Cross-Project Resource Allocation Working Group

June 2007

Process and Meetings

- Terms of Reference:
  - *There are a number of requirements that cut across projects where focused efforts would benefit the broader community (e.g. translations and Europa release train engineer). This working group will examine the need for cross-project resource allocation and examine the alternatives available to meet any needs identified (including the possible addition of a "tax" to support such efforts).*
- Participants (in no particular order):
  - Mitch Sonies; Tim Barnes; Brian Roberts; Don Ebright; Winston Damarillo; Richard Gronback; Ed Cobb; Dino Brusco; Mike Taylor; Steve Saunders; Darin Swanson; Jeff McAffer; Dennis Leung; Dave Thomson; Konstantin Komissarchik; Bill Roth; Eric Newcomer
- Meetings:
  - 6 teleconference meetings held in total
  - Minutes distributed amongst the team

Outcome

- Initially focus on the Eclipse (aka Platform) project to maximize the "greater good"
- Imposing any type of "tax" was a non-starter
- Requiring dedicated, full-time personnel order to participate in the Eclipse project was a non-starter
- Observations:
    - It is exceedingly expensive to train of a contributor to the point of becoming a committer. Ongoing, long term engagements are the goal.
    - It is exceedingly expensive to have people join teams solely to implement a single feature and then leave, thereby imposing additional maintenance burden on the remaining team.
    - Barrier to entry is high for the Eclipse project (large, dynamic code base, co-located teams, …)
- Through conversation we came to a positive conclusion and some guiding principles:
    - New contributors and committers are expected to make <u>long-term</u> and <u>consistent</u> contributions as <u>a full participant of a project team</u>.
        - Not necessarily a specific # of full-time FTEs, hours-per-week, …
        - Must be willing to help do maintenance/grunt work as well as new features
        - Drive-by contributions must be avoided.
    - Eclipse project needs to better facilitate contributors and contributions. More, and better, public communication
    - Meritocracy still applies: New contributors must demonstrate sufficient merit to be invited as a committer by the existing team members.
    - Highlighting candidate contributors helps the Eclipse team focus their efforts.