FOSSBazaar – Working Group on OSS Package Data

Meeting Minutes 11-FEB-2010

Attendance

Name	Company	Active (voting)	Observer	Present 2-11-10
Kate Stewart (Co-Chair)	Freescale	X		X
Eran Strod (Co-Chair)	Black Duck Software	X		X
Barry Freedman	Alcatel-Lucent			X
Martin Michlmayr	HP			X
Phil Robb	HP			X
Esteban Rockett	Motorola			X
Michael Herzog	nexB	X		X
Phillipe Ombredanne	nexB		X	X
Kim Weins	Open Logic			X
Debra McGlade	Qualcomm			X
Jack Manbeck	TI			X

Conf call dial-in:

North America: 1-800-867-1147
Direct dial number is: 1-303-474-8558
For those dialing in from other regions, a list of toll free numbers can be found:
https://g8.cfer.com/g8.jsp?an=8008671147&ac=9965310&login=true
Passcode: 3096092

Introduction

Companies and organizations are widely using and reusing open source software packages. Compliance with the associated open source licenses requires a set of due diligence activities that each organization performs independently: a manual or automated scan of software and identification of associated licenses. Software development teams across the globe use the same open source packages, but they have not yet set-up a way to collaborate on OSS license discovery – many groups are performing the same work leading to duplicated effort and redundancy. This working group seeks to create standards so that information about OSS packages and projects, such as licenses, may be collected and shared in a common format and repository with the goal of saving time and improving data accuracy.

Charter

Create a data template standard to enable sharing of OSS component and package information (metadata) with the aim of facilitating license and other policy compliance.

Key elements for standardization

- Common definitions for fields in the data template (ie. License identifiers, etc)
- Unique way to match template information against a package
- Summary information for entire package
- Summary information on a per file basis inside package.
-Mechanism to share information among participants (later phase)

First meeting minutes

Introductions and round table
       Everyone introduced themselves
       Participants must register as "observer" or "active"

Reviewed voting logistics for ratifying the proposal:
       -1 vote per company – multiple participants ok, but each company should identify a single person to serve as the "active (voting) member.
       -Ratification of the standard will occur by majority vote of acting members

Mail list archives
       Group decided to keep the package facts list private for now, but potentially revisit in the future. We can make explicit decisions to put information/documents onto a publicly accessible forum.

Charter
       Reviewed draft charter and called for feedback

Document License standard
       CC-BY was suggested (in an email to the working group list) by Martin von Willebrand. This was discussed.

Other topics
       -Motorola has organized a member council of companies that are also interested in standardizing open source information for sharing across the supply chain.
       -Discussed the issue of patents and how that might affect the working group
       -We need a better name for this group

Action Items

- Kate –reach out to Debian to invite participation
- Rockett – report back in 2-2.5 weeks about possibility of working with member council
- Eran – inquire if we can get some legal guidance from Linux Foundation on how LF typically prevents patent issues in standards
- Everyone
    - Contact Martin if you need to add yourself to the package facts mailing list
    - Please post comments on the draft that Kate circulated
    - Please post ideas for a better name for this working group.