



Apache Way: Beyond Open Source – Open Communities

“Community before code”

Suresh Marru – smarru@apache.org

Vision

The Apache Software Foundation provides support for the Apache community of open-source software projects. The Apache projects are characterized by a collaborative, consensus based development process, an open and pragmatic software license, and a desire to create high quality software that leads the way in its field. We consider ourselves not simply a group of projects sharing a server, but rather a community of developers and users.

ASF: Legal Structure



- Member-based corporation - individuals, not companies, can be members
- Members nominate and elect new members
- Members elect a board - 9 seats
- Annual members meetings via IRC. Board meets monthly.
- Each PMC has a Chair - eyes and ears of the board (oversight only)

Community > Code

- Since we are all volunteers, people's time and interests change
- A healthy community is “warm and inviting” and encourages a continued influx of developers as others leave
- Poisonous people/communities turn people off, and the project will die
- End result - better code, long-term code

Collaborative Development

- Code is developed by the community
- Voting ensures at least 3 active developers
- Time requirement on votes ensures representation across many timezones
- Development done online and on-list - If it didn't happen on-list, it didn't happen

Non-coding teams

- Infrastructure (not non-coding actually)
- Public relations/Press
- Travel Assistance
- Legal
- Trademarks
- Security
- Fundraising
- Events/Community

(Nearly) All Volunteer

- If you want something done, volunteer and do it
- A few paid contractors (The boring stuff)
 - Press
 - Infrastructure
 - Administration
- Although many developers are paid by companies to work on Apache code, the ASF never pays for code development

Incubator

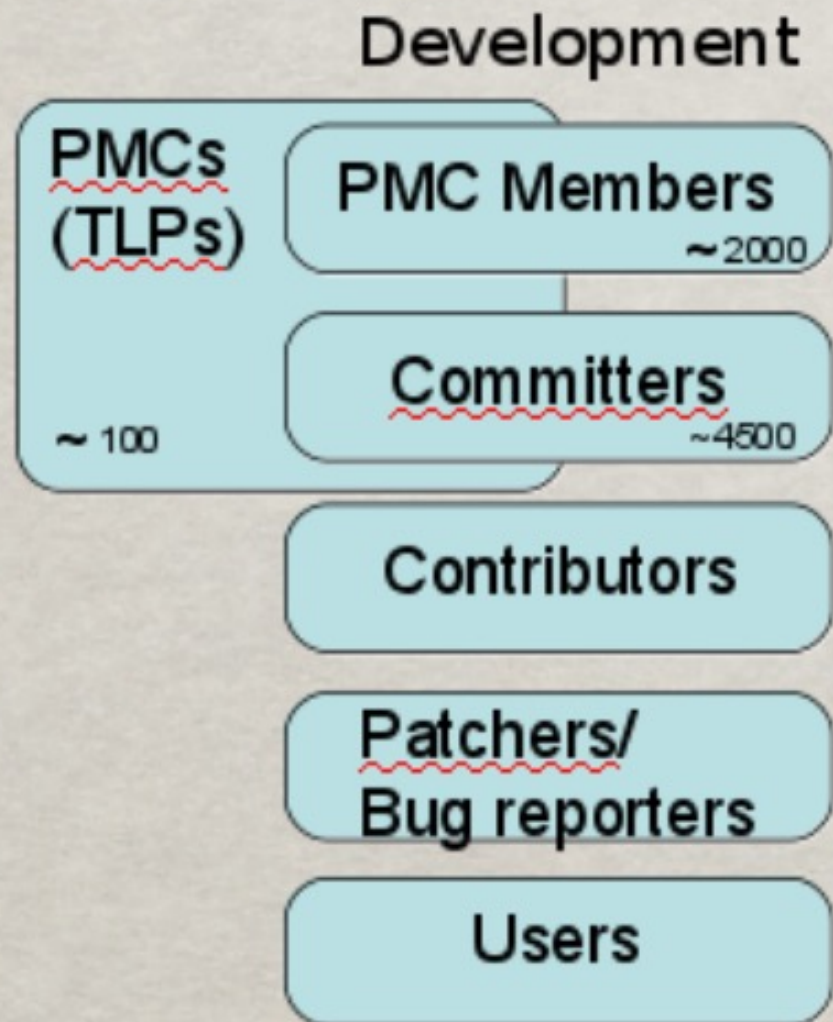


- Entry point for all new projects
- Indoctrinates the project into the Apache Way
 - Educational: Do they know how we do things?
- Ensures and tracks IP
 - Legal: Can we release the code under our license?
- Community: Is the project diverse and sustainable?

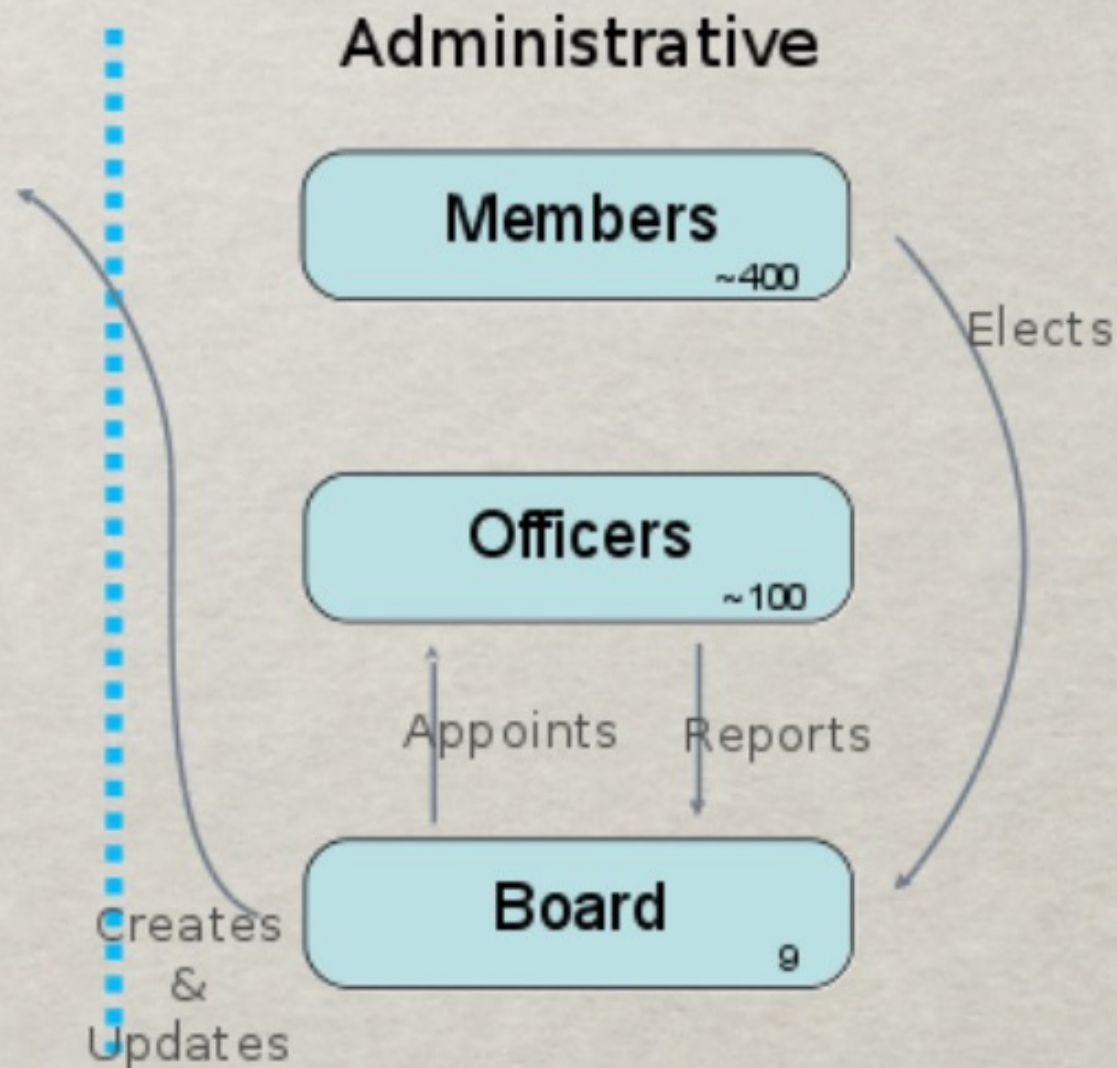
<https://apache.org/index.html#projects-list>

Some core fundamentals

Technical Oversight

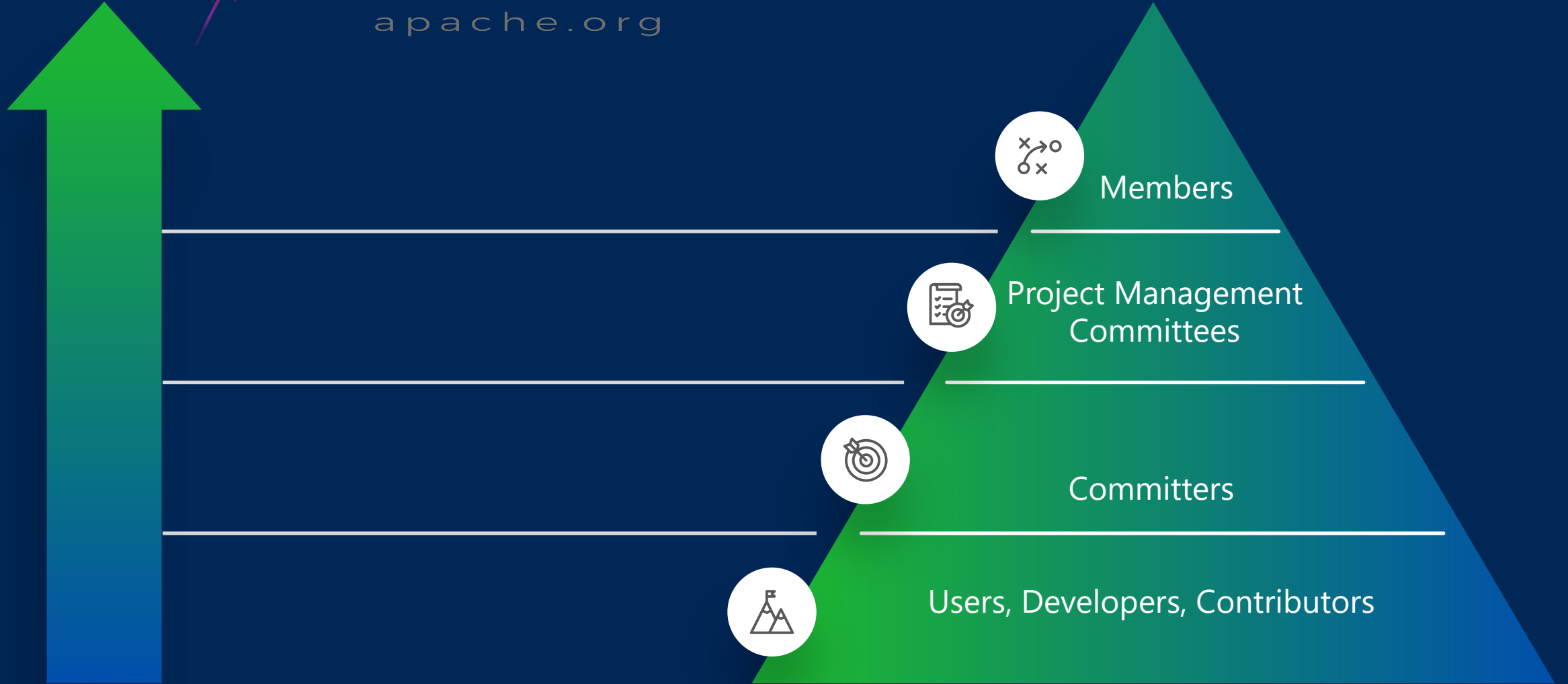


Organizational Oversight





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Earned Authority

All individuals are given the opportunity to participate, but their influence is based on publicly earned merit – what they contribute to the community.

Merit lies with the individual, does not expire, is not influenced by employment status or employer.

Community of Peers

- Individuals participate at the ASF, not organizations.
- The ASF's flat structure dictates that roles are equal irrespective of title, votes hold equal weight, and contributions are made on a volunteer basis (even if paid to work on Apache code).





Open Communications

- ASF requires all communications related to code and decision-making to be publicly accessible to ensure asynchronous collaboration, as necessitated by a globally-distributed community.

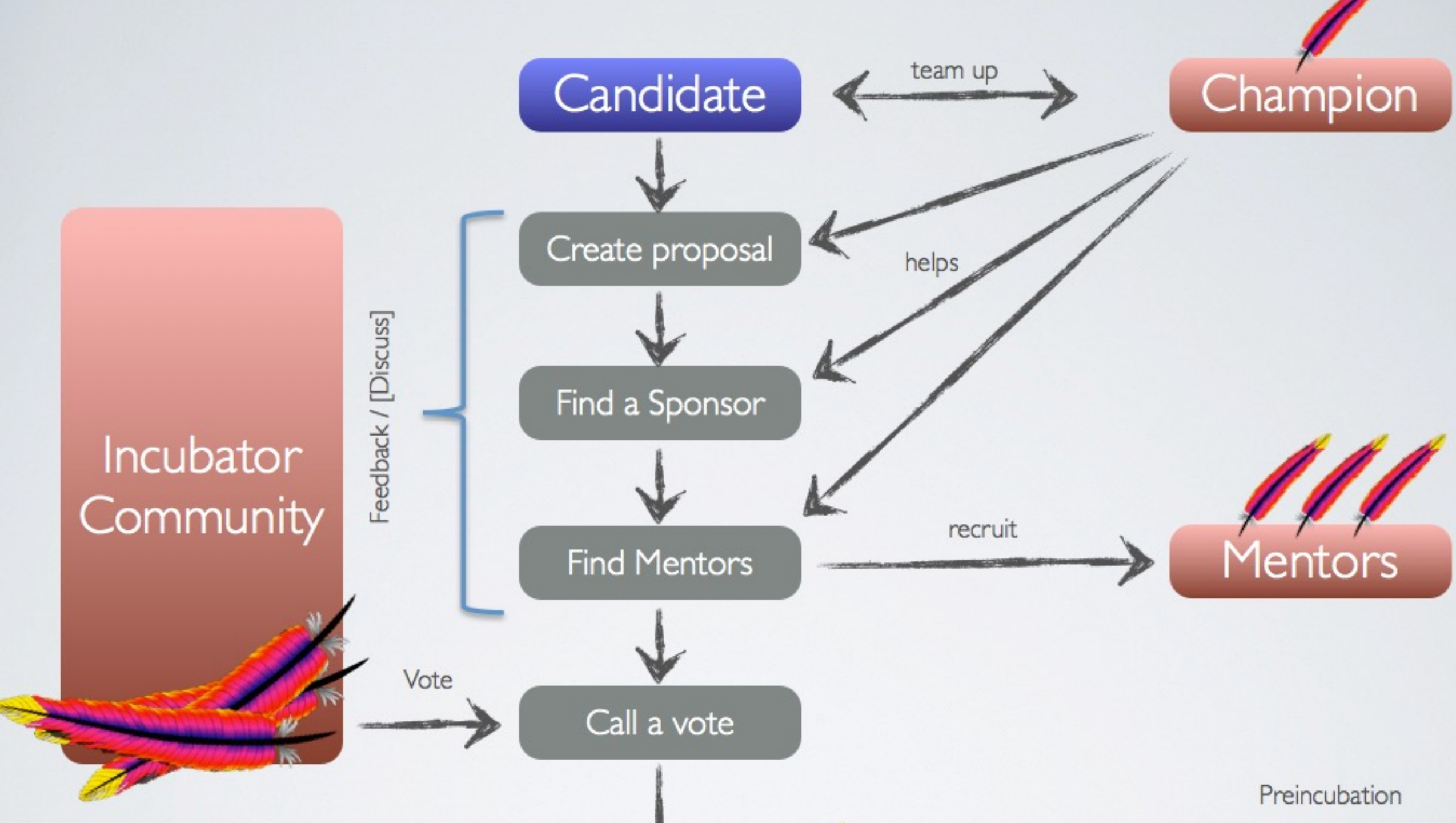


Consensus Decision Making

- Apache Projects are overseen by a self-selected team of active volunteers who are contributing to their respective projects.
- Projects are auto-governing with a heavy slant towards driving consensus to maintain momentum and productivity.
- Whilst total consensus is not possible to establish at all times, holding a vote or other coordination may be required to help remove any blocks with binding decisions, such as when declaring a release.

Responsible Oversight

- The ASF governance model is based on trust and delegated oversight.
- Rather than detailed rules and hierarchical structures, ASF governance is principles-based, with self-governing projects providing reports directly to the Board.



More Info: <https://apache.org/foundation/>

Direct Contact: smarru@apache.org