



How Things Get Done: DSpace Edition

Tim Donohue

DSpace Tech Lead

tdonohue@duraspace.org

2014 DuraSpace Sponsor Summit



Who are the “Do-ers”?

- Committers Team
- DSpace Community Advisory Team (DCAT)
- DuraSpace staff
 - Tim: ~50-60% time
 - Val: part time (DCAT mostly)
 - Others: small portions of time
- DSpace Vision Team
- DSpace Ambassadors (outreach)



Role of Committers

- 24 volunteer developers (19 inst.)
 - USA (9), Belgium (3), UK (3), Italy (2), New Zealand (2), Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Japan, Portugal
- Meritocracy
- Roles:
 - Technology Decision Makers
 - Release Team
 - Lead Devs / Code Reviewers / Testers

<http://tinyurl.com/dspace-commit>



Role of DCAT

- 22 volunteers (repository managers)
- Roles:
 - Facilitate community discussions on new features
 - Work with Committers to define new feature use cases / review functionality
 - Contribute to Testing

<http://tinyurl.com/dspace-dcat>



Role of DuraSpace

- Technology Leadership / Facilitation (Tim)
- Community Outreach (Val, others)
- Marketing & Communications
- Executive Leadership
- Business Administration



Who does the coding?

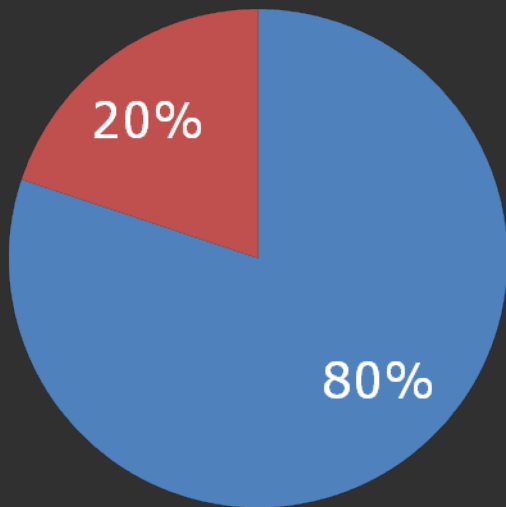
- Committers Team
 - And developers at their institutions
- The Community
 - Submit code for review (via GitHub)
- Recent Major Releases:
 - 4.0 : 59 contributors (19 Committers)
 - 3.0 : 43 contributors (14 Committers)
 - 1.8 : 44 contributors (14 Committers)



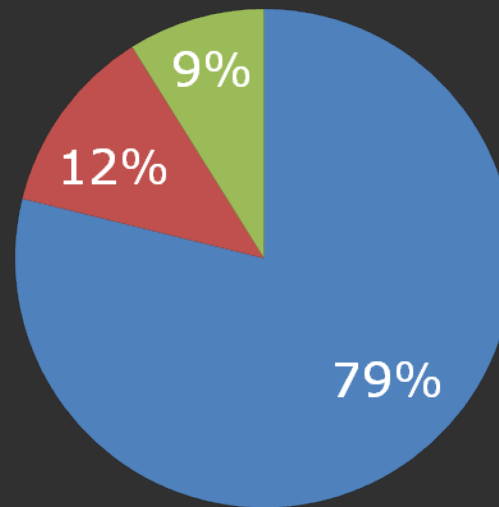
Code Commits to DSpace

1.8.0 Commits* (342 total)

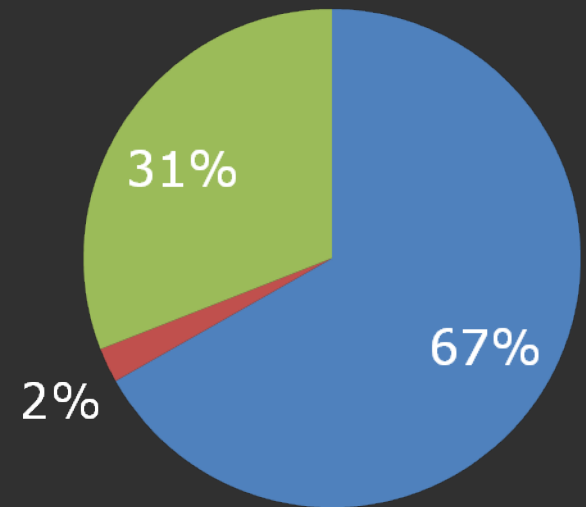
* - Moved to GitHub post-1.8.0



3.0 Commits (416 total)



4.0 Commits (798 total)



(NOTE: Not all "Committer" code is actually written by Committers)

Committers (non-DuraSpace)

DuraSpace

Community Members



Data based on commits between release dates, from:
<https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/graphs/contributors>

How does code get in?

- Ad hoc, developer-driven planning process
- New features must fit in the “time box”
 - New major release at end of every year
- Anyone can submit code for public review (via GitHub)



Committer Decision Process

- Committers trust one another
- New Features approved by at least 2 Committers
 - Consult with DCAT on new features
- When controversy, majority vote wins
 - But, Committers have veto power on code



To Editorialize...

- Possible Process Benefits:
 - DSpace software is truly a community collaboration
 - Developers (esp. Committers) are empowered / have sense of ownership
 - More active (developer) community?



To Editorialize...

- Possible Process Detriments:
 - Dependent on volunteerism
 - Long term planning can be difficult
 - Committers mostly work release-by-release
 - Large scale projects are harder, unless one or more institutions “invest” developers
 - Those with Committers/developers have a bigger “say” in direction



Questions / Comments?

