APACHECON EUROPE

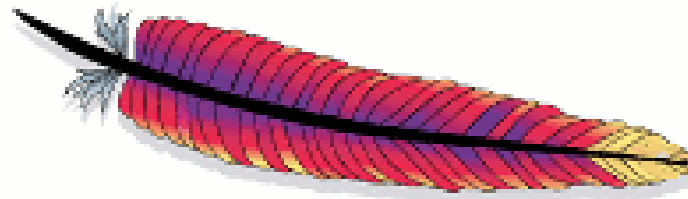Budapest, Hungary, 17 November 2014

Bending the Rules

Community over Code over Policy.

Andrea Pescetti
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A Newcomer's Perspective

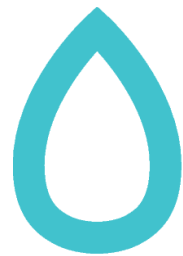New people. New projects. A lot to learn.

My perspective: Relatively new at Apache

3 years as Apache committer
2 years as Apache OpenOffice PMC Chair, 6 months as ASF Member

Drupal

NUVOLE

My background: Apache as a user only
A lot of open source (with Nuvole, a 100% Drupal company).
Previous experience with some foundations.

OpenOffice: New at Apache too

No experience with being part of a Foundation.

Only a few Apache members in the post-graduation initial PMC.

First, Wrong, Impression

Apache seems more complex and rigid than it actually is.

First (wrong) impression: a world of rules

And a lot of strange terminology: podling, PPMC, IPMC, Incubator...

First (wrong) impression: Rules over Community
There is so much policy that it seems community comes second.

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Developer Information

These pages attempt to list all resources and information related to ASF development process.

It contains information aimed at developers, committers, release managers and pmc members. If you cannot find your answers here, then please ask on your project mailing lists. There are many experienced ASF people there to help. The content is categorized below. Alternatively, this **sitemap** summarizing all the information in `/dev/` is available. Some further content starts its life **on the General Wiki**, and may move to these pages as it matures.

- **Infrastructure**
- **Committers and Contributors**
- **Project Management Committees (PMC)**
- **Licenses and other legal stuff**
- **Version Control**
- **Websites**

First (wrong) impression: Apache is stuck in 1999
Somewhat antiquated look, "corporate" approach, manuals, 72 hours.

The Real World

Dare to enter and you will see it's much better.

Enter the Matrix at Apache: Welcome to the real word

"There's a difference between knowing the path, and walking the path."

Policy is at the service of projects, not the opposite.

When policy gets in the way, it is not serving its purpose.

The community must win.

Projects are all different and largely independent

Policy cannot be the same for all: guidelines are the same, reality varies.

We shouldn't dodge our rules

We should understand them and interpret them for the new situations.

Examples from OpenOffice

Policy that needed to be adapted or clarified.

Download Apache OpenOffice

(Hosted by Sourceforge.net - A trusted website)

Select your favorite operating system, language and version:

| Linux 64-bit (x86-64) (RPN ▾ | Italian ▾ | 4.1.1 ▾ |

(Download full installation)   (Download language pack)

Binary downloads

New and too big for Apache, vital for OpenOffice.
Solved with help from SourceForge.

Most popular extensions

English dictionaries for Apache OpenOffice

⊕ **Downloads:** Week: 61,775 - Month: 239,041 - Year: 2,410,318 - Timeline

★★★★☆
Average: 3.9 (9 votes)

GPL Dictionaries provided as bundled extensions
Apache: "Category X" and forbidden.
OpenOffice: unnecessary in sources, but very useful to users.

Empowering non-committers
Trust localization volunteers; most new committers come from there.
Non-committers in Pootle outnumber committers from other projects.

Exposing Development builds

OpenOffice QA is not done by developers.
Need visibility on other lists and on the web site.

openoffice-pmc

SVN id	Name
af	Andre Fischer
alg	Armin Le Grand
arielch	Ariel Constenla-Haile
arist	**Andrew Rist**
atjensen	Drew Jensen
dpharbison	Donald P. Harbison
fanyuzhen	YuZhen Fan
galoppini	Roberto Galoppini
hdu	Herbert Dürr
imacat	Yang Shih-Ching
ingotian	Ian Lynch
jim	**Jim Jagielski**
jsc	Jürgen Schmidt

Committers and PMC members

We celebrate a new committer more than a new PMC member.

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Our Bitcoin Address is:

1BtjAzWGLyAavUkbw3QsyzzNDKdtPXk95D

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Also, by selecting 'Apache Software Foundation' as your preferred charity at **smile.amazon.com**, a percentage of your

Other methods

- Become a sponsor.
- Donate via check.
- Donate your old car!

Travel fund

We can't rely on TAC since it is not inclusive enough.
Transitional earmarked fund with pre-Apache resources.

Press Kit

Key facts and figures about Apache OpenOffice for the media.

Naming

- Name - we are **Apache OpenOffice™** (not *Open Office* or *OpenOffice*).
- Apache OpenOffice is both the name of a software product and the name of the open-source project which designs, develops, maintains, translates, tests, documents, supports, and promotes the software.

Not-so-lazy consensus

The press won't wait 72 hours.

We either answer or delegate within 24 hours.

MONDAY OCT 06, 2014

Code signing service now available

The ASF Infrastructure team is pleased to announce the availability of a new code signing service for Java, Windows and Android applications. This service is available to any Apache project to use to sign their releases. Traditionally, Apache projects have shipped source code. The code tarballs are signed with a GPG signature to allow users and providers to verify the code's authenticity, but users have either compiled their own applications or some projects have provided convenience binaries. With projects like Apache OpenOffice, users expect to receive binaries that are ready to run. Today's desktop and mobile operating systems expect that binaries will be signed by the vendor -- which had left a gap to be filled for Apache projects.

Code signing: a need largely started with OpenOffice

Just a "nice to have" for Apache in earlier times.
Now a serious investment being implemented with Infra.

Incubator podlings must both learn and teach

Incubation is not where the ASF teaches projects HOW it does things.
It is where the ASF teaches projects WHY it does things.

Advice for the future

Recommended ways for policy discussions.

Ask people who drafted the policy

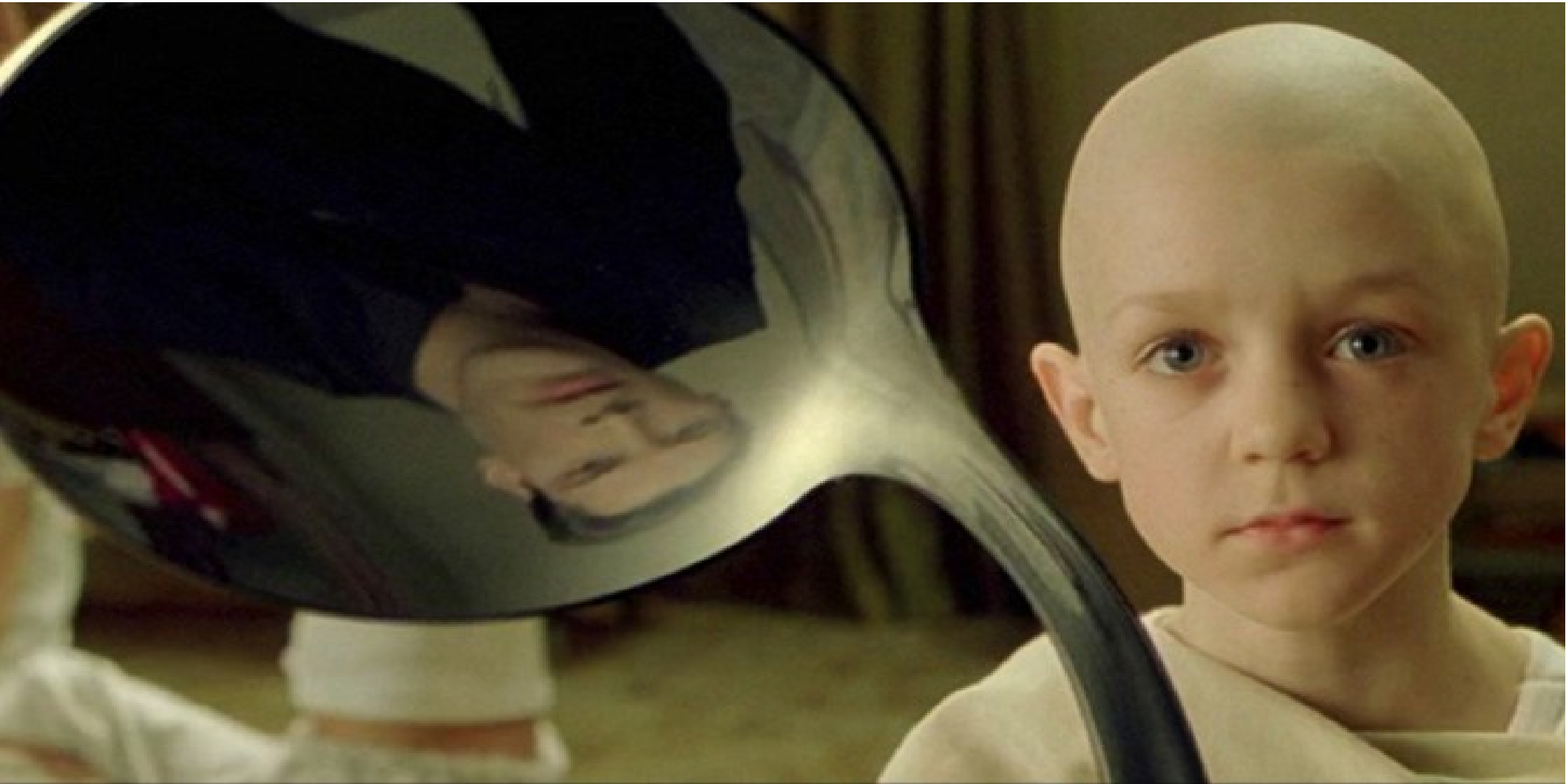They will be available to explain what it means, rather than what it says.

Choose to improve the policy, not to accept it
Your project has peculiarities that others don't; Apache will be enriched.

Interpret policy rather than rewriting it
Understand what it means and the principles behind it.

One issue at a time, with those who do the work

Focused discussion with Infra (or whoever relevant), on concrete issues.

Realize that there is no spoon

Apache is much more flexible than it seems, and it's ready to improve.
Rules can be bent if this means a better community and better code.

Thanks!

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