Summary Report

Second AtoM Contributor's Gathering, 13 February 2025

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Attendees

5 attendees from 5 organisations

Positive comments about AtoM

- The willingness to contribute – especially from vendors operating in the same space, everyone has a business stake in making this software robust
- AtoM is some of the most stable software they have worked with (despite other issues)
- Dan was a great program manager and very knowledgeable

Overall Summary

From the Gathering discussions, it is clear that AtoM's overall technical direction needs a roadmap. Lots of people are doing work in and around AtoM but are frustrated when they find out they are duplicating efforts or have to abandon it when Artefactual goes another way. This Gathering was about the health and the future of the code, mainly.

Like the Archivematica Gathering, containerisation with Docker was discussed, queried and suggested. They wanted to be able to deploy quickly and in small institutions without the bloated and lengthy upgrade process.

The vendors in the meeting **want to help**, though they are **frustrated with the lack of communication on how to and when to**. They were receptive to the idea of having some kind of **membership or partnership** but we need to provide strong **product management**.

Themes from conversations

- Want to help contribute, but
- Security concerns are arising more and more, especially in large institutions
- Discussed aging technology, like symfony
- Lack of clarity and communication from Artefactual
    - Want a clear direction for AtoM's future (long-term planning)
    - Want to talk more about what everyone is working on
- Architecture ideas - like separating front end and back end

Recommendations

1. Regular communication from Artefactual
    a. Current roadmap (at a minimum, easy change to make)
    b. Clear long-term technical roadmap (future goal)
    c. Continue with Gatherings
    d. Monthly development meetings
2. A membership or partnership with vendors, as one aspect of community
    a. Will help to drive technical stack
    b. Address current bugs
    c. Discuss where features align
    d. Could be owned and managed by the Foundation to be a neutral party
3. Ways to communicate with community and Artefactual
    a. A better space for asynchronous communication than the user forum
    b. Brag Board (where you can post what you are working on, what you have worked on, what you can provide expertise on)
    c. Open to the wider contributor community, help them share and get started
4. Engagement with the community
    a. We do get some PRs – we should consider ways to support them:
        i. being proactive on PRs with prompt communication
        ii. giving clarity around timelines (even if they are long)
    b. Development meetings with external contributors (in point 1 as well)
    c. Improve documentation and guides