

[Note: This document is world-viewable]

Add team/component to OWNERS file

Status: Final

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Last Updated: 2017-2-6

[Objective](#)

[Background](#)

[Overview](#)

[Design](#)

[Details](#)

Objective

To add team and component information, per directory, to the OWNERS file, whenever appropriate.

Background

Currently, directories have OWNERS files that are *intended* to be a list of people who are intimately familiar with the code in that directory. In order to submit a change to a file in the directory, the developer needs to get a positive review from a relevant owner. There is, however, no maintained information about which team (mailing list) owns the code and which Monorail component (crbug component:<>) it maps to. This proposal is to add this information to the OWNERS file.

Overview

Maintaining team and component information in the OWNERS file helps in a few different ways:

- Maintain team ownership data in a specific location, that is easy to maintain and audit.
For instance, we could have tooling that audits the OWNERS files on a regular basis and

alerts or removes deprecated components from the OWNERS files, or one that audits mailing lists to make sure they still exist. This will help with maintaining the information in the OWNERS files.

- Dashboards/tools can tap into this data to map test failures and other isolated bugs to teams, thus help create better [views](#) that help TLs manage their teams health better.
- Enabling nooglers/new Chromies figure out who to reach out to, if they find an issue with a file or want to understand the code better.
- Automated testing/fuzzing/analysis tools (ClusterFuzz, FindIt) can assign components with more conviction
- If When we start doing this in a reliable manner, this information can be used to make decisions, like spot areas that need more coverage. (For instance, if directories of a certain code area don't have a team listed, that is perhaps a sign that we need a team to own, or that code can be refactored/removed.)
- Watchlists?

Design

A typical OWNERS file looks like this:

```
foo@chromium.org  
bar@chromium.org  
  
per-file *.gypi=baz@chromium.org
```

After adding team and component information, this is how the file would look:

```
foo@chromium.org  
bar@chromium.org  
  
per-file \*.gypi=baz@chromium.org  
  
# TEAM: footeam-dev@chromium.org  
# COMPONENT: Blink>barcomponent  
# OS: [Android/Chrome/iOS/Linux/Mac/Windows]
```

- **OS tag is completely optional** and will only be used in [special cases](#), where the OS information is required to distinguish between two potential team owners.
- The OWNERS file can only have a single OS attached to it, and the options are the current options on crbug as listed above.
- If you don't find this file in a certain directory, you step up to the parent directory and follow the hierarchy. **The option 'set noparent' (or any other options not mentioned in this proposal) does not apply to TEAM/COMPONENT.**

Details

Each OWNERS file should contain at most one TEAM and one COMPONENT. It is understandable that these boundaries are not currently obvious for few (several?) directories. In these cases, the recommendation is to note a team who can be the primary point of contact and triage issues and questions appropriately, and work towards making team ownership clear.

For directories where adding TEAM/COMPONENT information is not appropriate or possible, we have one of two options:

- Leave it empty, and allow the parent directory ownership to apply, if appropriate
- Explicitly add a parent/broader team/component

For directories that don't have OWNERS files (test directories for instance), add an OWNERS file.

Project Status

[Open issues](#) (Look for the label "Proj=DirectoryOwnership")

FAQs

- Every directory should only have one component and one team/mailling list, only one OS, options are the current crbug "OS" options (presubmit check: crbug.com/667954)
- A component should always map to the same team/mailling list, for every directory that it is listed in (presubmit check: crbug.com/667954)
- If you own a tool that would like to use this information, a map of directory->component and component->team exists [here](#). This map is auto-updated from the entries in the OWNERS files. Please reach out to sshruthi@chromium.org for any questions!
- The mailing list in the file should be a public mailing list. If your team doesn't currently have one, now might be the time to move technical discussions to a public mailing list.