

Fedora Futures

CNI 2012, Washington DC

Background

- Original software created 2000-2008
 - \$2.4 million from the Mellon Foundation
 - \$500,000+ from UVA Library
- Codebase management and improvement has been continued by the committers group
 - Acuity Unlimited, Columbia, Cornell, DTU, FIZ Karlsruhe, the Denmark State Library, MediaShelf, UVA, U. of Wisconsin
 - Plus 3 independent software developers
- DuraSpace's sponsorship program has provided funding for the technical lead

Fedora Futures Genesis

- Fedora Futures started with meeting of stakeholders at OR2012 in July
- Decision to discuss a project to move Fedora technology to next stage
- 2nd meeting in DC, Sept 17-18
- Decision to define details for a Pilot to determine interests and use cases
- Launch of the initiative being held in DC after CNI

Fedora Futures: Groups

- Steering Committee: M Leggott (Chair), E Shin, J Markow, T Cramer, T Staples, R Cartolano, R Ruggaber, W Horstmann, M Razum
- Tech Group: E Shin (Product Manager), B Armintor, J Green, A Soroka, Ben O'Steen, Chris Beer, F Asseg
- Fundraising Committee: Jonathan Markow (Chair), Tom Cramer, Thorny Staples, Rob Cartolano

Current Strengths

- Architecture is Flexible & Extensible
- Support for Durability
- A decade of maturity & proven use
- Substantial community of adopters and contributors
- One foot in the linked data world
 - rels-ext, triplestore, flexible content modelling

Opportunities

- Performance
- Fault tolerance and scalability
- Complexity
- Aging code base
- Relatively small, fixed pool of active developers

Objectives

1. Preserve the strengths of the architecture and community
2. Address the needs for robust and full-featured repository services (that we now understand very well)
3. Provide a platform in the repository ecosystem for the next 5-10 years

Goals: Functional

- Work for small, medium & large institutions
- Support the traditional IR (et al.) use cases
- Support new data management needs
- Retain emphasis on Durability
- Interoperate with other systems
- Go "native" in the Web of Data

Goals: Organizational

- Revitalized pool of contributors
- Remake the codebase and development environment to promote a "Joy of Coding"
- Increase the level of community involvement, support & governance in Fedora

Use Cases

- FF Steering Group and FF Tech Group identified some 30 use cases
- Large overlap - four major topics
 - manage research data
 - improve administrability
 - handle heterogenous data more efficiently
 - interact with linked open data/semantic web

Main Actors

- Curator
- Administrator
- Researcher
- Developer

Derived High-level Requirements

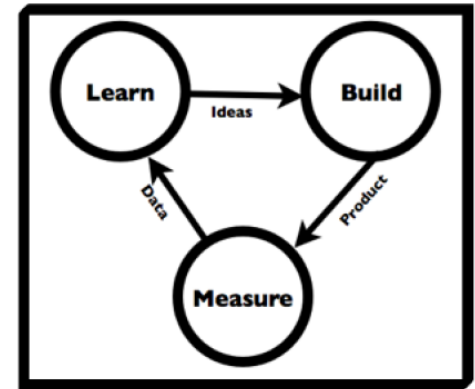
- Technical Requirements
 - improve scalability and performance
 - more flexible storage options
 - support for dynamic metadata
 - globally unique and reliable identifiers
 - improved audit trail/capturing events
- Non-technical requirements
 - straightforward and fun to use API

The Plan

- Fedora, revisited
 - Fedora is the *Flexible, Extensible, Durable, Object Repository Architecture*. Fedora provides the essential platform for institutions to provide durable, sustainable services to collect, curate and disseminate their digital assets.
- Object Lessons from Our Community
 - High risk, long lead-time product development processes
 - Agile is not a panacea

The Plan, cont'd

- A "Lean" Methodology
 - Build - Measure - Learn
- Our promises to the community
 - Continuity & Growth
 - Shipping product
- Regular, short deliverables
 - Measured & validated with ambassadors representing large constituencies
 - Developer workshops
- Project Kick-off
 - 12 December 2012



Closing Comments

- Staffing
- Funding
- Governance
- How to get involved:
 - Questions and discussion: Tuesday, 3:30pm (right after CNI), Pan American Room - All invited
 - Can't stick around? Email us:
 - Jonathan Markow - jjmarkow@duraspace.org
 - Eddie Shin - edwin.shin@yourmediashelf.com