OPENDOF PROJECT

TECHNICAL STEERING COMMITTEE (TSC) CHARTER

Section 1. Guiding Principle.

The OpenDOF Project, Inc. ("ODP") Technical Steering Committee ("TSC") shall ensure that all technical decisions are made in an open and transparent fashion, and that all communication between and within Working Groups will be fair, open and consistent.

Section 2. Terminology.

 "Project" shall mean the principal TSC operational unit. There may be many of these in the ODP. Projects become a part of the ODP following approval by the TSC. Projects produce artifacts that collectively form the ODP Code and ODP Specifications consistent with the Intellectual Property Rights ("IPR") Policy.

 "Working Group" shall mean groups of collectively managed Projects, with the grouping determined by the TSC.

Section 3. ODP Governance.

Technical leadership of the ODP consists of (i) the TSC Chair and (ii) the Chairs of each of its Working Groups (collectively, the "TSC Members"). The Board may amend this charter subject to the policies and By-laws of the ODP. The normal amendment process is for the TSC to propose changes based on a simple majority of the full TSC, which shall then be subject to review and approval by the Board.

Section 4. Board's Role in Setting ODP Strategic Direction.

The Board sets policies that define the overall scope of the ODP as well as the high-level technical vision and direction. Typically the Board defers technical issues to the TSC as long as they remain in the defined scope of the ODP.

Section 5. Establishment of the TSC.

There will be a single TSC that will span all Working Groups of the ODP.

The TSC shall be under the leadership of the TSC Chair. The initial TSC Chair shall be appointed by the Board.

The initial term of the TSC Chair shall be one (1) year. After the initial term, the TSC Chair shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the TSC Members. The TSC Chair may be re-elected for additional terms without limit. Vacancy in the role of TSC Chair triggers and early election.

Pursuant to the Bylaws, the TSC Chair shall attend meetings of the Board as a member of the Board, and may vote at such meetings. This voting right does not apply to individuals who are members of the Board separate from the role of TSC Chair.

Section 6. Responsibilities of the TSC.

Subject to such policies as may be set by the Board, the TSC is responsible for release planning and systems, release quality standards, technical best practices, monitoring technical progress, mediating technical conflicts between Committers and Working Group Chairs, and organizing inter-Working Group collaboration.

Section 7. The ODP Operations.

The TSC will propose technical rules of operation and processes (and changes as may be desired from time to time) (the "Development Process") for the ODP and present such proposals for approval by the Board from time to time.

(a) Projects. There may be multiple Projects within the ODP. Each Project must conform to such policies as may be set by the Board, have a well-defined scope, and function within that scope. Each Project will have a set of Committers that work together with the Committers of other Projects in the Working Group under the direction of the Working Group Chair.

(b) Working Groups. Working Groups shall be established by the TSC in order to logically group and coordinate Projects. The Development Process will include procedures for the TSC to oversee and approve the progress of a Working Group.

(c) Voting. The Development Process will include provision for a voting process to be implemented for decision making in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. For election of persons (TSC Chair, Working Group Chairs, etc.), a multiple-candidate method will be used. Unless otherwise designated by the Board, an Instant-runoff election will be conducted. (For example: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instantrunoff_voting.)
2. Multiple-candidate methods reduce to simple majority when there is only one position to be filled.
3. For Project internal decisions where no consensus can be reached, a vote will be taken and a simple majority will prevail.
4. Simple majority voting should be used for decisions within the TSC, unless otherwise specified in the Development Process.

(d) Contributions. The Development Process will include such processes as may be specified by the Board from time to time relating to the intake and license compliance review of contributions.

Section 8. Working Group And Project Roles.

Each Project has one or more Contributors, who contribute code and artifacts as defined in the IPR Policy, and one or more Committers, who control technical direction. Each Working Group is led by a Working Group Chair who sets overall direction for the Projects within the Working Group and participates as a member of the TSC. Contributors and Committers, including Working Group Chairs, remain in the pay of their respective employers.

(a) Contributors. Contributors will generally work with the Project Committers and Project community. They contribute code or other artifacts, but do not have the right to commit to the code base. A Contributor may be promoted to a Committer by vote of the current Project Committers. The Contributors should rarely be encumbered by the TSC and never by the Board.

(b) Committers. For each Project there is a set of people with rights to commit code to the source code management system, called Committers.

The Committers will be the decision makers on design, code, and patches for their Project. Each Committer must either i) be an employee of (or expressly sponsored by) a Member of the ODP; or ii) be elected by existing Commiters (or the Working Group Chair) based on merit and trust as described in the following paragraph, subject to TSC approval. Each Committer must responsibly abide by the consensus decisions of the TSC and Working Group Chair.

Committer rights are earned via code contribution and community trust. Committers select and vote for new Committers, subject to TSC approval. A standard meritocracy model with new Committers will be approved and implemented by the TSC which will include provision for fully open code submission, review, acceptance, build, test, delivery, and support model.

Committer rights are per Project; being a Committer on one Project does not necessarily give an individual Committer rights on any other Project or Working Group.

Initial Committers will be specified at Project creation. Additional Committers will be admitted by a vote of existing Committers, subject to TSC approval, with appropriate process to handle dissent. If a Project has no active Contributors or Committers, the TSC may designate a Committer for such Project.

Committers shall follow the Development Process established by the TSC.

A Committer who is disruptive, or has been inactive for an extended period (e.g., six or more months) may have his or her Committer status revoked by the Working Group Chair.

 (c) Working Group Chairs. The Working Group Chair is elected by vote of the Committers of each Project to act as the head of the Working Group, and represent the Working Group and its Projects on the TSC, with each individual given a single vote. The Working Group Chair must either i) be an employee of (or expressly sponsored by) a Member of the ODP, or ii) be elected by existing Commiters based on merit and trust, subject to TSC approval. The Working Group Chair may, be but is not required to be, a Committer. If there is initially only one Committer in the Projects of a Working Group then that Committer is automatically the Working Group Chair. It is possible for one person to take on roles of Working Group Chair, Committer, and Contributor.

A Working Group Chair who is disruptive, or has been inactive for an extended period (e.g., six or more months) may have his or her Working Group Chair status revoked by the TSC.

Section 9. Working Group Principles.

The following relate to the Working Groups initiated by the TSC and the artifacts created therein:

   (a) Singularity: To the extent possible, there should be no overlap between the goals of the various Working Groups and artifacts created by them.
   (b) Cohesiveness: The artifacts created by the Working Groups should work as cohesive system.