The Apache Way

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A collaborative slidedeck with contributions from ${ASF_Members}
(in particular **Justin Erenkrantz, Isabel Drost** and **Lars Eilebrecht**)

Who is this Ross Gardler?

Ross Gardler

Vice President of Community Development

The Apache Software Foundation

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What is the Apache Way?

First, some history

Informal collaboration (1995)

- Apache Group
  - 8 people
  - sharing code on abandoned NCSA httpd
- Apache web server releases
  - 0.6.2 (first public release) April 1995
  - 1.0 released 1st December 1995

A Foundation (1999)

- Commercial opportunities
  - Formal legal structure required
- Membership based charity
  - IRS 501(c)3
  - Donations by individuals tax-deductible (in US)
- First ApacheCon March 2000
  - Apache 2.0 Alpha 1
- First EU ApacheCon October 2000

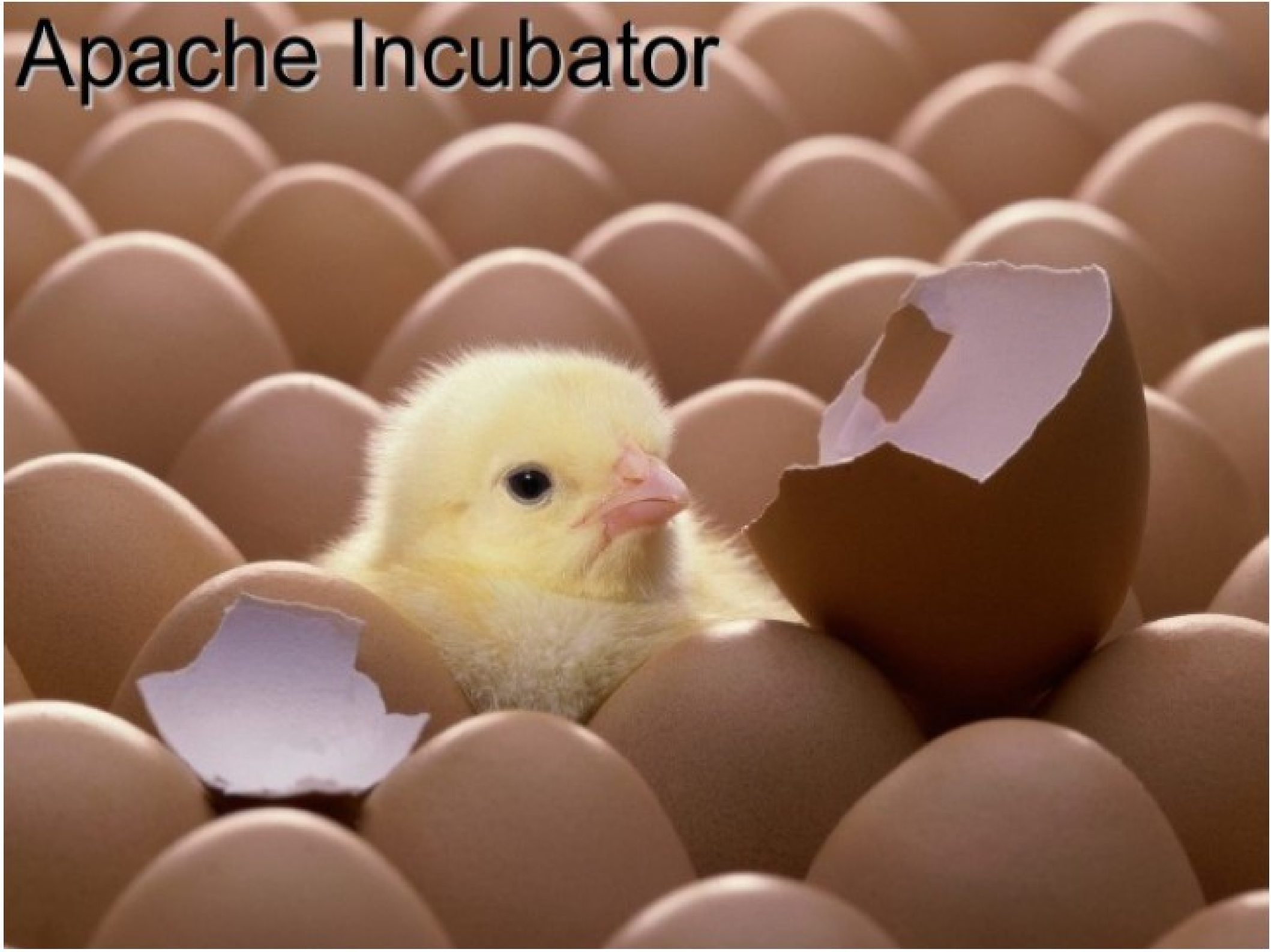
Today

- Over 190 projects
  - Over 90 “Top Level” Projects
  - Over 50 “Incubating” projects
  - Over 30 “Lab” projects
  - Over 16 “Attic” projects
- Over 2600 committers
- Over 350 members
- Over 4000 Independent Contributor Licence Agreements

Foundation Structure

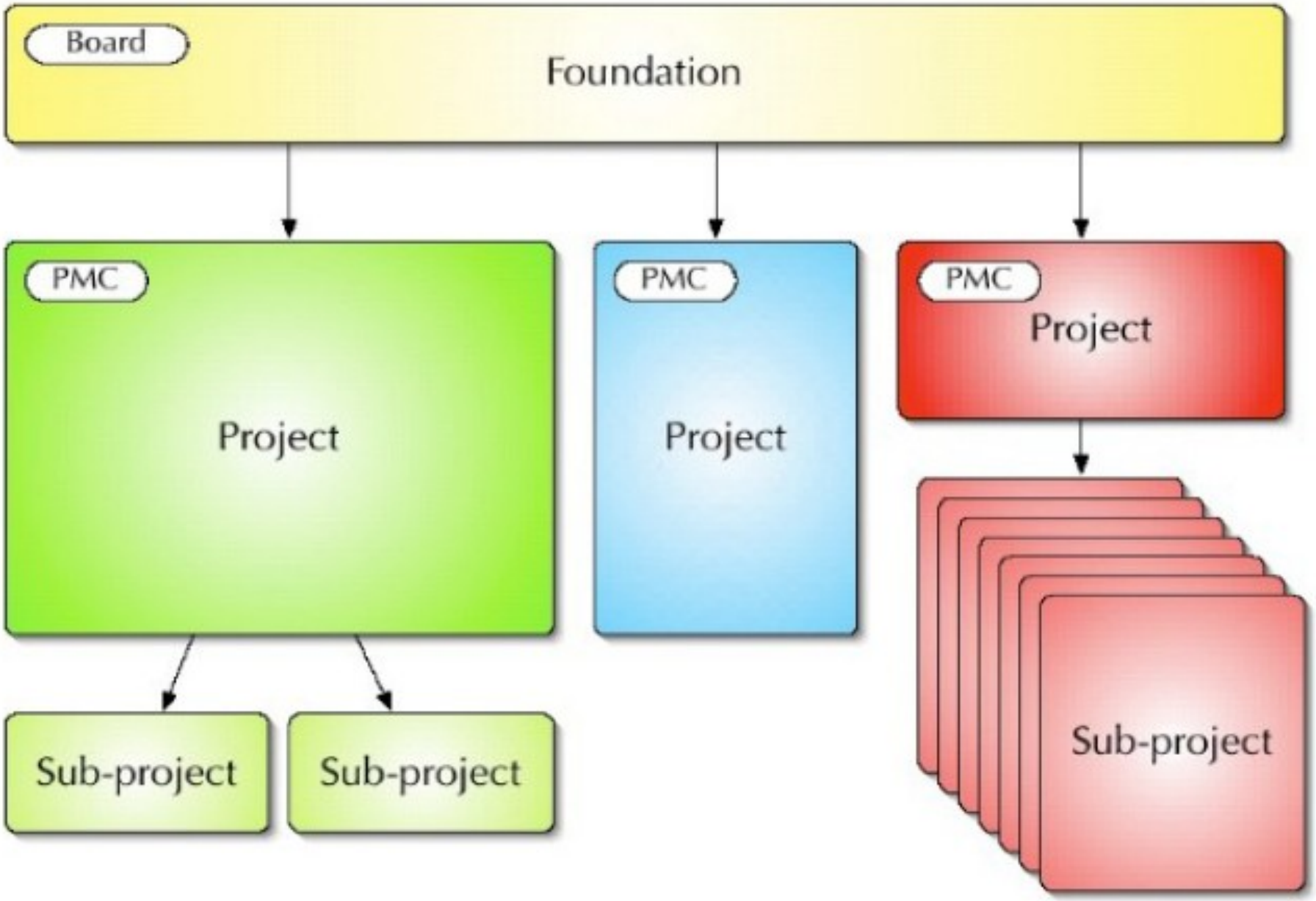
Apache Labs

Apache Incubator



Top Level Projects

R.I.P.
Apache Attic


Board
Foundation
PMC
Project
PMC
Project
PMC
Project
Sub-project
Sub-project
Sub-project

Not all “plain sailing”

- Jakarta “Foundation”
  - Jakarta was an “Umbrella” for all Java projects
  - Successful brand in its own right
- Tomcat, Struts, Ant and many more innovations
- Started to copy foundation structure
  - “Mini”-board … but problems arose …
  - Avalon: Who was responsible?

Importance of Oversight

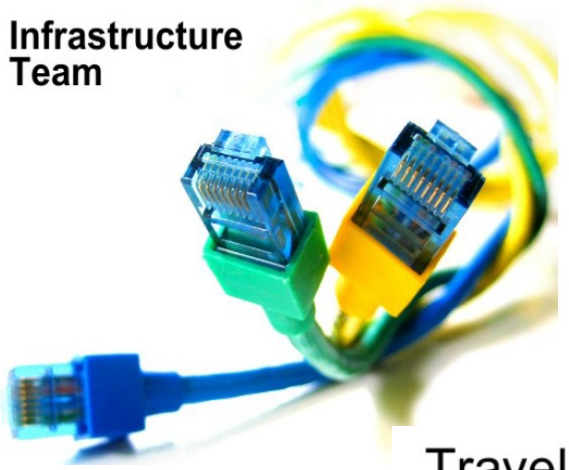
- Jakarta demonstrated that Umbrellas are bad
  - Flattened organisational structure
  - Jakarta projects became top level projects
- All projects submit board reports quarterly
  - Community focussed
  - Not technical focus
- Board can, and does (occasionally) intervene
  - On community issues only

The Apache Ecosystem

Don't pick winners, pick runners

- Board does not say “we want X”
- Developers say “X is cool”
  - We enable developers to do cool stuff
  - Apache developers are at the forefront of innovation
- Not interested in a single runner
  - We want relay teams
  - Community is critical to the Apache Way
- Apache is about support communities

Infrastructure Team



Public Relations Committee

press@apache.org

Travel Assistance Committee

ASF Legal Team

legal-discuss@apache.org

Security Response Team

security@apache.org

Fund Raising

fundraising@apache.org

Sponsorship Program

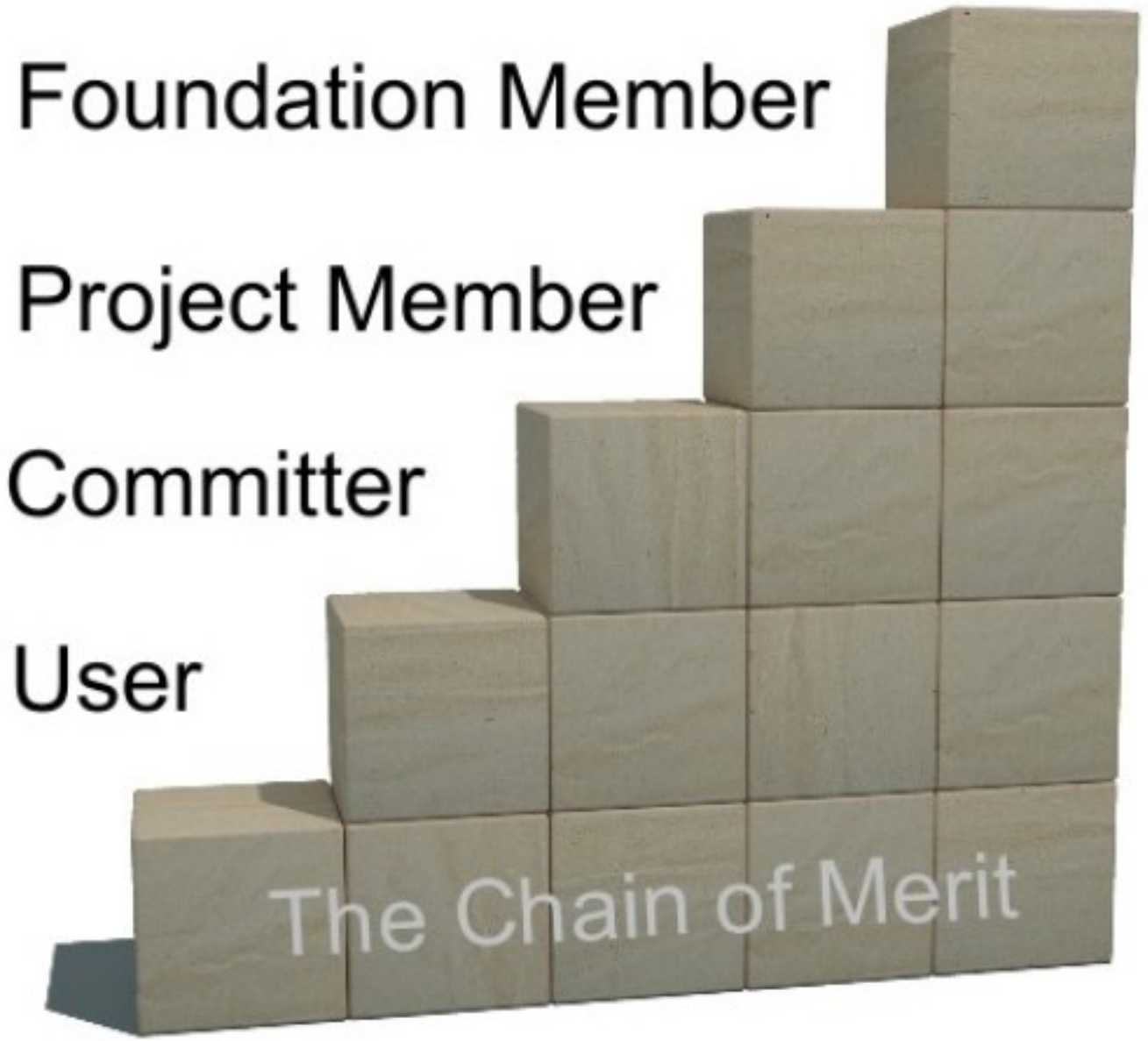
sponsor.apache.org

Platinum sponsors are:
Google, Yahoo, Microsoft

(nearly) All volunteer work

- If you want something done
  - Volunteer on the appropriate committee
- A few paid contractors
  - Press
  - Infrastructure
  - Administration
- *No paid committers*

The Apache Way


Foundation Member
Project Member
Committer
User
The Chain of Merit

Types of contribution

- Any constructive contribution earns merit
  - Permissively licensed only
- Not just code
  - Evangelism
  - Bug reports and triage
  - Testing
  - Documentation
  - Design feedback
  - User support
  - Etc.

All contributions are equal

- Merit does ***not*** buy you authority
  - The community must still agree
- Merit buys you privileges, e.g.
  - Commit access
  - Conflict resolution capabilities

Decisions Making

- Most decisions are reversible
- *“If it didn't happen on the list, it didn't happen”*
- Uncontroversial or small changes
  - Lazy Consensus – assume it's OK – JFDI
- Controversial, irreversible or large changes
  - Propose then wait a minimum of 72 hours

How are decisions made?

+1

-1 **0**

Finding that list!

- Listed on project website
- dev@project.apache.org
  - Primary list
- commits@project.apache.org
  - Automated source change notification
- users@proejct.apache.org (optional)
  - User-to-user support
- http://mail-archives.apache.org

No Jerks Allowed!

- Most people are nice
  - We all have bad days
  - Some are, well, Jerks
- Trolls exist
  - DO NOT FEED
- Don't become a poisonous person

"How Open Source Projects Survive Poisonous People (And You Can Too)" by Ben Collins-Sussman and Brian Fitzpatrick

http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4216011961522818645

Business and the Apache Way

Work on what you want...

when you want.

Learn from the best.

Make work visible and re-usable.

Permissive License

Thanks for listening! Question?

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