

Software Amoeba Lifecycle

Frustration

Note: I am simply observing that this happens, not judging whether it is good or bad.

"A is too big, too slow, too complex, so I can't use it."
(May be true or not)

Q: Can we correctly recognize when an old amoeba has become too big?

Expertise

B becomes huge with use cases, technologies and expertise.
(B has become A)

Build tiny little B that easily solves a tiny subset of what A already does.

Innovation

Perhaps this is a desirable mode of evolution, and we should recognize it.

B grows to new users, new use cases, gains volume and complexity.
(Or maybe B dies out.)

Q: Are there external pressures that might create a new amoeba for the wrong reasons?

Community Energy

Food for Thought

- Douglas Thain, University of Notre Dame
- What role does an institute play in the software development landscape?
 - Help others to understand the SW landscape.
 - Integrate and improve existing SW artifacts.
 - Establish criteria for evaluating whether SW meets the needs of the scientific community.
 - Seed new amoebas where needed?
(But then where is the home of new artifacts?)