Introduction for the HSF to the Belle II Software Licensing Task Force

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- License selection status

- Copyright ownership and management

- Milestones calendar

Software Licensing Task Force Brief history

- Launched in June 2017 with guidance and recruiting by T. Kuhr. 3 meetings since then.

- Current membership:

  - Carl Rosenfeld (chair)   U South Carolina
  - Martin Ritter (externals)   U Ludwig Maximilians, Germany
  - Martin Sevior   U Melbourne
  - Michel Jouvin   LAL-Orsay (HSF Coordination Team)
  - Rok Pestotnik   Inst Jozef Stefan, Slovenia
  - Thomas Kuhr   U Ludwig Maximilians, Germany
  - Torben Ferber (generators) U British Columbia
  - Thomas Hauth   Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
  - Frank Meier   U Sydney
  - Marko Bracko   Inst Jozef Stefan, Slovenia

Charge to the Task Force

1. Get an overview of licenses of software we are using
2. Determine a compatible license
3. Agree on software ownership / contributors agreement
4. Get agreement from contributors / owners
5. Implement license in the software

– 1. Largely done.
– 2. Unresolved. More permissive than GPL would be attractive, but GPL may be necessary.
– 3. Preparation of an agreement is a work in progress (M. Ritter).
– 4. Not started.
– 5. Not started. Must wait for resolution of #2.

License selection status

- Initially the task force recognized a need to adopt a single license for all of the collaboration's software. Simplicity?

- In view of move by LHC organizations to utilize GPLvX in conjunction with APACHE licenses, the task force will reconsider.

- In the licensing business do the same problems have the same solutions? Must each organization resolve the issues independently?

- Belle II does not seek to innovate in this area. Our strong preference would be to let the dust settle in the rest of the Universe and follow the leaders.

- The task force welcomes the opportunity to cooperate with HSF.

- We anticipate that valuable guidance will flow from HSF to the task force.

Copyright ownership and management

- The task force recognized the need to minimize the number of copyright owners.
- It also recognized a related need for an organization to serve as copyright custodian/ manager.
- Given the relationship of Belle II Collaboration to KEK, the task force has offered KEK first refusal on the custodian/manager role.
- This role is not a natural fit for KEK. We raised the issue with KEK in late Jan. Their answer is pending.

- Important outstanding questions for the task force:
  - What are the drivers of the calendar? Given that we must ultimately attach licenses to Belle II software, how long can we defer before we go to prison?
  - Specifically, can we afford to wait until the big boys have resolved all of the licensing issues so that we may follow their lead?
  - Have the big boys reached or nearly reached asymptopia? What is their timeline?
  - What milestones should we set, and on what time scale must we achieve them?

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