Proposal for a Technical Board

27 May 2010, Paderborn
Stefane Fermigier, Nuxeo
Context / Constraints:

| Different sets of input (HLR, IKS Architecture, User Stories - but no detailed design documents) that need to be converted into running and quality code |
| We don’t know yet what scenario exactly we will implement in the alpha stack |
| FISE vs. other visions for alpha stack (also: top-down vs. bottom-up) |
| “Crunch mode” towards alpha stack release (August) and prerelease (June) |
| Value creation for partners, and community bootstrap |
Goals for TB:

1. Ensure that the Alpha Stack is delivered on time (including the workshop in June)
2. Ensure that it can be used, at least in parts, in real life by the IND partners and early adopters
3. Prepare for more community engagement after the alpha release

(In decreasing order of importance)
Areas of responsibility

- Ensure convergence between HLR, Architecture and reality (code)
- Implementation, tools
- Collaboration
- Integration
Implementation

| Ensures that all the code is in a common source repository, that everything needed to build is available |
| Makes technical decisions and tracks/corrects deviations regarding: |
  | Technologies used (ex: which JAX-RS implementation? which RDF store?) in a consistent manner |
  | Coding standards (including code structuration, unit tests presence, documentation) |
  | Tools (ex: Maven vs. Ant, QA tools including CI, task/issue tracker, etc.) |
  | Architecture of participation |
Planning and collaboration

- Plans development and tracks progress (Scrum or “scrum of scrums” -style)
  - Product backlog / ensuring most valuable features implemented first
  - Rough iteration planning and release management (monthly builds / quarterly releases)
  - Work distribution among teams
  - Ensuring adequate communication among / towards the developers and towards the external community (ML, blogs)
  - Reporting issues to WP5 leader and/or Exec Board
  - Continuous improvement
  - Preparing for handing project (or part of the project) to Apache Foundation if decided by Executive Board (Oct?)
Ensure there is a shared high-level design vision (then refine it as needed)

Ensures proper integration between subsystems and modules

- In-depth interface (Java / RESTful APIs) reviews
- Leightweight cross-modules code reviews
- Defines and/or ensures existence of Functional / Integration test scenarios
Means

- 5-6 members (experienced people who code, not “astronaut architects”)
  - 1 for each implementation site for WP5
  - 2 IND partners
  - => Bertrand, Olivier, Rupert (SRFG), Massimo (DFKI), Enrico (CNR), Fabian (UPB), Ozgur (SRDC)

- Self-organizing team, chooses its tools, maybe:
  - Weekly teleconf (1h)
  - Dedicated mailing list (or not?, TBD)
  - Face to face meetings?