

Meeting OW2 Board meeting – 21 October 2009 – Minutes

Date 21 OCTOBER 2009, Telephone meeting
Location

1. Chairman's Welcome Remarks

2. Quorum

Out of 14 Strategic Members, 10 are in good standing; to be balanced by 10 Corporate Members representatives plus 1 Individual Member representative for a total of 21 Board members. Therefore 11 members constitute the quorum.

With 8 board members participating in this meeting, the quorum is NOT achieved.

Attending (and initials if ever used in the rest of the minutes):

1. BULL Jean-Pierre Laisné (JPL)
2. EDIFIXIO Thierry Humbert (TH)
3. ENGINEERING Gabriele Ruffatti (GR)
4. FRANCE TELECOM Valère Robin (VR)
5. SOGETI Laurent Guérin (LG)
6. TALEND Cedric Carbone (CC)
7. THALES Serge Druais
8. XWIKI Ludovic Dubost (LD)

Member of the board without voting right: CEO, Cédric Thomas (CT)

Attending at the invitation of the board: China LC Coordinator Cherry Bian (CB),

(Appreciation to Valère Robin for taking the minutes)

- No quorum today

ACTION Work-group on the role of board members: input from volunteers welcome, JPL make a synthesis and send it to the mailing list for all to make comments; the output must be in a "positive tone"

3. & 4. Agenda Review and Agenda Approval

- Minutes : last board minutes arrived late because of the overload of the management office and the CEO that barely manage the basic processes of the consortium
 - The minutes writer have to send the raw minutes to CT before the end of the day ; send rapidly a final version is a priority for CT
 - The agenda is reviewed and approved.
-

5. Introduction of New Directors

- No new Director.
-

6. Minutes of the previous meeting

- No comment: the minutes of the previous meeting are approved.
 - For information: The archives of the board mailing list are available to all board members.
-

7. Strategy discussion follow-up: Revenue Model Discussion

- Oct. 5th discussion went toward increasing numbers of members rather than
-

increasing fees in order to increase revenue.; and to improve positioning in order to be more attractive. Some requested to develop a clearer technology positioning for OW2.

- Increase the fees is a way to give the consortium the means of its strategy.
- In past discussion, we noticed that some consortium had a much larger budget than OW2 with higher subscription fee
- Board members were supposed to send their position regarding their OW2 membership in 2010
- A “top down” plan for OW2 future and a questionnaire may be sent to members for an online poll.
- OW2 must be active in European projects to be present and disseminate the results and ideas and the image of the consortium.

Discussion on the consortium's Technology Vision

- We have to be more focused and technology oriented.
- OW2 relies on its projects for technology vision.
- OSS positioning is most important, rather than middleware positioning. Maybe we are not explicitly Java-oriented but we have a de facto Java positioning.
- We should take care of the value of the OW2 code base. We must not become like SourceForge.
- The possibility to make different kind of software work together is important. Issues of "code base consistency", "interoperability" and "open standards"

8. Strategy discussion follow-up: Open Source Model Discussion

- OW2 was very liberal on licenses. The recommendation is to be less liberal and make recommendations on some scenarios with a consistent license use to help the projects.
- The consortium needs legal advice on these license aspects in case we are missing something.

9. Strategy discussion follow-up: Management Office Discussion

- MO situation. Minimum team to run the consortium : the situation today is that of part time members of the MO. To run the consortium to its true level, OW2 needs 5 to 6 persons to provide services to the members
 - technical services (forge and website): 2 persons
 - community services (TCK, technology vision, projects, legal counsel ...): 1 CTO, 1 legal (or admin executive)
 - marketing services: 1 full time person to go further than current event coordination, + CEO to grow membership
- In kind contributions by members doesn't work. Hiring people induce other expenses like offices.
- A provisional budget will be provided beginning of November with its consequences on the membership fees.
- Local Chapters must be taken into account in the global budget. Local Chapters need to update their own plan so that the global budget of the consortium can be build and so that the board have the vision on the whole scope of the consortium.

On how to increase board participation

- Have two two-days face to face meeting a year to take decision and otherwise
-

have audioconference discussion or cooperative work (IM, wiki, mails, etc..) for more focused and specific discussion

- Still difficult to organize synchronous meeting with people from Asia, Brazil, Europe and California.

10. Strategy discussion follow-up: OSA Discussion

- The OSA-OW2 memo circulated among board members
- The OW2 board has already voted in favor of proceeding with the process highlighted in the Merge Memo. Technically the action is not a merge but new members joining OW2 and the provision for some seats on the board for these new members.

11. Strategy discussion follow-up: Project Management Discussion

- Essentially a discussion about fostering interoperability between projects and technology positioning of OW2.

ACTION: Board asks VP Technology and CTO to drive this discussion ASAP

12. Other business

FOSSA conference

OW2 Annual Conference.

Budget

Milestones

- Milestones for the next few weeks:
 - Questionnaire to community ASAP
 - TC discussion about technology vision ASAP
 - OW2 development plan draft by first week of November
 - Meetings with Strategic and Corporate Members wrt their 2010 commitment by end of November

13. Next meetings of the Board

- December 16 by phone

14. Chairperson's Concluding comments

- Thanks participants for their attendance

14. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm CET