

The Apache Software Foundation

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Part I – Community organizational structure

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M.Sc. Libre Software URJC, 2011



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ASF Overview

¿What is Apache Software Foundation?

- An USA non-profit organization.
- Created in 1999 by the "Apache Group".
- 70 top level projects, over 290 active members, over 2000 committers and countless contributors and users.
- Provide a base for software development projects by supplying technical and business infrastructure.
- Provide an independent legal entity that can obtain resources that will be used for the public benefit.
- Provides legal protection to individual volunteers against lawsuits aimed at projects of the Foundation.
- Protect the "Apache" brand and all its software products, to be abused by other organizations.

The Foundation structure

The meritocracy (government by merit) is the basic principle of the Foundation.

The Foundation is governed by the following entities:

- Board of Directors governs the foundation and is composed of members.
- Project Management Committees govern the projects, and they are composed of committers.
- Officers oversee the day-to-day affairs of the Foundation.

Board of Directors

The ASF Board of Directors is:

- Responsible for managing and supervising the proper functioning of the Foundation according to its bylaws. This includes assets management and allocation of resources for their projects.
- Composed by nine individuals.
- Elected between the members of the Foundation.
- Elected every year.

Project Management Committee (PMC)

- The PMC are established by resolution of the Board, to be responsible for the active management of one or more communities, which are also identified for the Board.
- Ensure that all legal issues are addressed, that procedure is followed, and that each and every release is the product of the community as a whole.
- Provide litigation protection mechanisms.
- Assure the long term development and health of the community as a whole.
- Consists of at least one officer of the ASF, who shall be designated chairperson, and may include one or more other members of the ASF.

Officers

The officers are:

- Responsible for oversee the day-to-day operations of the Foundation.
- Elected for the Board of Directors.
- Currently, for Project Management Committees are 95 (one per project) and and for other tasks, 16 more.

Meritocracy roles

Meritocracy is managed through roles listed below:

- **User.** Someone that uses the ASF software.
- **Developer/Contributor.** User that collaborates in a project with code or documentation.
- **Committer.** Developer with write access to the code repository and has signed a Contributor License Agreement on file.
- **PMC (Project Management Committee) member.** Developer or committer with voting rights for decisions related to the community project and the right to propose an active user of committership.
- **PMC Chair.** Is the interface between the Board and the project.
- **ASF Member.** Is elected by current members for their merits and may elect or be elected to the Board and propose to committers as new members. Legally, they are the owners of the Foundation.