

Some comments
&
Suggestions

René

yesterday

- decision by S.B to stop 2 "successful" projects and start a "managed" cross-lab, cross-fields system to think and install the next software suite.
- "political" motivation to setup a new system: money, person-power.
- review of existing software projects.
- description of possible ways to organize software modules, dependencies, etc.

PROJECTS and projects

- There is a HUGE difference between the 2 large PROJECTS (ROOT and GEANT4) with an audience between 10000 and 100000 users
- And smaller projects with a local audience of a few hundred to few thousand users.
- It is my view that experiment frameworks should not be considered because they exhibit the dilemma of experiment against experiment, and anyhow users hate these frameworks in the real data analysis phases.

Projects

Conditions for success

- Understand user priorities and needs
- Competition between motivated developers
- Critical reviews
- Release small, release often. Become trusted.
- Get people onboard asap
- INSTANTANEOUS user support (may be the most important !!). Where developers learn.
- When the project is mature, get more audience, but....
- Be careful with the “stagnation phase”
- Is the motivation still there?
- Avoid “design by a committee”

Of course projects need supervision and a review process

- Because manpower, and manpower is money.
- There are 3 kinds of review process:
 - The 19th or 20th century style, ie a vertical and hierarchical heavy process. (“I want to become a manager syndrome”)
 - The Lab or experiment centric reviews
 - The 21st century more democratic style involving a web-oriented wider audience (the get-feedback problem). OK, but how to establish it?

The feedback problem

- We are used to the standard user/experiments style feedback with bodies like the Architects Forum. Of course, this has to continue.
- We have the CHEP/ACAT/etc meetings
- More interesting are the schools (eg CSC) or GSOC (quite interesting),
- BUT...

BUT

- Most of the time we fail to get a wider audience because of our wording, our lack of appropriate documentation.
- We do not have bodies helping us explaining in simple but useful words (web sites) what we are doing in our field.
- The BIG SCANDAL of non data preservation (with whatever is required), a fundamental step to motivate curiosity and support.

From Vertical to Horizontal

- In my mind getting a wider audience with appropriate web-sites/Forum for a Project and also across projects is vital to set-up.
- This most involve people expert in communication, sociology, marketing, user interfaces.
- And, of course, project developers must be deeply involved.