A New OSI For A New Decade

Creating a representative governance

OSI Board of Directors, represented by:

Simon Phipps, Director & Governance
Committee Chair
Jim Jagielski, Director

Mark Radcliffe, General Counsel

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- Coined and defined "Open Source" to crystallise the promise of software freedom in the new internet era

- OSI Mission from 1999:
  - "The Open Source Initiative (OSI) is a non-profit corporation with global scope formed to educate about and advocate for the benefits of open source and to build bridges among different constituencies in the open source community."

- The first part of that mission has been more than addressed
  - Open source adoption global and dominant
  - A part of every corporate and government strategy
  - Biggest risk now is not obscurity but rather dilution
  - Thus still important work to be done

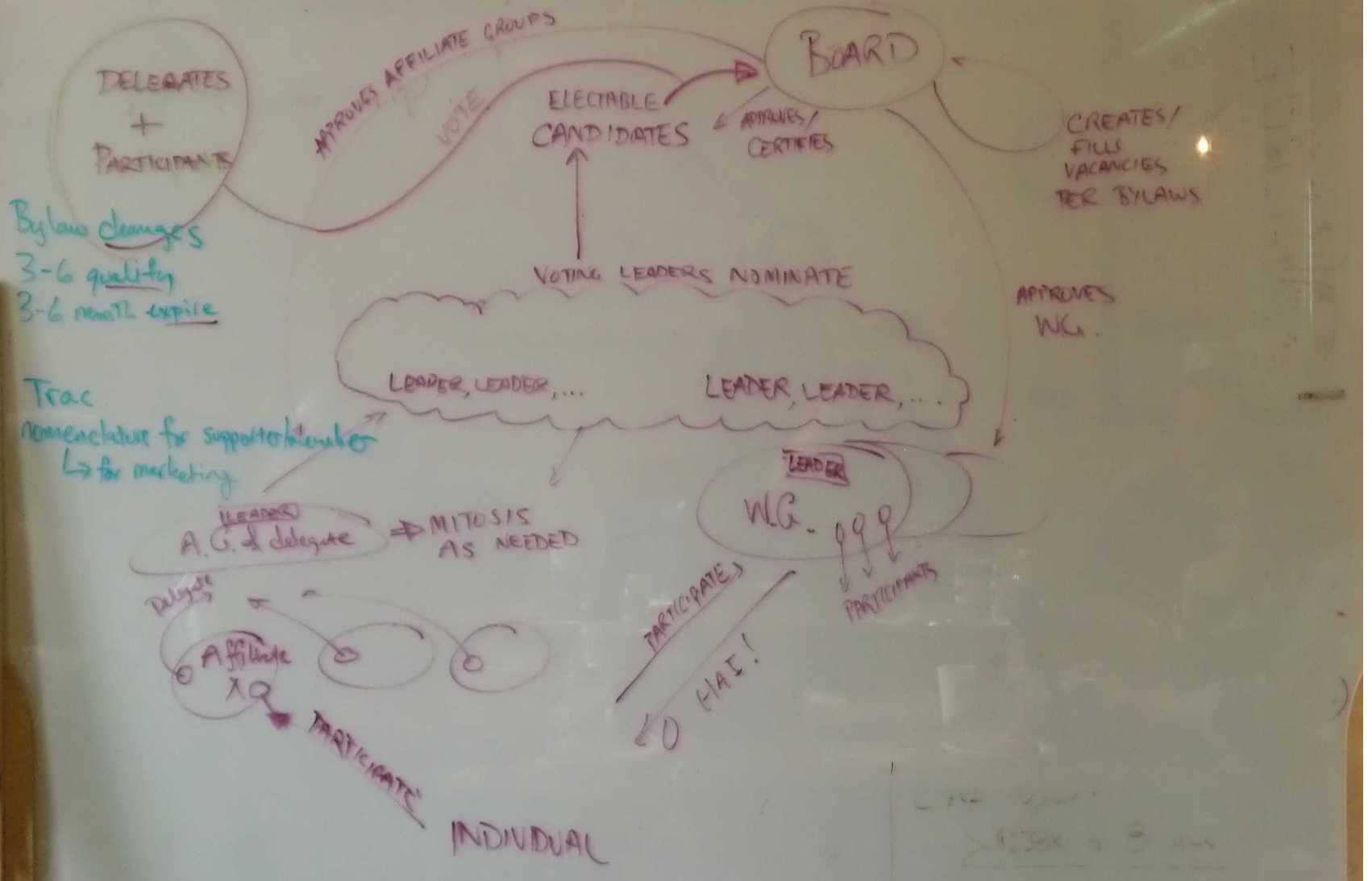- The second part is OSI's next focus

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Governance Revision

- Started several years ago
  - Clear to the Board that renewal required

- Several attempts were not successful
  - Desire for community input
  - Formed a community of reference
  - But this is a task that the Board has to lead

- Board vision crystallised during 2010
  - More modest approach
  - Expected to evolve
  - First step: bring in stakeholders

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Bring In Stakeholders

- OSI represents many kinds of entity:
  - Individuals
  - Open source software foundations
  - Ad-hoc open source communities
  - Centres of Competence of many kinds
  - Government bodies
  - Educational activities

- OSI also comprises working groups:
  - License Review
  - Education
  - Public Policy
  - Legal Affairs
  - …. and more

- Keen to draw all the threads of the open source fabric

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- Currently OSI is purely a ten-person Board, by design
  - Bylaws explicitly assert there are no members of OSI
  - Board elects volunteers to vacancies
  - Board reserves all powers
  - Board receives recommendations from working groups

- Board recently enacted term limits to encourage renewal

- Board aims to fill future vacancies by public elections
  - Create a candidate "pool" from the various Schemes/Groups
  - All participants in Schemes and Working Groups vote
  - Needs to be safe from "regulatory capture"
  - Detailed rules TBD

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- Board seeks to create Affiliate programmes during 2011
  - Hopefully to elect replacements for Director vacancies

- Bylaws will eventually be changed to make formal whatever works

- Initial Affiliate programmes to design:
  - Open Source foundation Affiliates
  - Organisational Affiliates

- Future programmes with more limited governance role:
  - Corporate Advisory Board
  - Personal Affiliate Scheme

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Working Groups

- The Working Groups are core to OSI's mission

- Board wants them involved in governance

- Proposal is to include their elected chairperson in the Director pool

- Exact rules still TBD.

Process And Timeline

- Board drafts vision: 2010 (completed at OWF, Paris)
- Volunteer "Governance Group" formed: 4Q 2010
- Board specifies first steps: March 2011
- Governance Group convening on list, establishing infrastructure: Now
- Open Source Foundation Affiliate Scheme: OSCON 2011
- Working Groups Scheme: 3Q 2011
- Organisational Affiliate Scheme: OWF 2011
- Corporate Advisory Board: End of 2011
- Personal Affiliate Scheme: In parallel with the above

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- If you can help create these schemes, get involved! See http://projects.opensource.org/listinfo/governance-discuss

- Another route to involvement is to join a working group.

- Will your organisation join OSI? Sound them out, help us un-derstand how the schemes must be designed to enable them.

- Funding: Can your organisation contribute to the resources needed? Contact webmink@opensource.org

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