

Minutes of HSF – iFB: 4th discussion

Meeting agenda: <http://indico.cern.ch/event/343527>

Attendees: John Harvey, Ian Bird, Richard Mount, Peter Elmer, David Britton, Michel Jouvin, Jeff Tseng, David Rousseau, Oxana Smirnova, Jeff Templon, David Malon, Tom LeCompte, Gunter Quast, Panagiotis Spentzouris, Dario Menasce, Andrea Valassi, Hung-Te Lee, Ken Read, Liz Sexton-Kennedy, Marco Cattaneo, Frank Gaede, Thomas Kuhr, David Lange, Markus Elsing, Sami Kama.

Apologies: Pere Mato, Amber Boehnlein, Federico Carminati

Introduction:

John Harvey introduced the meeting and reminded people that the notes from the last meeting were available on the [Indico page](#).

Following the proposal at the last meeting, Torre Wenaus (BNL) and Pere Mato (CERN) have agreed to lead the initial efforts to set up the software foundation. Torre was asked to present the first suggestions of how to proceed.

Ideas for getting the HSF started (Torre Wenaus)

See slides attached to the agenda.

Torre presented the initial understanding of the most important aspects of the HSF that need to be addressed first. In summary, these are:

- Establish an inclusive and representative startup team, using the people that have volunteered to participate;
- Make a plan for communication and engagement – including meetings, dissemination and communication mechanisms, etc.;
- Move quickly to an initial agreed work plan;
- Begin consultations, synthesising inputs (including the whitepapers), community engagement;
- Define and initiate the first services and activities;
- Work with early guinea pigs (projects, activities) to get a functioning HSF version 0 started;
- Begin to build a HSF membership of active participants;
- Organise a workshop in early 2015 to report, assess, and plan

Some important points were mentioned: the need to balance between focused efforts and broad inclusiveness will require some care; and the importance of having a lightweight, open, and transparent organisation. It was **proposed and agreed** to use the Wednesday afternoon 15:00 (CEST) time slot every week for the coordination, with limited attendance in order to be able to make progress. However, every 4 weeks the meeting would be completely open to anyone. The group participating in the regular limited meeting would be the small set of people that have volunteered to work on this.

It was also agreed that the early focus should remain on HEP communities. Torre posed several questions related to scope – which software domains would be in scope initially, which existing packages may be used as guinea pigs. The core group will make proposals for these and other key questions.

Information exchange and information dissemination needs to be a top priority, and the group will define how to initiate this.

There were a number of questions and suggestions on detailed points:

Jeff Templon suggested to look at work from other sciences on software sustainability, and at what is available. Torre commented that the proactiveness of the community is needed to provide such useful input.

Dario Menasce commented that it will be important in order to get funding agency support and resource commitment, that as soon as possible a list of projects and activities should be built in order to be able to have a concrete discussion with the funding agencies. This was understood as important, but should not be seen as a pre-requisite to getting the activity started.

Richard Mount suggested the possibility of using the HSF to help with an external review of (in this case) ATLAS software. There was general agreement that using members of the HSF as reviewers could give legitimacy to the review, as well as helping to build trust in the HSF. However, there was some degree of concern over the proposal, although it was clear that using such reviews to better understand what software exists in the experiments, and to spot potential commonalities would be extremely beneficial.

The other main point of discussion was to recognise the importance (noted in all of the whitepapers) that the HSF should have a clear role in initiating and supporting activities related to building and sharing expertise in the community, through schools, forums, workshops etc. This is vital if the HSF expects to take a long term view and to build sustainable solutions. Good information exchange is essential for both developers and potential user communities.

It was agreed that Torre and Pere would organise the first working meeting next week (8th Oct) in this time slot.

Next Workshop proposal

Following discussion at the previous meeting, Richard Mount confirmed that the US would host a workshop at SLAC, proposing the dates of 22-23 January 2015. This date would give the core group time to work, while leaving sufficient time before a further meeting at CHEP.

This **proposal was agreed**. It was also agreed that a bulletin announcing the workshop to a wide audience should be published as soon as possible. The workshop would be a plenary-only meeting, with the room reserved able to accommodate around 100 people (number to be confirmed by Richard). Remote participation capability will be provided.

Next meeting: 8th October, 15:00 CEST. This is a working meeting for the core group.