
Meeting **Quarterly meeting Neuchatel 2007-09-13 Technology Council Minutes**

Date September 13, 2007
Location Neuchatel

Participants Pierre Dubois (Requea)
 Jacques Cayuela (OW2 CTO)
 Laurent Laudinet (Thales)
 Antonio Majori (Engineering)
 Cedric Thomas (OW2 CEO)
 Gael Blondelle (EBM Websourcing : TC Chairman)
 Christophe Ney (Wanager)
 Petr Tuma (Charles University)

Audio

Minghui Zhou
Meeting commenced on 10:20.

Audio bridge was not working.
Skype replacement was used instead.

OW2 Platform Migration Jacques: There is a new website, but infrastructure is still running at INRIA. We have a temporary platform management team. Our first goal is continuous availability of all services.

Gael: There are issues for example with the mailing lists and with SVN.

Jacques: We have one person working on migration, first step of that is virtualization to be more flexible. In two weeks, we will be able to start testing with pilot volunteers, Petals is one candidate for that.

Discussion: We need to maintain the original platform as a backup in case the migration gets into trouble.

Antonio: Do not forget to change the addresses on various materials from ObjectWeb to OW2. Cedric: **From now on, all printed material such as Project Flyers must show the OW2 address - not their current ObjectWeb address. A redirection will be established during the transition period as long as it is necessary.**

Jacques: General availability of the platform is expected the end of September. The overall reliability will also be improved, the platform will have continuous monitoring.

Antonio: How is backup of data organized ? Jacques, Gael: Err, we do not really know right now. There certainly is some backup. Gael: Backup of SVN does not work right now.

Jacques: One issue is that we have no full time person for this. Christophe: I can arrange for one for a few months, I will check if it is possible. (Mathieu Peltier, ObjectWeb former sysadmin)

Pierre: Dysoweb can be a good candidate for the pilot project as it is small and if something goes wrong, it will not affect too many people.

Jacques: **The move from the INRIA machines to the virtualized platform should happen roughly in a week. Then, we test with Petals, Exo, Dysoweb, for about two weeks, then the rest of the projects is transferred. Disruptive changes will happen over the weekend, commits will be limited during that time. We are performing tests to make sure that we can do this in time.**

(JC: Having polled the community since then, we now have four pilot projects which volunteered to help us in the migration: Dysoweb, Lomboz, Petals and RmiJDBC – Thank you!)

Gael: After hardware is no longer an issue, are we sure that the software issues, which are probably also there, will be fixed ? Jacques: The migration will include documentation cleanup, which will help to resolve potential software issues.

Jacques: Overall, we have two goals. First, migrate from INRIA to the new platform. Second, update the components. We need a full time person working on that. Christophe, Jacques, Gael: Top priority is backup of the current system.

All agree that fixing SVN back-up is of prime urgency.

Cedric: What would be the cost to have the full time person and how long do we need him ? We cannot afford to have a full time person for ever, but we can pay for a short time contract. Jacques: I have to make a list of tasks,

a very rough estimate is between two and three months. Pierre: The cost can be anywhere between 20k EUR and 30k EUR, all inclusiv, for three months.

Cedric: We are also paying Xsalto, can we ask them to do more ?

Jacques: Certainly, we can ask for their assistance in most things we need.

Outcome: We should be covered for the next three months by hiring extra full time person as outlined, budget allowing. The migration will progress as outlined.

(CT: Having contacted Mathieu Peltier, it appears that he is not available to work on OW2 migration, even for a short period. We are now looking for Xsalto and Bull to provide some support, plus Xavier Moghrabi who will help with the mailing lists migrations).

OW2 Platform Maintenance

Laurent: Do we need a full term admin ? Gael: The experience is that with admin, things work, without admin, things do not work. Cedric: It took Xavier Moghrabi half a year to transfer knowledge from Mathieu Peltier.

Cedric, Antonio: We certainly need a full time admin in addition to the webmaster. We should also have some people available who can fix problems should the full time admin become temporarily unavailable.

Discussion: All agree to the need of a full-time admin.

Cedric: Bull would be willing to provide a full time admin if OW2 forge develops towards QualiPSo and NovaForge. Laurent: There was a decision to settle on LibreSource ? Jacques: This decision is probably not binding yet because we did not progress with migration far enough yet. Laurent: NovaForge is just branding on top of GForge, what do we gain ? Besides, QualiPSo builds on GForge rather than NovaForge and plans to eventually replace GForge entirely.

Christophe: An alternative solution could be to avoid hosting of projects altogether. That way, we could still host some projects, or host source archives, but we do not need to enforce and support hosting for all projects, which appears to be a big burden for us. Besides, some projects take care of their own hosting now anyway. Petr, Laurent: This might not send out a good message ?

Jacques: What exactly is it that we provide to projects ? Pierre: For us, the forge is not a central issue, but it probably reinforces the notion of community. Overall, I believe that central maintenance of the forge, the mailing lists and the wikis is more cost efficient, and I would rather pay to maintain it centrally than pay to maintain it myself.

Cedric: Let us postpone this as it is not a pressing issue.

Jacques: We do not mind using open source part of NovaForge. Christophe: We should use open source in our infrastructure. Gael: But some projects simply want Jira ...

Cedric: What would be a position for the board ? Laurent: We should simply state that there is no technical need for switching or not switching.

Christophe: I think one reason is lack of support on GForge. Petr: Perhaps we can simply list the technical requirements for the forge to the board ?

Gael: The argument looks to be mostly political ...

Outcome: All agree that the infrastructure should be based on open source. If the question is that we can either have a full time admin with NovaForge or not have a full time admin, we would prefer having the admin. We would hesitate to be entirely without a forge as things stand now. (CT: I have since followed up with Bull who has agreed to provide a full-time admin. It is now a matter of internal organization and decision making..)

Incubator

Christophe: In general, we should not be constraining the community.

Christophe: We should require continuous integration. For that, we have to cover the licensing issues. If there is anything in the repository that is not open source, we have to raise the issue.

Outcome: We encourage continuous integration, there is one initiative now.

Laurent: What would be the point of having an incubator if we restrict projects from entering there ? Gael: The approach elsewhere is to have mentors that guide projects out of the incubator. Jacques: If we have an incubator, we can be more open. Laurent: We need to have a choice of flagship projects and strategic technical orientation. Christophe: In the incubator, we should host almost anything that is related to our topics. As a full project, we should have only marketable projects. Petr: We should be fairly open in the incubator for all projects that match our topics. We

should allow incubator projects to move into full projects when they meet basic technical criteria (activity, packaging, documentation), the general idea being that the move indicates we want to be associated with the project.

Laurent: Do we accept redundancies ? Do we accept applications ? Cedric : A good exemple is the application server (Jboss, JonAS). Gael : Jboss is not in the OW2 code base.

Outcome: **We encourage collaboration, but we certainly accept redundancies.**

End

Meeting finished at 12:45

Next meeting

Audio meeting October 17 9AM
