



Steering Group report

October 2016 – July 2017

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samvera

Five minutes : Five headlines!



- Annual report
- Finances
- Partnership
- Trademark
- Rebranding

Annual report



- Steering, after a little consultation, decided that we would be well served by publishing an Annual Report which would bring together all the Community's achievements each year
- Useful for convincing potential adopters' management that we are a "serious" group with a "serious" product as well as being a diary for ourselves
- Draft of first Report shared at the March Partners' meeting in Stanford and distributed widely thereafter

Finances



- After a useful first year having DuraSpace as our fiscal sponsor, signed up for another year
- DuraSpace experienced challenges because our financial year did not align with theirs
- This led us to slightly renegotiate our Memorandum of Understanding. The most recent version has a common financial year and is based on a better understanding of what it costs DuraSpace to offer us this service and of what we need from it
- Fundraising for this year held up by rebranding but a push coming soon

Partnership



- Responding to a growing feeling in the Community that our Partnership model was not well understood we have taken two steps to improve this:
- The “New Partner” process has been simplified to remove the notion of “provisional Partnership”. We are working with the few existing PPs to determine how best to move them to full Partners
- A Working Group was formed by the Partners to determine what the Community needs from them (and vice versa) and to determine how they can be much more involved in decision making about the future direction of the Community and its software – this work is ongoing

Trademark



- Hydra was pursuing trademark status in the US, Canada and Europe
- In January came across a German company with a long standing, software-related trademark on the Hydra name
- Different area of software so we tried to reach a co-existence agreement, but to no avail
- Given six months to “rebrand”
- SG chose to see this as an opportunity rather than a major setback

Rebranding



- New Hydra website launch put on hold
- Community engaged to come up with, and then vote on, possible new names
- Ultimately settled on Samvera. Samvera is Icelandic for “togetherness” or “being together” which reinforces the notion of community
- As at 7/2017 new website launched, wiki rebranded, mailing lists renamed
- Trademark applications on new name well advanced