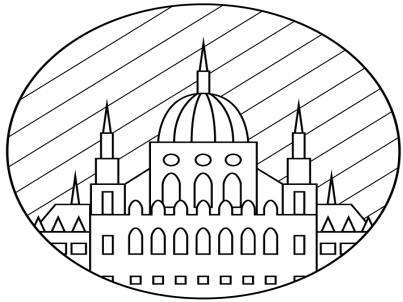


# Apache Incubator: Gateway into “Apache Way”

Suresh Marru, ASF & IPMC Member

Roman Shaposhnik, ASF member & IPMC Chair



APACHECON  
EUROPE

CORINTHIA HOTEL  
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY  
— NOVEMBER 17-21, 2014 —



# Agenda

- 3 part presentation
  - **Tasty Sausage**: Introduction and life after incubation – **Suresh**
  - **Sausage Factory**: Mechanics of Incubation & Anatomy of IPMC – **Roman**
  - **Interactive** (panel like session) - **All of you**
- One more talk: “Podling Post-mortem” – Joe Brockmeier



# Tasty Sausage Overview

- The What's – pay attention if you:
  - participate in a GitHub project and intend to take it to the next level
  - are trying to convince your employer to open source an existing project
  - want write code and let the foundation take care of rest.
- The Why's – pay attention if you:
  - participate in one of the podlings and overwhelmed by town hall meetings (a.k.a general mailing list)
- The How's – pay attention if you:
  - want to join the party

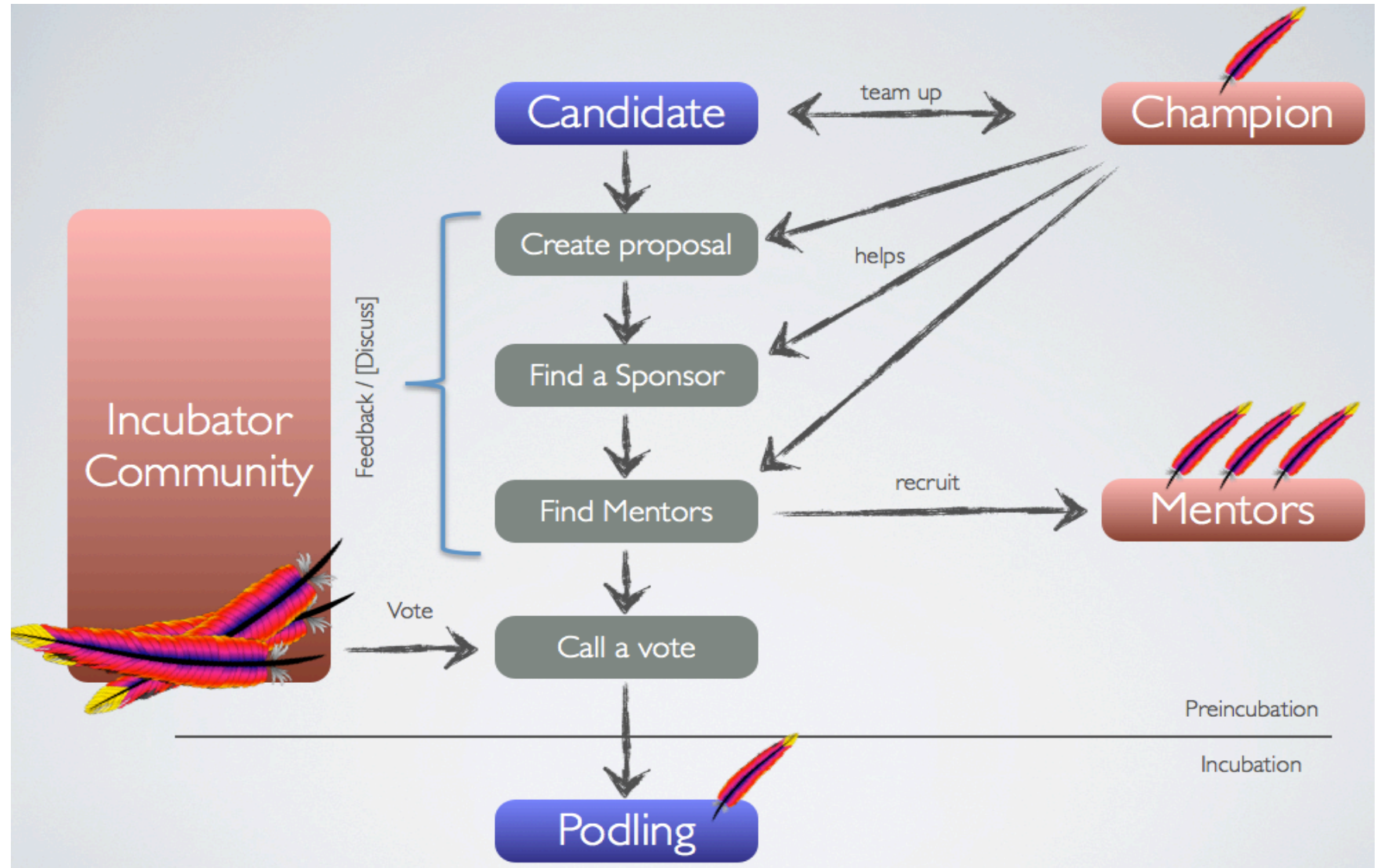


# Incubator Charter

“a Project Management Committee charged with accepting new products into the Foundation, providing guidance and support to help each new product engender their own collaborative community, educating new developers in the philosophy and guidelines for collaborative development as defined by the members of the Foundation, and proposing to the board the promotion of such products to independent PMC status once their community has reached maturity.”



\* Source: <http://incubator.apache.org/official/resolution.html>



Your Best Friend:

[https://incubator.apache.org/incubation/Process\\_Description.html](https://incubator.apache.org/incubation/Process_Description.html)

# Myth: Only ASF Members are part of IPMC

*Buster: Current IPMC Chair*



- Its true that members can just “ask” to join.
- But IPMC is yet another PMC
  - participate -> earn merit -> jump onboard

# What I learnt from our mentors

Ate Douma



- Hands-off Mentoring
- Just do the needful and trust the PPMC on writing the code
  - Help with builds, getting the license & notice files right.
  - Releasing the correct artifacts

# What I learnt from our mentors

Chris Mattmann



- We are in recruiting business
- Cross-Pollinate across projects
- Reward contributors early and often



# What I learnt from our mentors

Ross Gardler



Photo from Flickr: stephenwelli

- Community, Community, Community
- Academics think they understand open source but they really don't.

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# Welcome to the factory!

*Artistic impression of IPMC*



Photo from Sergey Makarov

- What is IPMC good for?
- Roles and responsibilities
- What's expected from a podling
- IP considerations
- [In]decision process
- How are we doing?
- How you can help
- Soapboxing



## How are we doing?

- IPMC size: 196
- Podling size: 34 projects
- Shepherd community: 10 folks
- Release counts: dozens/month
- IPMC voting: 1-20 days
- Still undisputed champions of monthly board report size



## What IPMC is good for

- Keep in mind: IPMC == Incubator
  - there are no committers, only IPMC
- Helping incubating projects with:
  - “Apache Way”
  - community growth
  - IP review
  - Releases
- A starting model for your company's OS strategy office





## What Incubator is NOT:

- A project like any other ASF software project
  - Unlike INFRA, etc. we are still run by volunteers
- A community in charge of a software project
  - Chris Douglas: “The Incubator is a curriculum, not a community”
- A small group of folks
  - Try full consensus in ~200 folks
- A group of folks who are active all the time
- A place that can “fix” a broken project



# Fauna (& Flora) of the Incubator

- Champions
- Sponsors
- Mentors
- Committers
- Chair of the IPMC
- Project Shepherds



# Incubator R&Rs

- Champions
  - Officers or members of ASF
  - A single point of contact for a project entering incubation
  - Your best asset in navigating IPMC
- Sponsors
  - TLP that advocates for a project as a worthy addition to ASF
  - An entity nominating mentors for the project







# Incubator R&Rs

- Mentors
  - Incubator’s “boots on the ground”
  - Your source of 3 IPMC +1 votes for releases
- Committers
  - group of folks eventually becoming TLP community
  - PPMC != IPMC != committers



# Incubator R&Rs

- Chair of the IPMC
  - A liaison to Apache Board
  - A poor dude(ss) turning the crank of bureaucracy
- Project Shepherds
  - “legs of the Chair”
  - volunteers helping with the report
  - our first attempt at solving Incubator scalability issues



# What's expected from a podling

- Graduation
- Reports (first monthly, then quarterly)
  - Submitted two weeks ahead of board meetings
  - Short description of a project
  - “Three graduation blockers”
  - Escalations to the [IPMC] Board
  - Date of last release
  - Date of last committer/PMC election
  - Signed by mentors, reviewed by shepherds



## IP considerations

- “A key purpose of the ASF is to provide legal shelter to individual contributors”
- Contributor License Agreements and software grants
- Licensing of dependencies
- Source code releases vs. binaries
- Tools
  - various release validation scripts
  - RAT



## [In]decision process

- The [un]usual consensus
- Things that come to our attention
  - changes to the IPMC
  - podling lifecycle events
  - trademark issues
  - IP issues
  - release votes



## How you can help

- “Pay it forward”
  - Calling on all the recently graduated PPMC
- Review releases
  - You don’t even have to be on IPMC
- Volunteer to be a shepherd
- Consider ASF/Incubator as part of your corporate OSS strategy





# Soapboxing

- We need better “feedback loops”
- We need more volunteers “on the ground”
- We need more tools and automation:
  - ~~POC with Black Duck Software on Incubator scans~~
  - Volunteers for dashboards (Bitergia?)
- We need more cross pollination with young OSS foundations:
  - “OpenStack Community Activity Board and Metrics:  
What would you like to see?”