

CodeOfConduct

Some ASF Members have indicated a wish to draft a [code of conduct](#). This area is intended to help volunteers collaborate on an ASF Code of Conduct and related materials. Whether or not the foundation should have such a code has not been determined.

THESE ARE DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY.

Community Guidelines

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The Apache Software Foundation creates and maintains open source software products for the public benefit utilizing a collaborative, meritocratic approach to software development. Our products are developed by a diverse community of volunteers, a large number of whom use our software products in the course of their own daily lives. Our development discussions are held on public mailing lists. Everyone is invited to join the discussion so long as the usual courtesies of [email netiquette](#) are observed.

In addition, we wish to emphasize that while the foundation embraces the spirit of civil disagreement, we do not sanction personal attacks or the posting of off-topic content.

- As an organization devoted to creating software of the highest quality, we agree to agree and to disagree – as strongly as need be – without crossing the boundary into personal attacks or the posting of off-topic content.
- The foundation defines personal attacks as "criticizing the person rather than the idea". While it is acceptable (indeed, encouraged) to criticize an idea, it is not acceptable to criticize the person suggesting the idea. The foundation lists must be a safe place where developers can brainstorm without fear of being insulted or flamed.
- The foundation defines off-topic content as anything included or linked that:
 - Is used to abuse, harass, stalk or threaten a person or persons;
 - Is libelous, defamatory, knowingly false or misrepresents another person;
 - Infringes upon any copyright, trademark, trade secret or patent of any third party;
 - Violates any obligation of confidentiality;
 - Violates the privacy, publicity, moral, or any other right of any third party; or
 - Contains editorial content that has been commissioned and paid for by a third party.

Since most of the foundation's mailing lists are unmoderated lists open to the public, we ask all of our subscribers to help us observe these guidelines. First, by following the guidelines in their own posts. Second, by bringing the guidelines to the attention of anyone who violates one of them. And, third, by ignoring or deleting the posts of subscribers who refuse to observe the guidelines ("Don't feed the trolls").

These guidelines were adapted from the [BlogHer Community Guidelines](#).

Project Guidelines

Each ASF project is entitled to develop and post their own guidelines. As an aid to developing individual project guidelines, here is a set of general project guidelines and ASF practices.

0	Individuals compose the ASF. Our projects must be managed in a collaborative, meritocratic way, so that new volunteers are encouraged to join the project group, and so that the volunteers doing the work are the individuals who make the decisions.
1	PMC members are encouraged to nominate qualified contributors as new committers. ASF members are also encouraged to nominate qualified contributors as new members. Given sufficient time and sustained interest, the set of committers should equal the set of PMC members, and the set of all PMC members should equal the set of ASF members, which together constitute the ASF Community.
2	Merit never expires. "Emeritus" members and committers are welcome to become active participants again, with all prior rights and privileges intact.
3	The mailing lists are a project's only venue for the conduct of business. All development discussions must occur on the project's public mailing lists, or be summarized to the lists, and the project lists must be archived. Development support products, like version control systems, issue trackers, and wikis, should log changes to a public mailing list. Comments posted to a list through development support products are a normal component of development discussions.
4	The project's private list may only be used to discuss pre-disclosure security problems, pre-agreement discussions with third parties that require confidentiality, nominee candidates, or personal conflicts among project personnel, and little else. Discussing development issues on a private list is taboo. Posts to a private list are considered confidential and must not be quoted on public lists without the permission of the author.
5	A project's primary web site and mailing lists must be maintained on ASF hardware. Resources maintained elsewhere are not ASF resources, even if maintained by individuals who happen to be ASF committers.
6	Individuals who provide source code and documentation to the ASF should submit a Contributor's License Agreement . Source code and documentation must be under the Apache License and include the necessary notifications and headers . ASF project resources, such as code and documentation, must be maintained on ASF hardware.
7	A PMC member can veto a product change with a technical or legal justification.
8	A release must include the ASF source code being released; binaries are optional. A release vote must be on the actual bits that comprise the release, preferably already digitally signed by a release manager. An ASF release must be approved by at least three members of the PMC and by a majority of the PMC members voting. Approving a release is a development decision. A release cannot be vetoed.
9	Other libraries included with a distribution may be under a different license but must be redistributable under the Apache license.

A	The PMC chair/Project VP must submit regular status reports to the ASF board. The PMC chair is not the project's "leader". ASF projects do not have "lead" developers. Decisions are made jointly by the PMC.
B	Author tags in source code are discouraged but permitted if a PMC so prefers.

ASF Culture

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We usually refer to our software methodology as the "Apache Way", which we describe in terms of six hallmarks

- collaborative software development
- commercial-friendly standard license
- consistently high quality software
- respectful, honest, technical-based interaction
- faithful implementation of standards
- security as a mandatory feature

Taken together, these six hallmarks work together to serve the implicit ASF prime directive

- Foster a collaborative approach to software development

Likewise, each ASF project has an implicit prime directive to

- Create and maintain the software that we ourselves want to use

Underlying the six hallmarks and our prime directives are a set of five fundamental values that embody the ASF Culture.

- collaboration
- self-determination
- transparency
- sustained interest
- netiquette (or common courtesy)

We usually express these values in the form of mottos or pity sayings.

ASF Mottos

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Part of the ASF Culture is to speak to each other in mottos. We use these mottos in much the same way that architects use design patterns.

(This is an initial draft. Ideally, each motto would include a paragraph or three of explanation.)

Motto	Core Value
Put community before code.	collaboration
Let they that do the work make the decisions.	self-determination
If it didn't happen on a mailing list, it didn't happen.	transparency
Merit never expires.	sustained interest
Critique our code, not our coders.	netiquette
Motto	Core Value
Thanks for volunteering.	self-determination
To become a committer, act like a committer.	self-determination
Give karma where karma is due.	self-determination
Let Darwin decide.	self-determination
Sometimes it's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission.	self-determination

Motto	Core Value
Don't feed the trolls.	netiquette

Other ASF Conventions

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Motto	Core Value
Discuss controversial commits before committing.	collaboration
Do not revert a commit without due notice and a proper veto.	collaboration
Let us know when you can help. Also let us know when you can't help.	collaboration
Be the volunteer of last resort.	collaboration
Group stylistic changes and operational changes into separate commits.	collaboration
Chunk commits but avoid churn.	collaboration
If a thread heats up, meter replies to one a day.	collaboration
Motto	Core Value
First, scratch your own itch.	self-determination
Motto	Core Value
Encourage smart questions.	netiquette
Security is a mandatory feature.	netiquette

See Also

- [Guide to successful community building](#)
- [How the ASF works](#)