Technical Action Committee Notes

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To Address Next Meeting

1. Jira ticket review: https://om.rs/myomrsissues
2. PR Process (Ian): Making code reviews less intimidating: more lower-level devs involved in the code review process and make the whole process seem less intimidating.
3. Module Maintainers - update

Meeting Notes

Goal of this meeting: Review technical/platform/product decisions; response to issues coming up from community and help set/endorse clear technical direction.

Zoom link: https://iu.zoom.us/j/93941698390

2020-09-04

   a. Any feedback on Ian/Isaac's security best practices work for module updates? https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CS61Q51zhCaZSPN_046ii7QaPUnG3zhB9Kegxlu06iE/edit
   b. TODO: Isaac Sears - Add to Wiki, in Documentation space, under Developer Guide Conventions
   c. TODO: Isaac Sears - Talk Post to alert community

2. Release updates
   a. Platform - Oct
      i. Alpha release planned for this week; one remaining blocker then we'll release
      ii. When we have alpha, should have something like recognition in the SDK that will create an alpha version of the platform and then in the announcement of the alpha release we need to get messaging out to community about the big updates coming with 2.4 - "If I'm a module dev, what do I need to do to start testing against this?"
   1. Here's how to set up the alpha and do testing
   b. RefApp 2.11 - will be on Core 2.3 - Oct
      i. Why 2.3 not 2.4? 2.3 because 2.4 has major under-the-hood changes (upgrades Java support, several key libraries - upgrade to spring & hibernate) - Would mean much bigger delay to getting 2.11 out.
      ii. Why not a 2.10 Maintenance release?
      iii. Instability of SPA module
         1. Maintaining SPA application to be more stable - to avoid so many errors if trying to include in next RefApp
         2. Will continue to be unstable for a while. Shouldn't cause OMRS to crash. There will be >=1 more major release of this module soon.
      3. Plan: Issue heads up that SPA is experimental fx, in future releases there will be major updates (so if you're using it you know what you're getting into). "As part of this RefApp we are including a beta version of the SPA module so that it's easier to experiment with it as the application of Micro Frontend technologies is being experimented with"
         a. TODO: Brandon/MFE Squad - Update Sharif and Moses when next SPA release out
         b. Brandon can be poi
   iv. Ian: Roll back COVID concepts that were tied-in with 2.10?

3. Updates from MFE Squad by Brandon on Extensions design and technical approach being implemented
   a. Here's the fun presentation the MFE Squad put together that walks you through the benefits of the extension system: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ParNFdehbBexycC_XzdvpPNXBCea-4GywAuopFvYI/edit#slide=id.g921ee92cb_0_2
   b. Invitation to provide commentary in RFC: https://github.com/openmrs/openmrs-rfc-frontend/pull/27
   c. Mekom (for ICRC - Immunization) and PIH (for Medication Order Entry) using MFE and Extension approach for this work

4. Analytics Engine Squad - Updates
   a. Generating prototypes of approaches - expect to see prototypes in the coming weeks
   b. Analytics Engine space in infrastructure (might commandeer servers being used for Sync)

5. Upcoming feedback from security review (after this call) - people interested in helping address - may be call for help resolving some tickets soon w/ patching/remediating issues they bring up or reach out to Isaac Sears

6. Discussion topic: What if we were promoting Forms 2 and Apt Scheduling as examples of shared efforts across communities to have the first MF-ready modules compatible with both OpenMRS or Bahmni?
   a. Forms: Going to need to have compatibility layer w/ HTML Form Entry. Already have integration w/ AMPATH forms.
   b. Brandon: Yes, these things may make sense to use with earlier integration w/ RefApp. Design issues to address: Form display; how forms are embedded in visit view (with visit lists of diagnoses) would need another kind of container page the RefApp chart could link to, that functiona like the RefApp visit page.
c. Mozzy: Consider design of Bahmni Reports in RefApp? From implementers' point of view, makes things much easier so would be another nice one to consider

d. More discussion needed - TODO:

2020-08-28

**Brief Updates**

- (2 mins) Update: Release/Launch Calendar (@grace) https://wiki.openmrs.org/display/docs/Technical+Roadmap
- Reminder: Squads Showcase last Thursday of every month (next Oct 1)
- (2 mins) **Migration Path to 3.0**: Next steps with vision and community discussion?
  - TODO: Brandon to post Extensions technical vision
- (2 mins) Decision re. whether RefApp 2.11 will be on Core 2.3 vs 2.4? Likely 2.3. Need to confirm with Release Manager.
- (5 mins) Module Maintenance plan updates? Requests for help?
  - TODO: Identify 1-2 teams that make sense, that ought to exist (and might not yet); clear people already maintaining repos
  - Burke - Review repos getting most activity, try assigning those and share
  - Grace - Work w/ PM Team - clarity of idea of Maintainer lead accountability; help communicating or i.d.ing teams and people
  - Consider making Teams where an OMRS Fellow is starting; ideally mentorship can happen in this structure in a sustained way (e.g. DHIS2)
- Ian & Isaac - skeleton Best Practices for Module Creation for next TAC
  - Draft of OpenMRS Module Release Best Practices - e.g. security checks https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CS61Q51zhCazSPN_046il7QaPUnG3zhB9Kegxxu06iE/edit
  - TODO: Ian - Raise w/ QA Support Team
  - TODO: Grace - Raise w/ PM Team
  - TODO: Ian - Raise w/ Documentation Team (calendar)
  - Help with draft before turning into Talk Post
  - Goal: Content into Wiki sooner rather than later

**Bigger Topics**

1. Design System Recommendation from MFE Squad
   a. Documentation available: Why choose a Style Guide or a Design System?
   b. MFE Squad would like to move forward with trying out Carbon design system
      i. High level goal: Make it easier to develop frontend, quickly.
      ii. Why Carbon?
         1. Well documented.
         2. Less opinionated than Lightning. Ability to personalize to an extent.
      iii. Next steps
         1. UX Designer putting together additional high-fidelity mockups of patient chart. Finding Carbon easier to theme than expected.
         2. Order entry will be one of the pieces worked on.
         3. Not yet telling community "Just use Carbon" because we still need to experiment with it more in the MFE work. But people are welcome to experiment with it.
   c. Questions for team discussion:
      i. How will community learn about progress, how it goes?
         1. Squad showcases
         2. Community meeting to report findings from initial trial period trying out Carbon
         3. Posts and wide dissemination online - findings on Talk Threads, tweet
         4. Following up with Jen
      ii. Implementer experience with new Design System: How will we validate that it's fast or even faster than Bootstrap for new devs to use (validate fit with field-reality of quick work that is often needed in implementations)? How will we help make this easy to learn/use for community members moving forward?
         1. Design Systems intended to solve problem of making dev efforts easier. Doesn't mean it's all ready out of the box and we'll still need to commit to learning it and adopting it for OMRS.
      iii. The Frankenstein Problem: What issues related to the Design System we can expect to run into (if any?) as implementations start using bits of microfrontend apps in their distribution, before using the whole new frontend?
         1. Same situation as prior to moving to Carbon. Will be a common problem. For visual coherence, should use a Style Guide over-ride that tweaks the CSS of MFEs to imitate RefApp a bit more. Should be small piece of code to build/maintain. Would be less jarring visual experience, though doesn't address interim awkward workflows - not seamless (that would be much, much heavier lift).
            a. MFE Squad to provide theming and skinning guidance (e.g. color schemes and logos - goal is avoid jarring color differentials). Make those knobs easier to turn.
            b. Majority of effort should go into getting baseline provided UI "right". Then main flexibility is color and logo.
            c. Recognition that distributions have invested in custom adjustments to frontend. The reason they'll switch is believing in vision of where system needs to go.
      iv. Future Upgrades: Who is responsible for reviewing the 3rd party updates and deciding when it's time to do a corresponding upgrade?
   v. Implementer experience with updates: What will handling updates look like for implementers?

2020-08-21

Attendees: Burke, Jen, Bashir, Brandon, Daniel, Ian, Isaac Sears, JJ, Juliet, Mike, Steven, Tendo

1. Announcements
   a. Fellowship application review started. Contact Jennifer Antilla to become a part of the review/selection process.
2. (1 min) Update: QA Support Team & QA Advisors
   b. Visual comparison of data-heavy EMR screen (Patient Chart View) example from both Carbon and Lightning - Ciaran
   c. Compare key points of using Carbon vs Lightning with style guide vs design system approach - Brandon, Romain, Ciaran
      i. See and share the video tutorial Using CSS from Third Party Style Guides. This is an example of how we might easily pull from style guide into our own system via dev tools & copying CSS.
      ii. Look at Lightning component blueprints - Lightning component blueprints are a way of making it easy to build styled components without introducing hard-to-manage dependencies into the application. https://www.lightningdesignsystem.com/components/overview/
   d. Communication plan
      i. TODO: Grace: Clearer documentation
      1. Talk: Too much to weed through right now. Clarity that "we're making this decision, and we're making it now."
      2. Teaser of rationale, work thus far, direction.
      3. Tuesday visual session "this is what UI could look like, this is what implementation could look like"
      4. Not about switching out in RefApp
      5. Clear guidance on how to make a decision for things like this - clear structure that decisions like this go through
      ii. Implementers:
      iii. End users: Bring designs to some frontline staff
      iv. Conference - would review work, background, rationale, findings, way forward
   v. How to involve Bahmni?
4. (10 mins) RefApp 2.11 Release Timeline & Updates to Release Checklist: Reference Application 2.11.0 Release Issue Tracking
   a. Roll back COVID concepts that were tied-in with 2.10?
   b. What is the TAC's responsibility for Roadmap clarity? What else is needed?
   c. Trunk release Oct, Ref App Release Timeline Feb - sounds reasonable
      i. No concerns from PIH. If using new platform, probably about the right timeframe.
      ii. Ideally default is Beta before conference in early Dec. RefApp out twice a year.
      iii. Feature list: In this case, just refresh modules to latest version. So planning priority is that module list matches
   iv. TODO: Burke to i.d. 2.3 vs 2.4
5. (10 mins) DHIS2 integration plan: merging adx branch and GSOC branch
   a. Rationale
   b. Comparison between OpenMRS DHIS2 integrations
      i. Summary https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16-20-UgZLnU2KuMps2HXMzu9ZEmdfRVWmY1qXz-pOG4/edit#slide=id.g35f391192_0
      ii. Full detail: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vtDflA84Go7_lZXggDmuj3k4oSb5Nl3GHc4S3XhEo/edit#
6. (25 mins) Extensions
   a. https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ParNFdehbBexycC_XzdvpPNXBCEa-4GYwAuOPFvY1Y/edit#slide=id.p
7. Topics for Technical Deep Dive next Friday
   a. Final Style Guide / Design System recommendation to TAC next Friday