



OpenStack & the Articles of Confederation

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Overview



<http://www.infusezeal.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/My-Key-Takeaways.jpg>

– Parallels between OpenStack and 1787

- Articles of Confederation & the OpenStack Foundation
- Federation of states vs. projects
- Central governance
- Coordination among “states”

– Additional Learnings

- Work as one
- Make a difference
- Communicate
- Adapt
- Move the community forward

Who I Am

- Lover of history ...
- Who attempts to draw parallels to current events with examples from the past
- Counting Havana, I have been to the last three OpenStack Summits
 - There is a buzz around here
 - At the last summit, I felt it and was asking myself “how are we like the Continental Congress in 1787”?
- Also an HP manager, aligning OpenStack efforts across the company



<http://www.readingpl.org/wp-content/uploads/j0411674.jpg>

Recognize this time?

- Unparalleled changes in political systems and upheavals among the nations (wars, revolutions, new governments, worldwide trade, ...)
- Political unrest
- Political and world systems in flux and high levels of instability
- Massive innovation in many areas



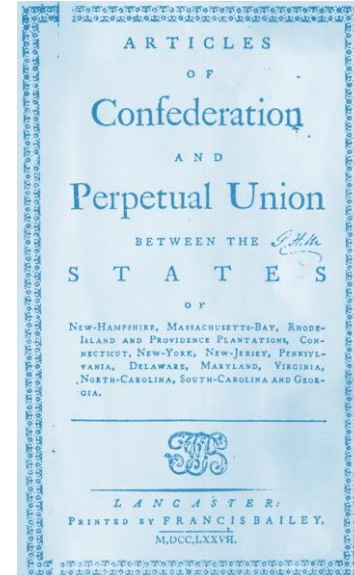
<http://images4.wikia.nocookie.net/cb20111219053329/popdemandmod/images/3/33/Revolution1848.jpg>

2013?

No, the year was 1787

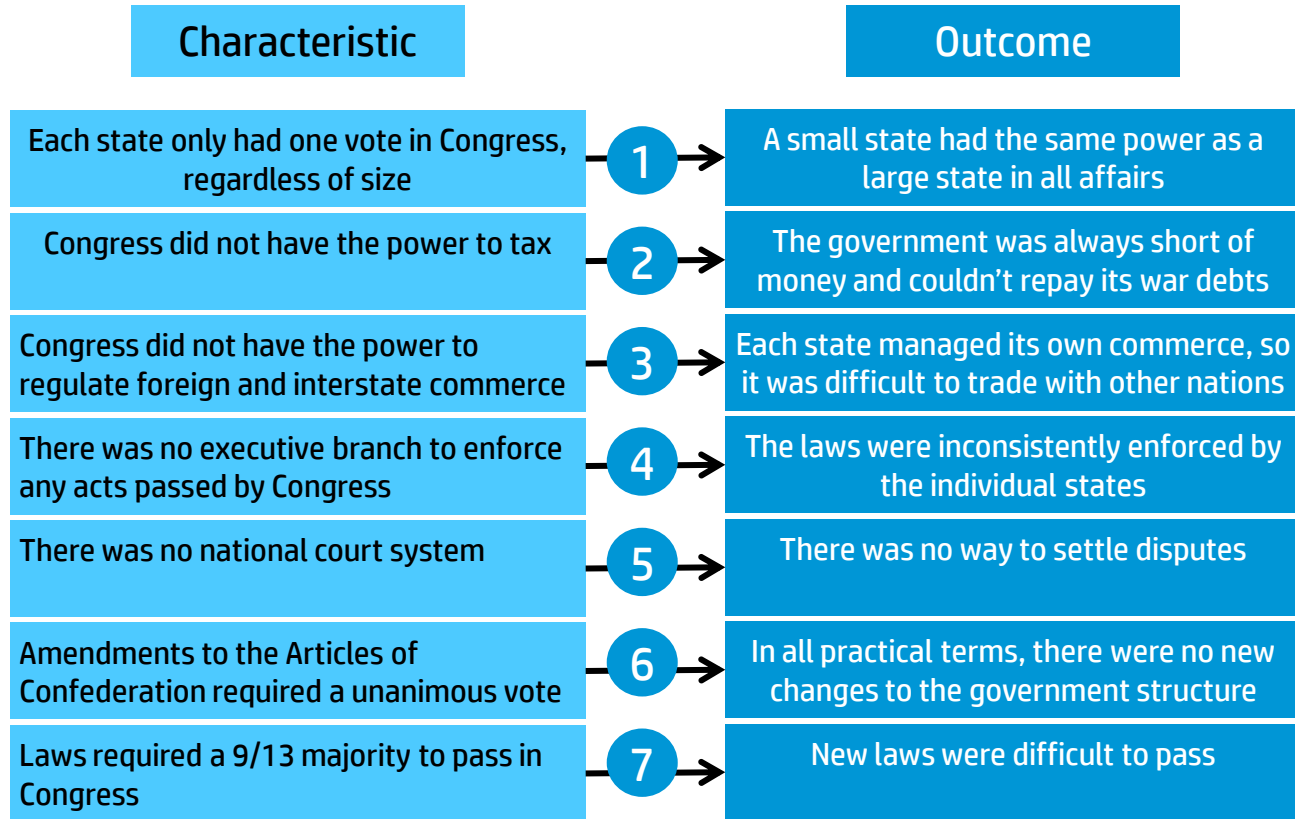
Historical Background

- The United States “started” with a Declaration of Independence in 1776
- The 13 Colonies won independence from Britain
 - The last military battle was at Yorktown in 1781
 - Independence came officially via the Treaty of Paris in 1783
- United States was “established” by its first system of governance, called the Articles of Confederation (passed in 1777 and ratified in 1781)
- The Articles of Confederation were replaced by the Constitution, ratified by the 9th state in 1788 and by the 13th state in 1791



<http://journal.borderlands.com/wp-content/uploads/1995/01/Articles-of-Confederation-title.jpg>

Key Characteristics of the Articles of Confederation



The Articles of Confederation & OpenStack

Weakness

Outcome

OpenStack

Each state only had one vote in Congress, regardless of size

1

A small state had the same power as a large state in all affairs

1

Different weighting for core, incubated, and new projects

Congress did not have the power to tax

2

The government was always short of money and couldn't repay its war debts

2

The OpenStack Foundation has revenue and manages the budget

Congress did not have the power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce

3

Each state managed its own commerce, so it was difficult to trade with other nations

3

The OpenStack Foundation handles the cross-project relationships

There was no executive branch to enforce any acts passed by Congress

4

The laws were inconsistently enforced by the individual states

4

The Board enforces the bylaws and the TC handles the technical questions

There was no national court system

5

There was no way to settle disputes

5

The TC and Board handle their respective disputes

Amendments to the Articles of Confederation required a unanimous vote

6

In all practical terms, there were no new changes to the government structure

6

The bylaws allow for amendments and new projects are added as needed

Laws required a 9/13 majority to pass in Congress

7

New laws were difficult to pass

7

The bylaws allow for changes



So, what else can we learn from the Articles of Confederation to strengthen communities and help OpenStack?

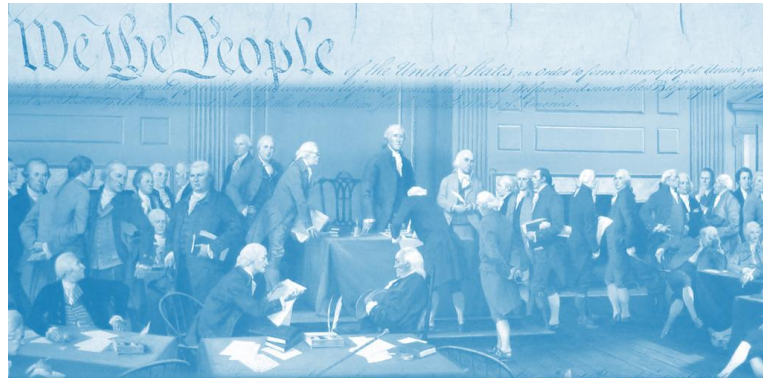


Work as one



It is about the whole community working together

(understand the people: users, developers,
admins, devops, ...)



<http://www.nps.gov/inde/historyculture/images/Constitutional-Convention.jpg>



Governance

(centralized and distributed authority,
foundation board and project governance)



<http://www.colonizationfans.com/Congress.html>



Common “currency”

(APIs, common language, processes, etc)



<http://sidoxia.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/foreign-exchange.jpg>



Make a difference



Innovate

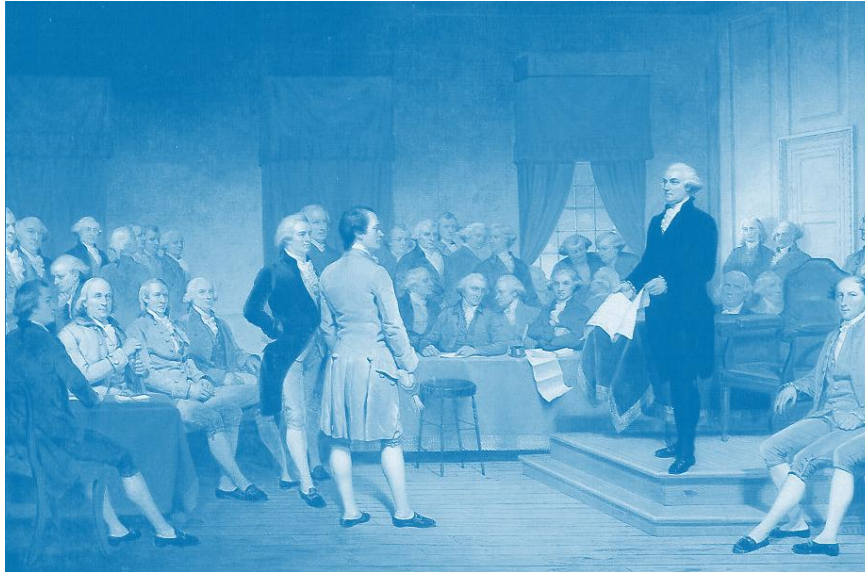
(do something new – be part of the first)



<http://www.innovationmanagement.se/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/forget-your-customers-develop-innovative-business-models.jpg>

Challenge the status quo

(convention attendees came to revise the Articles of Confederation and ended up writing a new constitution)



<http://constitution-a.wikispaces.com/file/view/constitutional-convention.jpg/138974849/946x492/constitutional-convention.jpg>



Communicate



Collaborate

(bring together pieces for a greater whole: states in 1787, core compute, storage, etc in 2013)



<http://chiefexecutive.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/multinational.jpg>

Support open dialog/debate (grand compromise)



<http://qulagbound.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/constitutionburning.jpg>



Adapt



Be adaptable

(plan for adaptation and extension,
broader vision often evolves)



Think ahead where possible

(framework for things to come, like incubated projects)



<http://mrnussbaum.com/13colonies/13map13a.gif>

Move the community forward



Evolutionary or revolutionary, it is forward progress (standing still is not an option)



<http://natylo.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/standingstill.jpg>



Sometimes, good enough is the best

(can't please everyone all the time –
some reps were angry, left unhappy and refused to sign;
will evolve with collaboration and willingness to improve)

“I confess that there are several parts of this constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them... I doubt too whether any other Convention we can obtain, may be able to make a better Constitution... Thus I consent, Sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure, that it is not the best.” –

Benjamin Franklin

<http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a7s3.html>



Warning



<http://www.bbwhite.com/Images/ShaysMakingNation.jpg>

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” – George Santayana

Reason in Common Sense, volume 1 of [The Life of Reason](#)

Summary

- Work as one
- Make a difference
- Communicate
- Adapt
- Move the community forward



<http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/sites/healthcare-informatics.com/files/imagecache/570x360/key%20takeaways.jpg>