Own it
Working with a changing open source community

Selena Deckelmann
PostgreSQL Global Development Group
“[C]ommunities are composed of individuals who collaborate toward a common goal but do not share a common employer and are not governed by an employment hierarchy.”

The Role of Participation Architecture in Growing Sponsored Open Source Communities
Joel West and Siobhán O’Mahony
Forks open doors.
• MySQL
• Percona Server
• MariaDB
• MySQLAtFacebook
• Google patchset
• Drizzle
• MySQL - Core
• Percona Server - Branch and Redist
• MariaDB - Branch and Redist
• MySQLAtFacebook - Branch
• Google patchset - Branch
• Drizzle - Fork
What we had with MySQL Community

From http://webmink.com/essays/community-types/
What forks enable now

Free Software Commons

Co-Developer

Extending Co-Developer

Deployer-Developer

User

From http://webmink.com/essays/community-types/
Postgres has always focused here. Where we are growing the fastest.

- Free Software Commons
- Co-Developer
- Extending Co-Developer
- Deployer-Developer

From http://webmink.com/essays/community-types/
“However, the category of traditional encyclopedias and reference material has changed. People today seek and consume information in considerably different ways than the past.”
Ingredients

- Revision control
- Peer review
- Public discussion
“Companies or foundations that run open source project are not software firms, they are community management firms whose communities happen to make software. Consequently to survive and thrive these projects need to invest less in enhancing governance structures or employees who will improve their capacity to code.

“Instead, we should consider skills and structures that emphasize facilitation, mediation, and conflict management – tools, skills and structures that will enable the community to better collaborate.”

“owning” code

==

first class project citizen
How does that affect businesses?
Open door #1
Make friends
Trust and reputation
Bell Curve

Most nodes have the same number of links
No highly connected nodes

Power Law Distribution

Very many nodes with only a few links
A few hubs with large number of links
People are not companies.
Developers must have relationships and represent your company.
Community is that friend that helps you move.
Core developers are catalysts.
Open Door #2
Chunk it
(“it” == contributions)
The Pottery Barn Rule
Huge patches suck

• Unknown contributors: too much at stake to support

• Trusted contributors: too much to review, digest and spend time on while other work goes on in parallel OR is stopped to deal with the huge patch

• It sucks for the developer (and company) to be rejected after all that work
You will have to change your code.
• "Get someone from the community involved in your ideas as early as possible so that you can even get half-baked ideas vetted early, rather than creating something in a vacuum."

• “[C]oncentrate on the smallest portion of the idea you can execute perfectly.”

• “Resist the temptation to build a giant patch all at once, as those are much less likely to be reviewed usefully and therefore committed."

http://wiki.postgresql.org/wiki/Submitting_a_Patch
Get out of your oval office.
Open Door #3
Take responsible action
Do-ocracy
People are already doing things.
Contribute what the community needs.
### CommitFest 2011-Next (Open)

The most recent three comments for each patch will be displayed below. To view all the comments for a particular patch, or to add a comment or make other changes, click on the patch name.

**Status Summary.** Needs Review: 12, Waiting on Author: 1, Committed: 2. Total: 15.

### Pending Patches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patch Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Reviewers</th>
<th>Last Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SQL Features</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add json contrib module</td>
<td>Needs Review</td>
<td>Joey Adams</td>
<td>Nobody</td>
<td>2011-04-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patch by joeyadams on 2011-03-29: Switched to PostgreSQL 9.1 extension interface (and dropped PostgreSQL 8.4 and 9.0 compatibility)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Internals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Add ability to constrain backend temporary file space</td>
<td>Needs Review</td>
<td>Mark Kirkwood</td>
<td>Nobody</td>
<td>2011-03-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patch by markir on 2011-02-18: Initial version.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patch by markir on 2011-03-10: With documentation, plus adds guc category RESOURCES_DISK. Still open to suggestions about better name for the guc - temp_space? work_space?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Binary in/out for aclitem</strong></td>
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<td><strong>WIP: pg_hba.conf field-specific keywords</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Replication</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Replication timeout</td>
<td>Needs Review</td>
<td>Fujii Masao</td>
<td>Nobody</td>
<td>2011-03-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Peace Corp Model
Things you can do now

- User Groups
- Answer questions
- Fund travel
- Sponsor conferences
- Comment on blog posts
What Business Can Do

Make Friends.
Chunk it.
Take responsible action.
Thanks.

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