

10 Tips for Moving Large Corporate Projects to Apache



About Me

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- Developer advocate, technology evangelist, product manager.
- 2004: Sun Microsystems, in Prague, technical writer NetBeans.
- 2010: Oracle, in Amsterdam, product manager Oracle JET (oraclejet.org).

Agenda

- A brief history of NetBeans, with a focus on its governance.
- Why and how NetBeans landed in the Apache Software Foundation.
- The current state and prognosis for the coming period.
- 10 tips for large corporate projects moving to Apache, based on the above.

NetBeans in Sun Microsystems

- NetBeans founded in 1996, acquired by Sun Microsystems in 1997.
- Focused on providing a Java development environment.
- Open sourced in 2000, governed by Sun Microsystems.
- Strong focus on building a community around NetBeans – NetCAT, Dream Team.
- Focus shifted to include Ruby, JavaScript, C/C++, Groovy, etc.
- Boeing, NASA, etc, used the core of NetBeans as basis of own applications.

NetBeans in Oracle

- 2010: Oracle acquires NetBeans as part of the Sun Microsystems acquisition.
- Oracle invested in three IDEs: JDeveloper, Eclipse, and NetBeans...
- Several Oracle technologies repositioned with/on NetBeans.
- NetBeans continued to be positioned as official IDE for Java.
- JavaScript increasingly became a focus too, via Oracle JET (oraclejet.org).

NetBeans in Apache

- Open governance long requested by the community.
- Oracle is not a tools organization and wanted to share costs of ownership.
- Good synergy between NetBeans and Apache, e.g., community and projects.
- October 2016: Apache NetBeans incubator proposal accepted.
- The list of initial committers was long, with many from Oracle.
- January 2017: Oracle established a process for donating the code.
- September 2017: first donation 45,000 files and 4 million lines of code.

Some Big Achievements Already...

- Successfully completed several incubator releases.
- Successfully voted in several new PPMC members.
- NetBeans mailing lists at Oracle closed, Apache NetBeans lists very active.
- New website – netbeans.apache.org (netbeans.org will redirect to it).
- New blog: blogs.apache.org/netbeans
- New logo and splash screen.

10 (slightly bleak) tips...

1. Anticipate that the value of the project will decrease within the donating company, together with urgency, etc.

2. Anticipate that the larger the group of people involved, the more complex the transition will be.

3. Anticipate that you will need to factor in significant time for miscommunications, confusion, unexpected delays, etc.

4. Anticipate that the sponsors of the donation will not be there forever.

5. Anticipate that you may want to donate in stages and that a feature-based modular architecture will help, a lot.

6. Anticipate that your community has different levels of knowledge, interest, and involvement.

7. Anticipate that the stronger your community is at the start, the better and more resilient it will be through the process.

8. Anticipate that your idealism may be tempered by cold hard realities.

9. Anticipate that you will want to take a few moments now and then just to appreciate how far you've come and enjoy the moments where things are actually moving forward.

10. Anticipate that you will be enormously thankful for everything Apache provides, e.g., its awesome mentors.

Conclusion

- Take a look at netbeans.apache.org.
- Try out Apache NetBeans (incubating) 9.0 RC1.
- Think about how Apache NetBeans could support other Apache projects.
- Spread the word!