



FIVE THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT APACHE

Shane Curcuru
At My 23rd ApacheCon
Montréal 2018

This year's ApacheCon NA 2018 in Montréal was the 23rd ApacheCon I've attended, and I hope to attend 23 more ApacheCons. Not only are they a great place to learn about Apache projects, the sense of community and friendship sets ApacheCon apart from most other tech conferences. Plus, some of my best friends in the world are here!

0. DOES APACHE HAVE A URL SHORTENING SERVICE?

YES!

Apache has our own URL shortener for links that will last for 50 years.



<https://s.apache.org/>

Yes, most of us are geeks, so we start numbering with 0. Why is having our own URL shortener important? Because the ASF will be here in 50 years, so our shortened URLs will still be here for the public good.

ProTip: the board expects projects to use the s.apache.org shortener, and to avoid use of third party shorteners for exactly this reason!

I. WHAT IS A PMC?



PMC = Project Management Committee

Role: Vote on releases and guide their project.



<https://s.apache.org/about-pmc>

Apache PMCs are the group of named individuals that help to lead - by example - their specific Apache project.


Imagine a giant org chart. The ASF Board is at the top, and then all 200 independent Apache top level projects have a **dotted line report** to the board - but the reporting is only about legal, community, and branding issues - NOT about technical issues. One of the hardest things to understand is that the ASF - the Foundation - does not provide technical direction or even suggestions for our projects. It's up to each PMC to independently decide what's right for their community and choose the direction of the code they want to build.

Other important highlights: PMC members are individuals (never companies); they are elected by merit within their project; the chair of the PMC is a Vice President, not because they're more important than other PMC members but because they are the conduit to the board for reporting.

2. HOW DO I BECOME AN APACHE MEMBER / GET A SEAT ON THE BOARD?

 Use the Apache Way to serve the public good.

Membership requires work in Apache projects.


<https://s.apache.org/about-independence>

You can't pay to get a seat on the board, unlike some other foundations. If you're asking to be made a member, that's the wrong way to go about it.

New members are nominated and elected on their merit from previous work on Apache projects (i.e. not in the larger open source world) by the existing membership. It's not about where you work, it's not about how much code you've contributed, and it's never about what you've donated or funded. It's always about: how have you shown the values of The Apache Way by helping drive forward and evangelize multiple Apache projects?

This level of independence ensures the ASF board can't be subverted. The independently elected board - from within the Membership - ensures the strategic independence of the ASF and Apache projects from any vendor or consortia. We have hundreds of independent voting members from across all walks of life and around the world.

3. WELL, WHAT IS AN APACHE MEMBER?

It's probably not what you think.



Mostly: annual meeting - but also: visibility into all aspects of Apache



<https://s.apache.org/about-members>

On one hand, it's pretty boring. Members are each a single shareholder of the corporation, and get a single vote for our annual board election. Every year we send out a meeting announcement and proxy forms, just like most other corporations. Our annual meeting has a roll call and formal voting tools - although we use IRC and email to do business, instead of the telephone. On the other hand, it's a huge honor to be recognized for your merit in helping multiple Apache communities succeed and grow.

Members don't get any direct privileges on Apache projects; you can't just show up and commit code on other projects. But Members do have **visibility** into projects: as shareholders, they help provide the oversight of both foundation business and to a degree all project business. It doesn't mean they can change the technical direction of any project; but it does mean they can help mentor our many communities. In particular, many members help to mentor new podling communities in the Apache Incubator, providing training on the Apache Way.

4. HOW CAN I BE SUCCESSFUL AT APACHE?



We all learn in different ways.
It's up to you to find out how -
and help others.

<https://s.apache.org/about-success>

Sometime we need instructions for what steps to take next, or what process we need to follow to accomplish a goal at Apache. But sometimes we need help figuring out what questions to ask in the first place, or how to get a better understanding of the why behind the process. Sometimes, reading normal documentation won't help us - but hearing a story from someone else in our situation be what ties it together.

A number of ASF Members write the Success at Apache blog series, essays about how they've found success in their work, their community, or just in their life when applying the Apache Way to work with Apache projects. These are stories - human explanations of what it means to be part of an Apache project and what you can get out of it. Check them out on the Foundation's blog, with more stories every month.

5. HOW DO I GET INFRA THINGS FOR MY PROJECT?



You have to **ask** for them!
(ProTip: Be polite & send ponies)

<https://s.apache.org/about-infra>

Projects commonly feel like they don't know the right way to ask for new infrastructure resources that the ASF provides. It's actually pretty simple - just ask. It's super helpful to ask in the right forum, to make your question clear - and provide all technical details, and to be polite. The crack Apache Infra team are paid staff, their job is to help our projects, and they're all friendly like ponies.

Also - when in doubt asking infra for something, file an INFRA JIRA issue. Infra peeps like tickets, because it lets them track their work - remember, they support all 200+ Apache projects.

Oh, and Apache Infra is looking to hire a new staffer in 2018! If you like Ponies, fighting the good fight against all the gnomes gumming up the works, then apply to get paid to work for Apache!

6. HOW DO I GET SHANE OFF STAGE?

<http://shanecurcuru.org>



I've been talking here for five whole minutes. I can keep talking for another five minutes. I'm not tired ... or proud. I can start talking about my cats! That's Palinka on the left, and Tokaji on the right. They're named after traditional Hungarian fruit brandy and "the wine of kings" that we sampled when attending ApacheCon Europe in Budapest one year.

(With lyrics inspired by Arlo Guthrie's Alice's Restaurant.)