

OpenAFS Governance

Russ Allbery

Jeffrey Altman

Harald Barth

Derrick Brashear

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Legal issues



OpenAFS doesn't exist

- Can't have assets or intellectual property
- Can't accept or hold money
- Can't own domain names
- Can't sign contracts or MoUs
- Can't provide liability protection

OpenAFS governance today



Gatekeepers • 3 of various stripes Elders 4 commercial, 3 academic Elders promote and fundraise Gatekeepers foster code, manage releases At least that was the theory

OpenAFS governance today (really)



- Elders concept has not played out nicely.
- Gatekeeper concept has worked better but not perfectly.
- Gatekeepers end up coordinating everything, including fundraising and community relations.
- Some things slip through the cracks.

OpenAFS governance tomorrow (or later)



Non-profit charitable foundation

- Open source development continues
- No licensing changes
- Foundation can accept tax-deductable contributions of money and intellectual property
- But there's no money for us to actually start yet

No trademark



Efforts to secure the AFS trademark or a relicenseable right to it from IBM have failed so far

- Relicensing allows kAFS to BE kAFS
- If the protocol isn't AFS, what is it?
- Not all avenues exhausted
- No immediate progress expected

No money



Current economic climate not favorable to beginning the foundation
 Software Freedom Conservancy offers an "out"

The conservancy approach



- An umbrella organization to shepherd resources for projects with "no home".
- Willing to consider an application from OpenAFS to join the members it already represents.
- Works closely with the Software Freedom Law Center, which already has agreed to represent OpenAFS.
- And membership may help with our trademark issue.



The whole point is:

Keep the software free and support a standardized protocol!



- Developer of open-source technology which makes use of AFS and related protocols
 - Maintainer of a version control repository
- Stewardship of strategic direction
 - A set of guiding principles will need to be agreed on by the community
- Community-building and outreach efforts



- Create value for public benefit
 - Promoting the further adoption of OpenAFS.
 - Otherwise, all the rest is for naught.
 - Help deliver products
 - Both via free open-source implementation and by helping other protocol implementors.
 - Also provide an umbrella for related projects.



- Holder of related intellectual property
 - Trademarking of logos, mascot
 - Assigned copyrights on works
- Recruiting and growing new contributors
 - Summer of Code
 - Computer Science student senior projects
- Maintainer of infrastructure for the advancement of these goals

Incorporating the Foundation



Until there's money, implementation is on hold.

Pending resolution of trademark issues, no name is yet proposed

Who we serve



Users and administrators

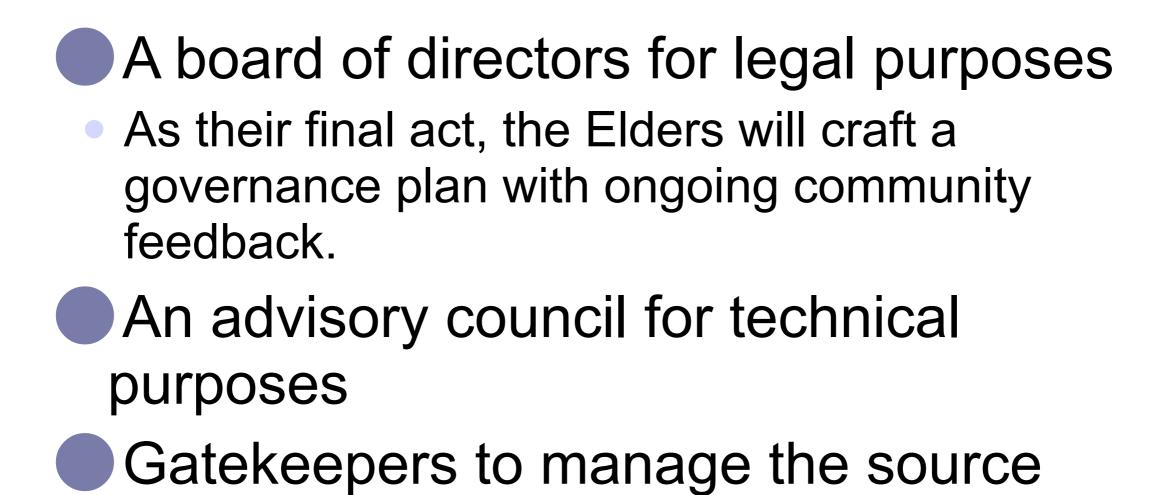
- The people who are using the software.
- Just want it to work.

Developers

- Moving the software forward.
- Support providers
- Providing for the needs of their customers.

Foundation framework





Technical advisory council



Representation from different constituencies:

- sponsor members
- peers
- community



Project Leaders

- A revised title: call Gatekeepers what they are.
- Some responsibilities removed:
 - Architectural and major user-visible changes would need to be approved by the Technical Advisory Council.
 - Protocol standardization is outside the OpenAFS project entirely.
- Remaining responsibilities can be delegated as desired by the project leaders.



Project Leader Selection

- At the start, the existing gatekeepers would become project leaders.
- The Technical Advisory Council would be empowered to:
 - add new project leaders, with the consent of the Board.
 - remove existing leaders, after public disclosure and with consent of the Board.



Project Leader Status

- Project Leaders would be non-voting Technical Advisory Council members.
- The Foundation would be authorized to cover expenses incurred in the duties of being a Project Leader, to the extent feasible.

Meantime



Development continues.
Needs still exist today.
If you can contribute in ways we can accept today, please do.

New opportunities



Public release planning meetings

- Via the OpenAFS jabber channel
- In advance of stable releases always, and development releases when large changes are planned
- Migrating from CVS to git.
- New channel for patch review: gerrit.
- Improved communication
- New community newsletter, better sharing of reports and meeting minutes.

