



Open source masterclass - Life in the Apache Incubator

Jukka Zitting | repeat mentor, activist chairman of the IPMC



© 2012 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All Rights Reserved. Adobe Confidential.

Wednesday, November 7, 12

Agenda

- Introduction to the Incubator
- Entering the Incubator
- IP review and releases
- Community growth and diversity
- Self-evaluation and graduation



Introduction to the Incubator



The Incubator charter

“a Project Management Committee charged with accepting new products into the Foundation, providing guidance and support to help each new product engender their own collaborative community, educating new developers in the philosophy and guidelines for collaborative development as defined by the members of the Foundation, and proposing to the board the promotion of such products to independent PMC status once their community has reached maturity.”

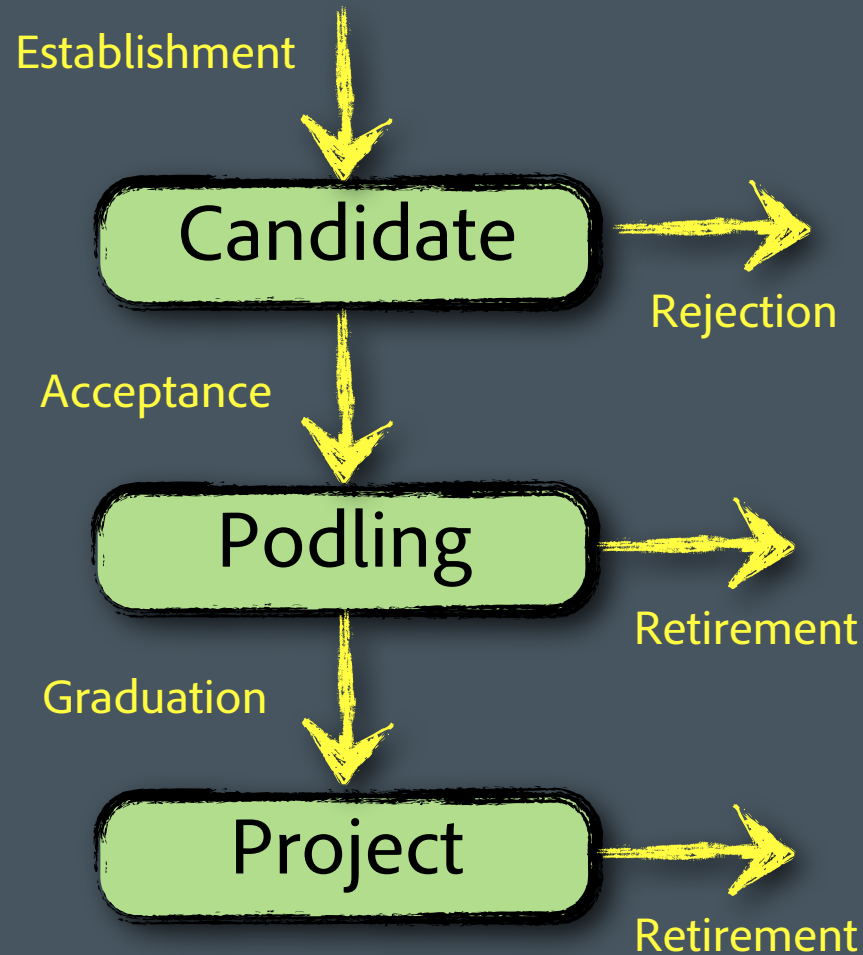
Why?

- Community
 - We want all Apache projects to succeed as communities
 - Community structure and processes are important factors of long-term success
- IP clearance and releases
 - A key purpose of the ASF is to provide legal shelter to individual contributors
 - To do that, we need to follow a few processes designed to guarantee that:
 - the community, not just an individual, know and understand what is being released
- Infrastructure
 - The ASF provides lots of infrastructure support to its projects
 - Projects should know what infrastructure is available and how to best work with the half-volunteer team behind it
 - Note that some infrastructure decisions are limited by community and IP constraints

Who?

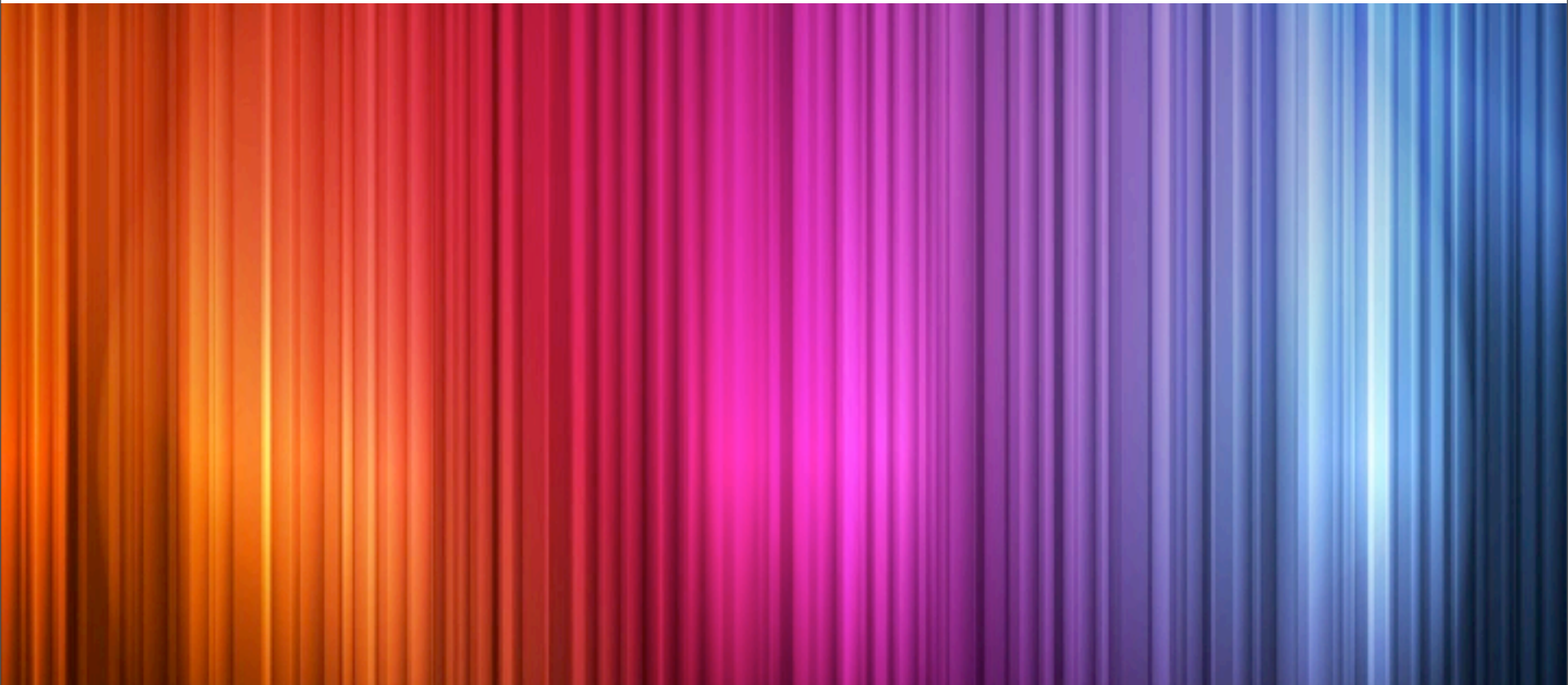
- Incubator PMC
 - ASF members and other experienced open source people
 - Oversees all podlings, decides on acceptance, releases, graduation, etc.
- Mentors and the Podling PMCs (PPMC)
- Podling communities
 - committers, contributors, users, trolls, etc.

Incubation process

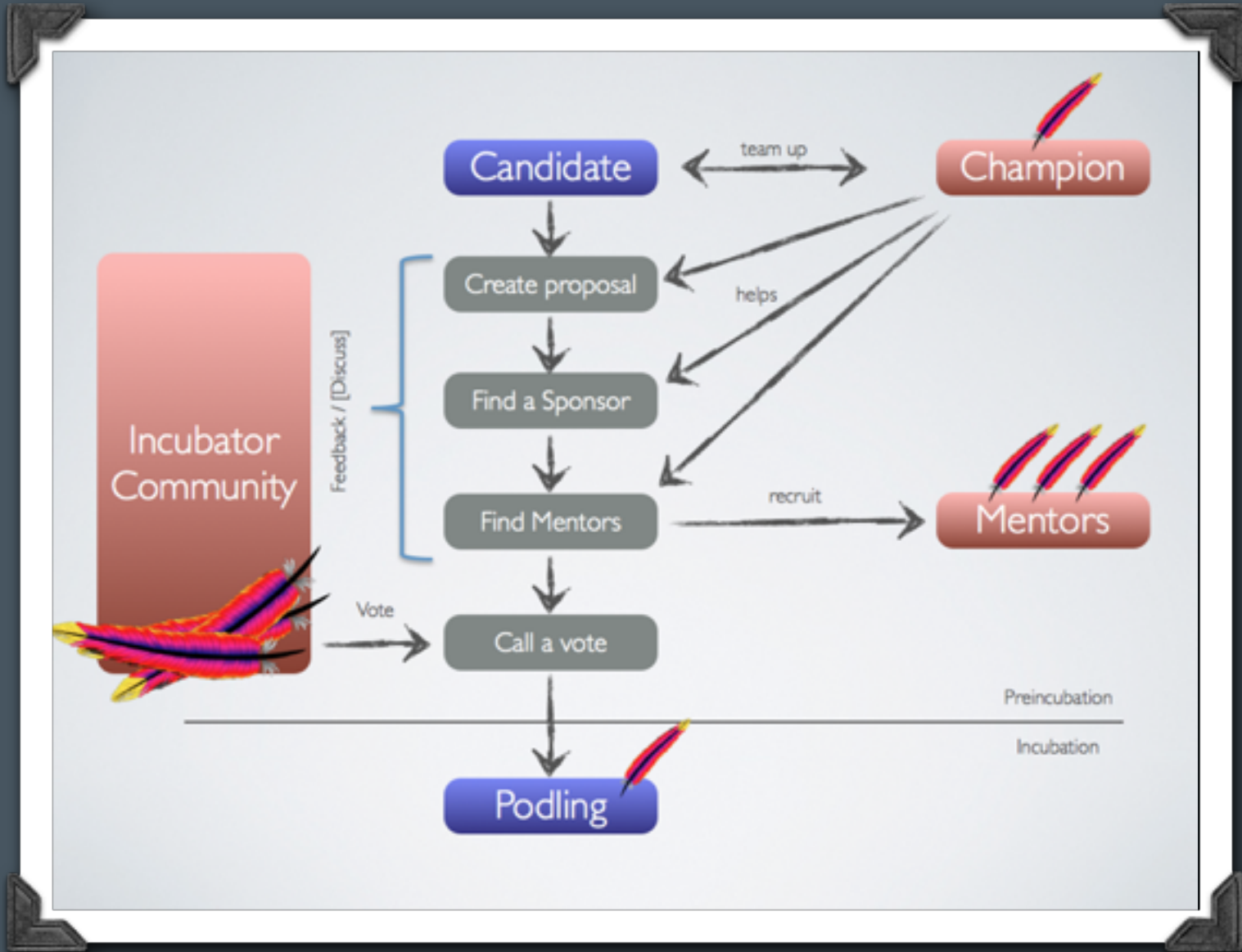




Entering the Incubator



Establishment, see <http://incubator.apache.org/guides/proposal.html>



Proposal template

- Background
- Rationale
- Initial goals
- Current status
 - Meritocracy
 - Community
 - Core developers
 - Alignment
- Known Risks
 - Orphaned products
 - Inexperience with open source
 - Homogenous developers
 - Reliance on salaried developers
 - Relationship with other Apache products
 - An excessive fascination with the Apache brand
- Documentation
- Initial source
- Source and intellectual property submission plan
- External dependencies
- Cryptography
- Required resources
 - Mailing lists
 - Subversion directory
 - Issue tracking
 - Other resources
- Initial committers
- Affiliations
- Sponsors

Then what?

- The basics
 - Set up the mailing list
 - Set up other infrastructure
 - Migrate your source code
 - Get hacking!
- The harder bits
 - IP review
 - Apache release
 - Community growth
 - Self-evaluation
- Finally
 - Graduation!



IP review and releases



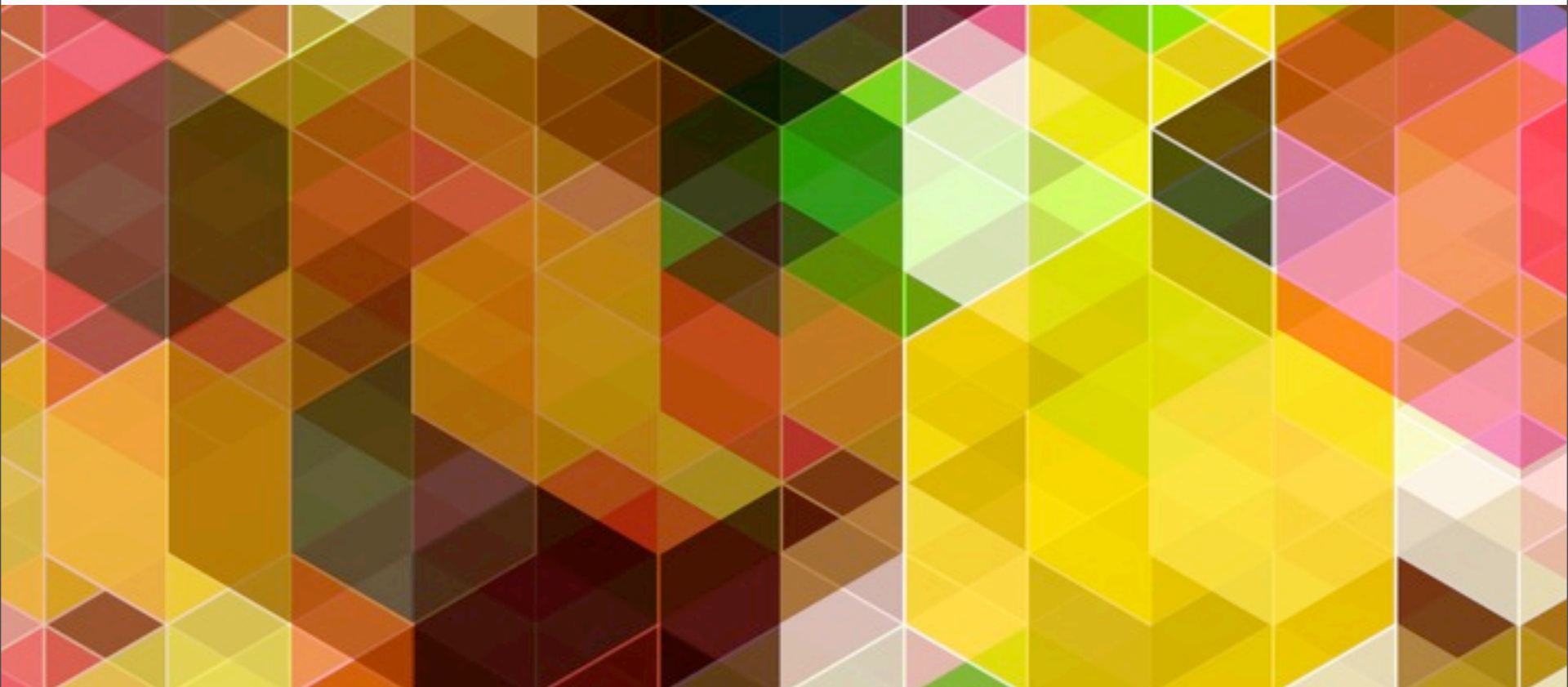
- Contributor license agreements and software grants
 - <http://www.apache.org/licenses/#clas>
 - <http://www.apache.org/licenses/#grants>
- Source headers
 - <http://www.apache.org/legal/src-headers.html>
- Licensing of dependencies
 - <http://www.apache.org/legal/resolved.html>

Apache release

- Lots of details!
 - <http://www.apache.org/dev/#releases>
 - Your mentors are there to help and explain
 - Plan for a few weeks to a few months for your first release
 - It gets easier after the first time
- Typical problems
 - Source headers, see Apache RAT
 - Licensing of dependencies
 - Binaries



Community growth and diversity



Identifying and inviting new committers

- Who's contributing patches?
 - Look at the issue tracker
- Make sure all patches are reacted to
 - Even just a comment why it's not ready yet
- Better too many committers than too few

Community diversity

- Who's committing stuff?
 - Substantial contributions from more than one committer/company
- Are people participating in decision?
 - Mailing list discussions
 - Votes on releases and new committers
 - etc.
- If in trouble
 - Raise awareness
 - Focus on potential new contributors/committers
 - Getting started guide
 - Easier build and first startup



Self-evaluation and graduation



Self-evaluation

- Quarterly reports to the Incubator PMC and the ASF board
 - Monthly for the first three months, or when requested/desired
 - Reports due on the first wednesday of the month
- Why?
 - Let the IPMC and the board know what's going on
 - Opportunity for introspection - how are we doing? where are we going?
 - Record of project history
- What?
 - Typically a few paragraphs to a single page in size
 - Records all essential topics since the last report
 - Summarizes current status and outlook for the future
 - Highlights any issues that the IPMC or the ASF board should be aware of
 - IP problems, trademark issues, community trouble, etc.

Report template

- One-sentence summary of the project
- Date of entry to the Incubation
- Top 2-3 issues to resolve before gradation
- Summary of project status
- Signed-off-by line
- Possible mentor/IPMC comments

Graduation criteria

- Complete (and sign off) tasks documented in the status file
- Ensure suitability for project name and product names
- Demonstrate ability to create Apache releases
- Demonstrate community readiness
- Ensure that mentors and the IPMC have no remaining issues

Graduation schedule



