Changes integrate the forums into the AOOo project

Changes to integrate the forums into the AOOo project

1. Community

The forum community divides in:

- Site Admins
- Forum Admins
- Moderators
- Volunteers

Volunteers are registered users of the forum(s) with a post count of over 200 (or another lower limit), who visit and post regularly to answer questions, report spam and in general show commitment to the forum(s), as opposed to regular registered users who may never post at all or post infrequently, or mostly post to ask questions.

Volunteers can vote within the forum on administrative and policy decisions just like moderators and administrators (who really are volunteers with some extra powers). Examples of such decisions are how to handle a particular case of user misbehavior or how to apply the spam policy to hyperlinks in signatures. Volunteers (and other forum members) can only vote in/on the PMC if they sign the iCLA and are accepted as committers.

More information about the Volunteer role can be found in the Volunteer Code of Conduct

Note: Moderators and administrators of nl forums also get the volunteer rank for the English forum, regardless of how often they post there. A volunteer may lose his/her rank after long inactivity (but will be restored on his/her return).

Moderators are maintainers of the board, they have access to the moderator panel, removing spam, marking topics as Solved or Issue, editing topic titles to make them more meaningful or removing all caps, warning people who seriously misbehave, but not applying censorship except in case of very explicit or bad language.

More information about the Moderator role can be found in the Moderator Code of Conduct

Admins have access to the underlying forum code and the phpBB admin control panel.

The forum Survival Guide includes a description of the different user ranks and other information about the culture and standards of the forum.

The following proposal was compiled from a lengthy discussion on the EN and ES forums by FJCC [http://user.services.openoffice.org/en/forum/viewtopic.php?f=90&t=43901&start=180#p204949]. It contains the contributions of several forum members, including Apache Observers.

Proposal

A. Forum governance will be discussed in a publicly readable forum. Write access will be limited to those with at least 10 posts. The previous governance forum will become read only with access limited to Volunteers, Moderators and Admins. This is to protect the personal information that was posted on that forum.

B. The Forum Issues section will remain private with access limited to Volunteers, Moderators and Admins and will be used only to discuss user behavior or similarly sensitive topics

C. Forum admins must become committers. They will interact with the Apache Infra group and should be official project members. At least one Moderator, who will become a committee, or Admin on every NL forum will commit to reporting forum status to the Project as determined by the Apache OpenOffice PPMC

D. Moderators and Volunteers will keep their current functions and will be created through the traditional process of nomination and lazy consensus on the forum.

E. Any Apache Member or Apache OpenOffice PPMC member can request Apache Observer status and thereby gain read and write access to all forums, including Forum Issues, and have read access to the logs. Apache Observers will not have the capability to edit, delete or move posts or perform administrative functions unless otherwise elected to those positions by normal forum rules.

F. Any decisions made by the Apache OpenOffice PPMC with respect to the forums or the forum members will be posted on the Site Governance forum or, in the case of a sensitive topic, on the Forum Issues forum.

G. The new Terms of Use will be similar to the current ToU, particularly the clause that

"You hereby grant to the Host and all Users a royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, non-exclusive and fully sub-licensable right and license under Your intellectual property rights to reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform, display and use Your Submissions (in whole or part) and to incorporate them in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed, all subject to the obligation to retain any copyright notices included in Your Submissions. All Users, the Host, and their sublicensees are responsible for any modifications they make to the Submissions of others." Note that Apache Legal will review and approve the final ToUs, which will also ensure that sufficient rights are granted to consider contributions under the Apache License.

The current Terms of Use are here: [http://openoffice.org/terms_of_use]

H. Should the Apache OpenOffice.org project decide to terminate its support of the forums, it will grant a period of at least 90 days for the transfer of the contents and structure of the forums to another host as decided by the Administrators, Moderators and Volunteers.

I. While the forums operate within the Apache podling/project they will have the same domain/URL as before the transfer.

Initial Committers / PMC
Zoltan Reizinger - r4zoli, Hungarian Forum admin, already PPMC member

Please add here the names of the current admins/moderators/volunteers who want to join the PMC
Rory O’Farrell - RoryOF - ofarwrk at iol.ie
Ricardo Gabriel Berlasso - RGB-es on the Spanish forums (Admin) - rgb dot mlidc at gmail dot com

Technical changes

The forum is maintained via private subboards currently.

Proposal #1:
The private boards are put to read only.
A new public board "site governance" is established to discuss forum related tasks. The messages are sent automatically to a readonly mailinglist name "forum-sitegovernance@".
A new private board "private xxx" is established to discuss sensitive tasks, like for example user behavior. The messages are sent automatically to a privately archived mailing list (allowing Apache Members and Apache OpenOffice PPMC members to view) with a specific tag [OOODEV:forum].