

2013-02-14 OMRS Board Meeting

Attendees

- Paul Biondich
- Joaquin Blaya
- Bill Tiereny
- Chris Bailey
- Mitchell Baker
- Hamish Fraser
- Jamie Thomas

Apologies

- Due to technical difficulties we were unable to connect with Aamir Khan

Recording at: NA

Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)

- Chris Bailey → was at WHO Health Informatics → supported/facilitated OpenMRS in early days, interoperability standards. Now at online communications at WHO. Has been a good moral compass
- Mitchell → circuitous route to IT → silicon valley → involved in open-source software → Mozilla founding. Background in Asian studies (China), then law school, then in software development. Consistent theme = interest in how people choose to organize themselves to get things done. Org structure, self-governance, strategic planning. Good critical thinker but also good listener. Visionary leader of Mozilla for 15 years (set out to be in background). Has a technical partner. Some experience in delegation and partnership. Resistant to joining Boards → time, focus. Paul won her over → investing in a person, Paul's vision and approach. She wrote the Mozilla license that OpenMRS is using.
 - publicly streamed and put on YouTube? If we want → public consumption
- Joaquin Blaya → younger, graduate of PhD program with Hamish at PIH/MIT. Since then → to Chile (Santiago) → startup based on providing services around OpenMRS. Originally from Chile but has lived in Chile most of his life. Representative of the larger community → voted by the OpenMRS Community to serve in this role.
- Bill Tiereny - is the President and CEO of the Regenstrief Institute, Inc. and the Interim Director for the Regenstrief Center of Biomedical Informatics. His research focuses on implementing EHRs in both hospital and outpatient venues in Indiana and in Kenya, where his team of developers implemented sub-Saharan Africa's first ambulatory EHR

2. Quick background on origins and rationale of OpenMRS, Inc. (15 minutes)

- Why we created OpenMRS, Inc.

- Founded on support of particular implementations, e.g. AMPATH and Rwanda/PIH, and South Africa (Seebregts)
- Support each other = initial focus. Mutually supportive.
- Developed early community → interest from others → spread organically
- Because of nature → one step behind supporting community's growth.
- Implementations were not well-resourced → OpenMRS on the cheap.
- Community not sustainable in current form → relying on spare time and energy of founders
- Needed a community
- To help support the mission of the OpenMRS community
- The Inc. aids in creating and distributing OpenMRS by securing cash, hardware, and other donations, then using donations to aid OpenMRS development and promotion.
- Community vs. Inc.
 - Have maturing community leadership structure.
 - Inc is meant to catalyze and sustain community - grow the non-profit to support the sustainability of the community
 - Follow other open-source initiatives → OpenMRS, Inc. more Apache than Eclipse-like - lots of people working on project and financed through organizations that benefit from the development
- LLC vs. Lt. vs Inc...
 - LLC first to hold the software → does not belong to university or any specific organization
 - LLC never set up to receive or process resources
 - LLC messaged that the software was the communities but then we wanted non-profit status
 - can't have orgs with the same name
 - The naming of OpenMRS1, Limited is a short term legal artifact. Given that OpenMRS, LLC has historically been the OpenMRS copyright holder and maintainer of the open source license, OpenMRS1 had to be named separately as entities can't be given the same name by law. Once OpenMRS1 receives it's not-for-profit designation, OpenMRS, LLC will transfer the copyright and license over to OpenMRS1, OpenMRS LLC will be dissolved, and OpenMRS1 will rename itself to OpenMRS, Inc.
 - Ltd. has negative connotation in the developing world
 - The LLC will pass proceeds over to the Inc and then dissolve

3. Implementation driven

- Whole emphasis from Day 1 was on implementation in low-income countries
- See map of global implementations
- Learning about implementations
- Spent time with Martin Fowler → software engineering pioneer → notion of “Harvesting” → look for economies among implementations → look for ways to facilitate subsequent implementations

- Constant goal → process, community, technology perspectives → best practices, bits that can be reused
 - Good job with lower level activities, e.g. database, API, core tech that's been broadly used
 - Poorly making application support out of the box functionality → building new code into OpenMRS platform → ↑ facilitate their implementation
 - Leverage community to “go up the stack”
 - In first days of implementations, diff between content (dictionaries, tech) and process side of things
 - First content dictionary for AMPATH → being reused because it was all that was available → Andy Kanter → more robust dictionary curated by all of the implementations → harvesting best practices
 - Have OpenMRS platform as solution and architecture.
 - Although different venues do different things and need different support, there are commonalities → generic framework that will make customization easier.
 - Don't want to stay focused on specific solutions but more generic support infrastructure
 - Joaquin → OpenMRS has helped and even founded other open-source communities and projects → some linkage. E.g. Chris leading project creating national health infrastructures → ? start with OpenMRS which has helped mHealth, lab communities.
 - Most growth has been organic → now need a strategic plan.
 - OpenMRS grown beyond original planners → community roles
4. Community Leadership Structure and 2013 objectives (15 minutes)
- Leadership is built in a way to support harvesting from the best of practice and trying to build into the community process
 - Architectures - requirements, patterns, designs, standards
 - Solutions - Software Applications, Software Development, hardware and networks, support services
 - Community growth means that we need to divide and conquer
 - Partnerships Lead - Chris Seebregts
 - <https://wiki.openmrs.org/display/RES/Partnership+Lead+%28Title+TBD%29formalizing>
 - the relationship with partnerships with organizations
 - focused on the productivity and collaboration of the "organizations" who benefit and support the OMRS community
 - 2013 Goals
 - Development OpenMRS partnership strategic plan
 - Begin outreach to existing partners → database, documentation templates, contact for inquiries
 - Establish 2-3 new strategic partnerships
 - Community Manager - Michael Downey
 - <https://wiki.openmrs.org/display/RES/Community+Manager+%28Title+TBD%29>
 - Focused on the productivity and collaboration of the "individuals" within the OpenMRS community

- 2013 Goals
 - Produce 1 global conference and at least 2 regional/global hackathons
 - Release infrastructure → support community becoming data driven around issues of community health
 - Establish communication program for key contributors
 - Technology support for continuous delivery process
 - Continuous delivery of software → ↑ online presence → ↑ releases of software (continuous)
- Evaluation and Impact Lead - Hamish Fraser
 - <https://wiki.openmrs.org/display/RES/Evaluation+and+Impact+Lead+%28Title+TBD%29>
 - oversees and operationalizes the collection of evidence and the design and support of evaluation studies of OpenMRS
 - 2013 Goals
 - ID at least 2 organizations committed to carrying out OpenMRS evaluation studies and provide support
 - Provide input to engineering team in support tools → ↑ evaluations of OpenMRS
 - Develop documentation within OpenMRS community that simplifies process of carrying out evaluations
 - Survey OpenMRS implementations about evaluation efforts
- Engineering Lead - Burke Mamlin
 - <https://wiki.openmrs.org/display/RES/Engineering+Lead+%28Title+TBD%29>
 - oversees and operationalizes the OpenMRS community software development process
 - 2013 Goals
 - Oversee 1 main release and 2-3 point releases
 - Optimize development process
 - Implementations “more involved
 - Volunteers more involved
 - Document engineering roles and responsibilities
 - Continuous delivery system
 - Better developer experience
 - First developer SDK release
 - ↑ documentation → Developer Guide and Technical Reference Guide → publish in 2013
 - “Make the developer the center of the universe”
- Metadata and Content Lead - Andy Kanter
 - <https://wiki.openmrs.org/display/RES/Meta-Data+and+Terminology+Lead>
 - Oversees the growth of health content required for key functionality of implementation of OpenMRS
 - 2013 Goals

- Map and document key requirements for implementations
- Support core “starter terminology” for new OpenMRS implementations (out of MVP) and provide field mapping support
- Create sustainability plan and partner team
- Executive Director - Paul Biondich
 - Directly supports the work of the community leadership team and provides overall community oversight
 - Goals
 - Establish more distributed community leadership
 - Incubate new leaders w/focus on low-income countries
 - Develop training and consultation service infrastructure
 - Establish back office for OpenMRS, Inc.

4. Board Leadership and Responsibilities (15 minutes)

- Assure OpenMRS, Inc. adhering to mission, vision, values
- Determine and monitor the organization’s program, services, effectiveness
- Hold OpenMRS
- Chairman of the Board - Bid by Bill
 - Lead meeting
 - Prepare agendas
 - Coordinate annual performance evaluation
 - Coordinate search for new board members → support orientation
- Secretary - Bid by Chris, Joaquin
 - Attend board meetings
 - Ensure safety accuracy of records
 - Serve as Chair when Chair absent
- Treasurer
 - Attend board meetings
 - Financial oversight
 - Present annual budget
 - Review annual internal audit and external (financial) audit (how much income is required before we need this?)
- Discussion
 - Chris → What about COI? → how to be an honest broker when dealing with countries when also on the OpenMRS board and promoting OpenMRS → how to recuse OpenMRS or deal with COI? Need formal policy!
 - Chair should be the most senior person → Bill or Mitchell
 - Mitchell → Chair should be closer to the medical field
 - Bill: old and medical orientation → Board Chair
 - Joaquin → could be secretary
 - Who will be treasurer?
- **TODO:** Paul will send out an email and everyone board will continue to talk about this over email

5. Operational Updates (5 minutes)

- IRS Update - actively looking at OpenMRS record, asked clarifying questions about application → seemed positively disposed to OpenMRS. E-mail from our lawyer yesterday → IRS contacted her for additional Qs
- Funding Update
 - bank account established, first year RF deposited (Chase) - \$500K over 4 years, first year in the bank @\$200K.
 - working on liability insurance - Liability insurance being obtained → for OpenMRS, Inc. operations but separate for Officers and Board members
 - Need plan to support back office, especially accounting → more info over the next 1-2 weeks
- Need to change fiscal year to 1/1 - 12/31
- Likely future expenses
 - 2013 implementer meeting/ hackathons
 - cloud server space (~20k year 1, maintenance 10-15k)
 - continued legal expenses (~10k year 1)
 - community manager - Downey (covered until April or May, will need 100% after that → \$45-50K for rest of 2013) → employee of OpenMRS, Inc., website and newsletter maintenance, will work towards supporting himself through grants
 - engineering support roles - Mamlin and/or Darius (~\$75-80K) → documentation mostly, also some consultations
 - Darius support by PIH until June
 - Burke's role is evolving and is tough to predict
 - Executive Director support (10-15%) for managing the office, representing OpenMRS
- Discussion
 - Joaquin → should there be support for marketing OpenMRS, representing it to the outside world?
 - Mitchell → at Mozilla, we called that work “engagement” rather than “marketing” → MOH being approached as partners rather than customers
 - Bill → thought that representing OpenMRS would be part of Paul’s role as Executive Director
 - Paul → just got back from India where ThoughtWorks made a \$2-3M commitment.
 - Mitchell - when you reach a certain income number there would be an external audit
 - **TODO:** Mitchell will figure out what this number is

Next Steps

- Paul will have a conversation with Aamir to present the information from this call
- Board officers will be decided through email - thread will be started by Paul
- By end of February → more details on liability insurance, operational plan
- Next time will hold a conference call and provide everyone with local numbers

Original etherpad notes: <http://notes.openmrs.org/OMRSBoardMeeting-2013-02-14>