

Foundation membership levels

Draft discussion document outlining the potential membership levels, their privileges and responsibilities. Based mainly on Apache model, but with some additions. A work-in-progress. There will be 7 different levels or types of roles in the foundation and its project communities.

- 1) Board of directors
- 2) Foundation officer
- 3) Project steering committee member
- 4) Committer
- 5) Contributor
- 6) Supporter/Friend
- 7) User

Their roles, in increasing order of responsibility, will be as follows:

USER

Role: A general user of foundation project products, without a commitment to using the product in the long term.

Responsibility: None.

Rights: Open access to software, to file bug reports, dialogue on general community mailing lists.

SUPPORTER / FRIEND

Role: A dedicated user of a product who has purchased a supporter level membership, interested in helping promote and encourage the use of foundation projects. No formal/legal responsibilities.

Responsibility: Supporter membership fee, interest in long-term future of projects.

Rights: Be listed as an official user, supporter and friend of the foundation. Provide feedback to user-focused discussion groups. Potential to serve as a user representative on a project steering committee.

CONTRIBUTOR

Role: Recognised, nominated and voted in by a Project Steering Committee as a regular contributor of code, fixes, critical feedback, documentation or other intellectual property to the foundation.

Responsibility: To continue providing similar contributions.

Rights: To become a Committer if warranted through sustained, recognised, contribution. To be listed as a key Contributor to a particular foundation project.

COMMITTER

Role: Through sustained contributions (as a Contributor), a Committer is recognised by a Project Steering Committee as being reliable and trustworthy. Directly commits code, documentation or other intellectual property to the main repositories of a project.

Responsibility: To aid in the development of the project by continuing to provide value to the product. A user contribution agreement must be signed.

Rights: To be listed as a core developer/committer of a particular foundation project.

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEMBER

Role: PSC's are established by the board of directors. They oversee the technical direction of a particular project.

Responsibility: Manage the day-to-day workings of the project, provide a chairperson to represent the project as an officer of the foundation.

Rights: Nominate and elect Committers and new PSC Members.

...not done yet...