 24-Sep-03): <action dev="SM" type="add">
revision 1.158 1.151 (sylvain 24-Sep-03): New event-handling system for
date: 2003/09/28 05:01:05; author: a
Update status.xml
-----
revision 1.157
date: 2003/09/26 14:46:23; author: b
YAPT presentation tool sample added
-----
revision 1.156
date: 2003/09/25 16:57:44; author: c
<action dev="CZ" type="add" fixes-
services.dev">
Fixing release of Source in the
-----
lide: Part One: Tools 46
int-style: LittleText 47
- quick refresher about CVS, 48
ote: User view of these toc 49
lide: CVS 50
000 screenshots: commit/mer 51
lide: Bugzilla 52
000 screenshots: task lists 53
lide: Wiki 54
000 screenshots: Wiki links 55
lide: Weblogs 56
000 screenshots: stories 57
lide: Part Two: analysis 58
int-style: LittleText 59
mat does each tool bring? 60
-----
49 note: User view of
50 slide: CVS
51 7000 screenshots:
52 slide: Bugzilla
53
54
55
56
57
58 img_rightHalf: bug
59 Structured author
60 Simple workflow ("
61 Task history ("com
62 Attachments
63 Powerful queries.
64
65
66
67 slide: Wiki
68 img_rightHalf: wik
69 Easy content creat
70
71
72 Easy linking.
73
74 fully open.
75
```



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## Feedback loop



How fast is your loop?  
Seconds? Weeks?





## Real-time updates?



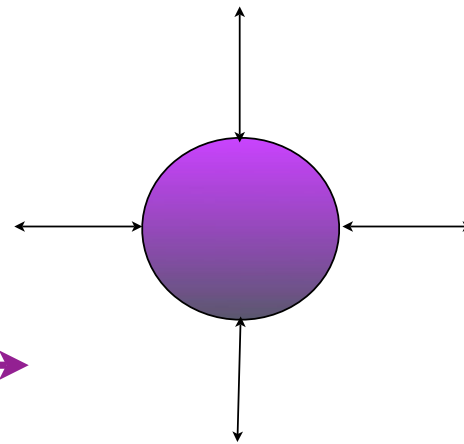
code →

tests →

bugs →

decisions →

builds →



subscriptions

email events →

RSS feeds →

Twitter? →

### Collaboration hub



## Real-time updates.



Source code control system instead of “code on the fileserver”.



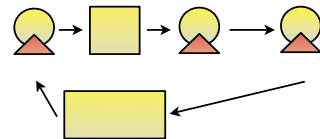
Issue tracker events instead of “what did you do today”?



Mailing list “events” instead of “yell around the office”.



Automated builds instead of “wait for Bob to build it on Linux”.



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## Real-time help requests

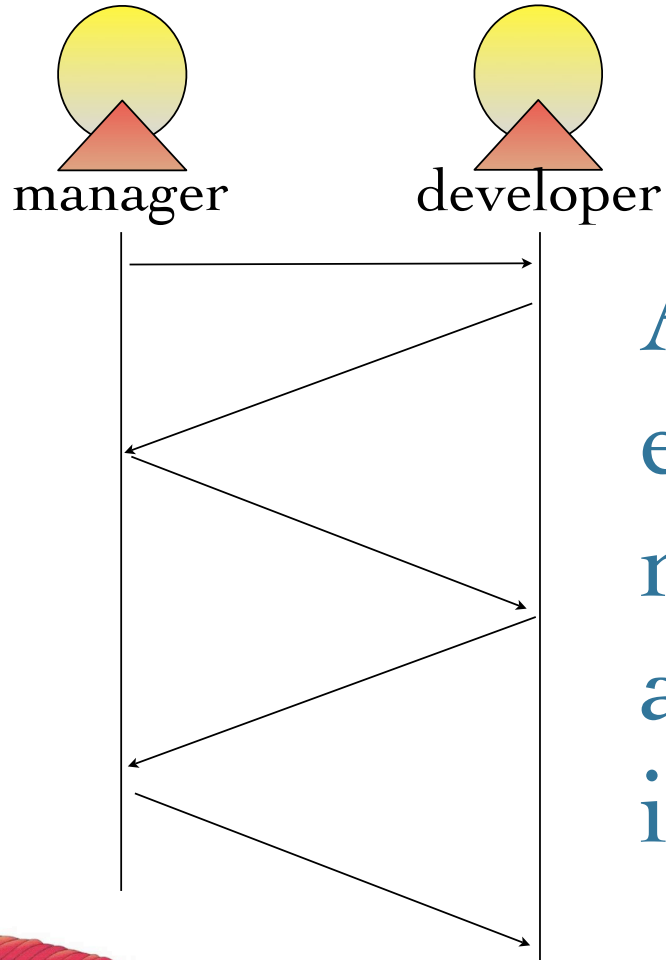


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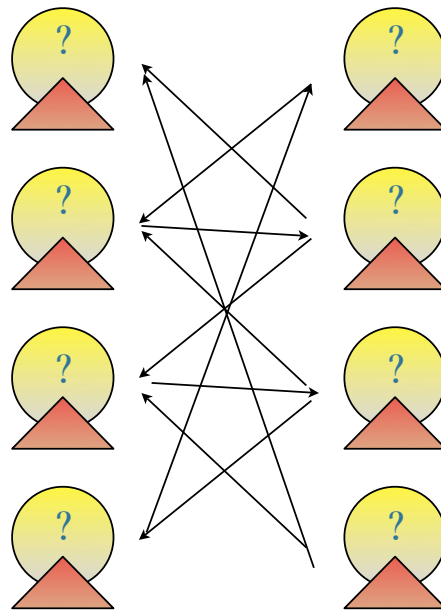


## Real-time help requests?

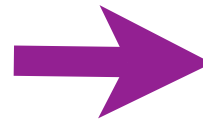


A help (feature, enhancement) request is a dialog, and history is important.

## Real-time help requests?



Mess Media?



**Issue Navigator**

Displaying issues 1 to 50 of 51 matching issues.

**Current View:**  
 Browser ( [Current Fields](#) | [Printable](#) | [Full Content](#) ) | [XML](#) | [RSS](#) ( [Issues](#) | [Comments](#) ) | [Word](#) | [Excel](#) ( [All fields](#) | [Current fields](#) ) | [Charts](#)

Bulk Change: all 51 Issue fields  [Configure your Issue Nav](#)

1 | 2 | [Next >>](#)

T	Key	Summary	Assignee	Reporter	Pr	Status	Res
	SLING-7	Implement better Node Type Management	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-3	Use RequestProgressTracker to log request processing steps	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-53	Add request filter for method overwrite	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-27	Provide an easy-to-use Javascript API for JCR	Unassigned	Lars Trolhoff	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-147	Add support for org.osgi.framework.system.packages enhancement	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-158	JSTL Bundle	Unassigned	Carsten Ziegeler	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-188	JavaScript: Enable request processing limitation	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-180	Group bundles by symbolic name rather than by bundle id.	Unassigned	Tobias Bocanegra	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-190	The Sling class of the launcher should verify minimum JDK requirement and fail properly	Felix Meschberger	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-195	allow custom handlers in repository loader	Unassigned	Tobias Bocanegra	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-109	Implement Request Filter management in the virtual resource tree	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-247	Provide Scripting variables as request attributes for JSP	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-245	After reinstalling sling core, server shutdown hangs	Unassigned	Tobias Bocanegra	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-81	SLING-77 Add write-support to Javascript API for JCR	Unassigned	Lars Trolhoff	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-249	Allow mapping nodes to internet domains	Unassigned	Vidar S. Randal	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-251	Add mapping for user homes	Unassigned	Tobias Bocanegra	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-288	Replace old JSON content import by new importer	Unassigned	Felix Meschberger	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED
	SLING-284	Use bundle context of scripts for service locator aka sling script helper	Unassigned	Carsten Ziegeler	↑	Open	UNRESOLVED

Issue Tracking

Real-time help requests.

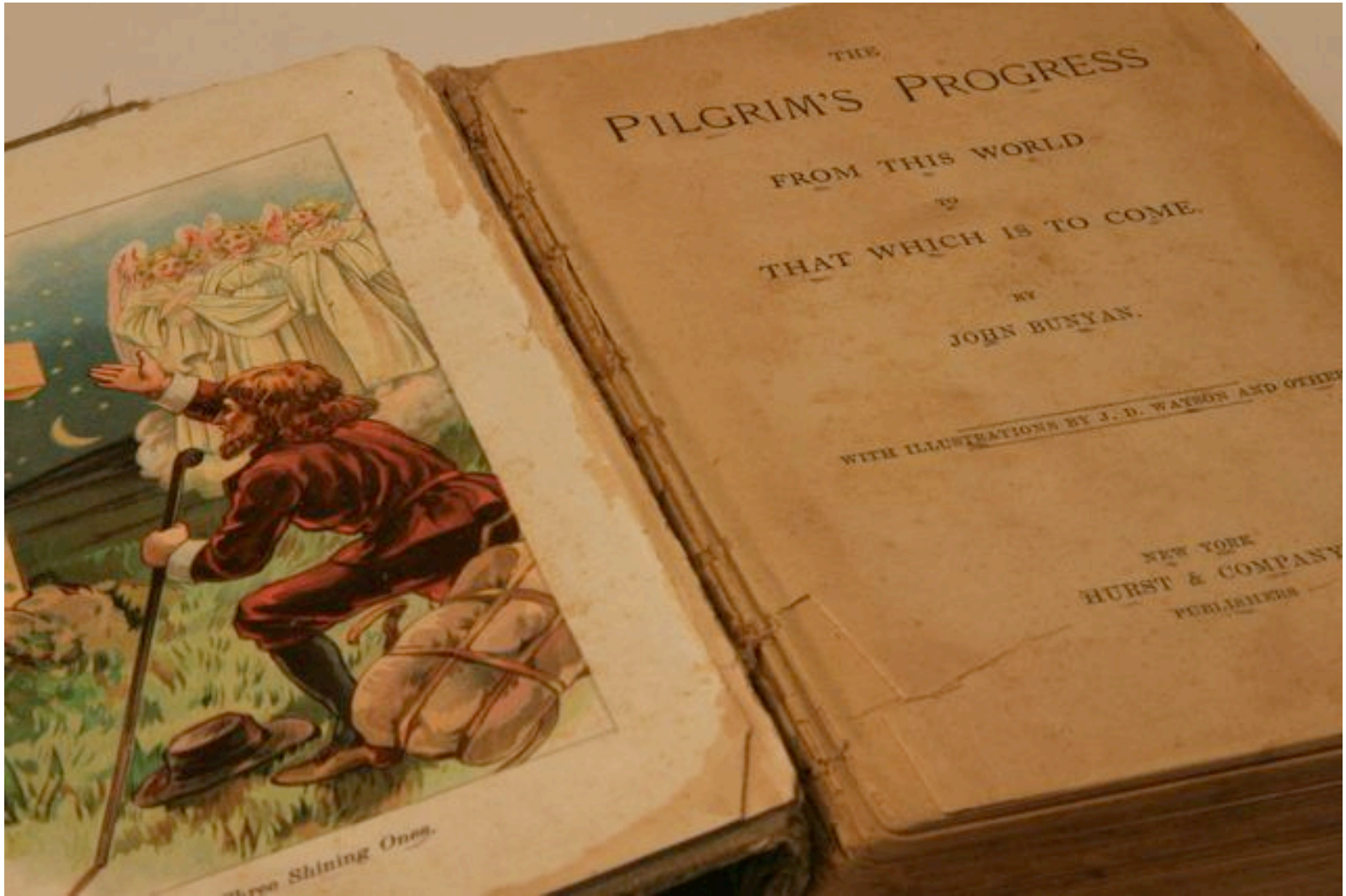


issue tracker

Issue tracker instead of  
“just ask Bob to fix  
this”.



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## Self-service archives

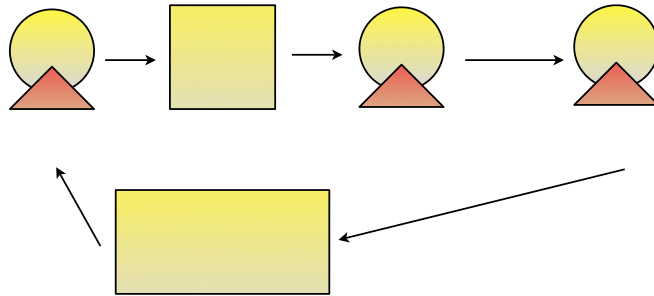
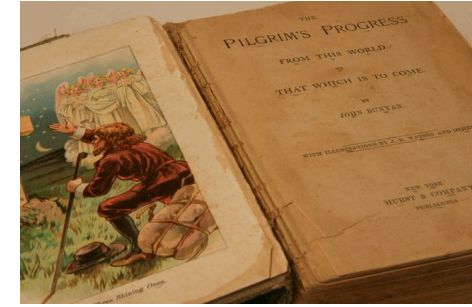


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## Self-service archives?



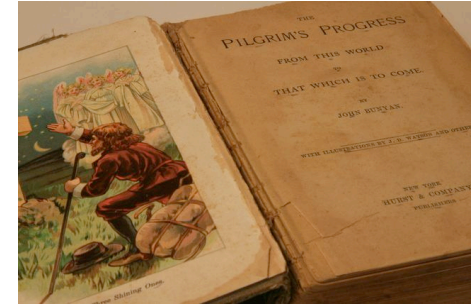
No time to document everything that happens.

But new project members need the information, self-service.





## Self-service archives.



Subversion logs, traceability of code.



Structured and searchable issue tracker data.



Semi-structured and searchable mailing lists.

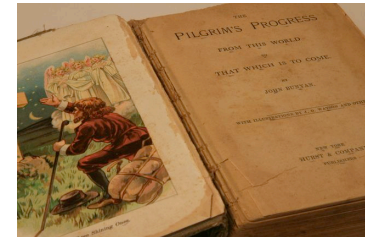


Blogs and Wikis stay around.

## Zero effort if using the right tools!

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## Are We There Yet?



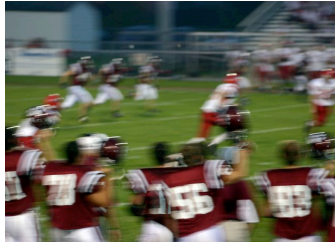
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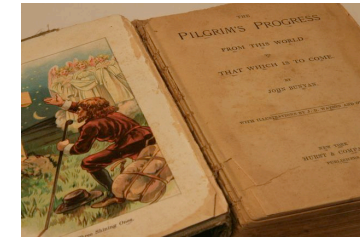
Vision



Updates



Help



Archives



Extra tools:

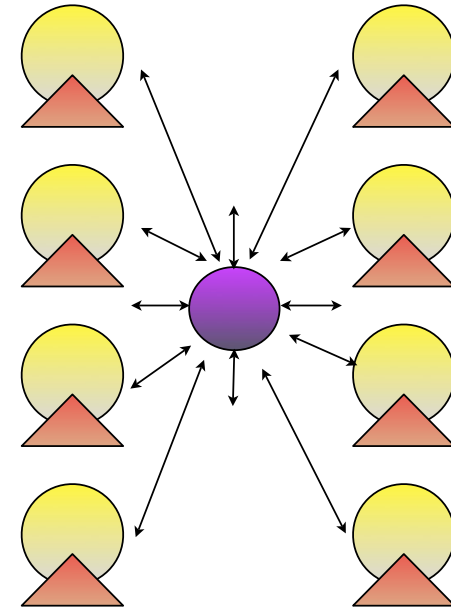


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## Migration path



## Migration step 1

Working without a source code control system?

**GET ONE - NOW!!**

“Commit early, commit often”  
“Whatever’s not in the source code repository does not exist”



Which tool you use does not matter much.

## Migration step 2

**Issue Navigator**

Displaying issues 1 to 50 of 51 matching issues.

**Current View:**  
 Browser (Current Fields | Printable | Full Content) | XML | RSS (Issues | Comments) | Word | Excel (All fields | Current fields) | Charts

Bulk Change: all 51 issue fields | Configure your issue Nav

1 | 2 | Next >>

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## Issue Tracking

Bring structure to the “what are you working on”, “where do we stand” and “what brings us from A to B” questions.

Document the many micro-decisions that shape your project.

Review and update priorities and assignments at will.

## Migration step 3



Repeatable, automated builds instead of “just configure your IDE like mine”.

Speed up the feedback loop.

Moving to automated builds might require a sizeable initial effort.



## Migration steps 4..N



Archived discussions should be next.



Wikis and blogs help a lot, but are not as critical.



Instant messaging, IRC and Twitter (or ESME) are very useful, but have less impact on the overall way of working.

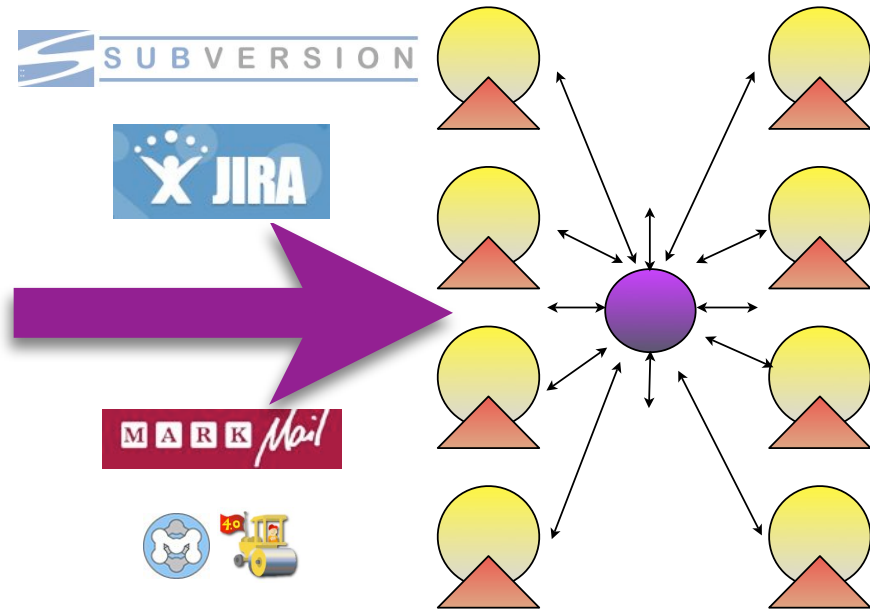




## Migration path



Will users  
adopt your  
new ways of  
working?



## Really?

## Conclusions

This works!

Focus on the goals, not on the tools  
(can be challenging with geeks...)

Source code control system and issue tracker bring the most value.

Archived discussions come right after,  
and the other tools are very nice to have.

Vision



Updates



Help



Archives



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