Committer Community Issues and Update

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Committer Community

Growing the Investment

- There are over 150 FTE committers
- That's more than $20M annual investment in Eclipse
  (assuming a burdened rate of $150k)
- That's 10x the annual budget of the Foundation.

- Each new FTE committer we can bring to the Open Source Projects is real value to the Foundation.
- The Foundation should continue providing value back to the Open Source Projects.

Committer Community
Community Infrastructure Requests

- We asked the community for a prioritized list of requests and we received responses from more than 1/3rd of the committers. The list and the results can be found at http://www.eclipse.org/webtools/committers/list.html.

- Number one on the list, by a large margin, was self management of infrastructure. Infrastructure administration channels are defined by the Eclipse development process. The committers and PMCs would like to automate these processes to streamline the interactions (and facilitate record keeping):
  - Self administration of project-specific bugzilla features including adding and removing components, changing component owners, deciding whether to use NEW or UNCONFIRMED, etc.
  - Self administration of mailing lists including creating and removing lists, enable moderation, etc.
  - Self administration of project-specific CVS including creating top-level directories.
  - Self management of project website including the removal of frames, the use of server-side dynamic content (PHPs/JSPs), wikis, and hierarchical blogs for promoting news.

Community Infrastructure Requests

- Numbers two through five on the prioritized list are approximately equal in importance.
  - Additional system administration resources
  - Project dashboard
  - Bugzilla improvements
  - Faster response times (a.k.a., more faster hardware)

- System administration that works for developers who are not located in the Eastern Timezone.
  - Denis Roy is a great addition to the EMO, and the committers have been universally positive about him. However, his EST working schedule means he is available four hours a day for typical West Coast developers, only two hours a day for Europeans and **zero** hours a day for Japan/Korea.

- More transparency of the system administration.
  - Allow committers to track their specific requests and to monitor the overall sysadmin workload (thus allowing the committers to have more realistic expectations of the time-to-complete their specific requests).
  - Uptime and real time monitoring of the Eclipse.org servers. For example, if a committer is having connectivity problems, he or she can verify the state of the servers (up/down/response time) as part of his or her problem resolution.

Community Infrastructure Requests

- The current bug tracking mechanism/tool imposes lots of work on the committers doing the bug triage. Given that most committers spend a noticeable amount of time in Bugzilla there should be improvements to make committer's live easier.
    - Bugs are often incomplete or duplicates of existing bugs. Other projects for example have mandatory fields (e.g. the build id, log entries, reproducible steps, …) and show a list of possible related bugs which the bug reporter can check for duplicates before reporting a new one.
    - Searching is also a problem since stack traces are often in attachments which aren't searched. Stack traces are good means to find duplicates. However stack traces are often attached. So search in attachments must be supported as well.

Summary and Suggestion

- We want the Board's goals to reflect the requirements of the open source projects because the open source projects are an essential partner in the ecosystem.
  - As board members, we understand the broader issues, but as committer representatives, we are focusing on this one issue.
- Long term: Eclipse will foster a vibrant open source community well regarded for innovation and quality.
  - We want progress to be happening towards this goal each and every quarter.
- Short term: Results & Transparency.
  - In other words, it's not sufficient just to get the work done – how it gets done is equally important.