

Open Meeting Shared Notes: 23 Sept 2025

Agenda

Welcome and Updates

- New committees have had their first meeting, look for new website page soon with links to Terms and Agendas/Notes

Workbench Working Group - 1st Meeting & Discussion

Points from Mark Jordan's IslandoraCon presentation:

Challenges:

- Lack of capacity
- Local priority bias
- Difficulty in replicating users' computing environments
- Lack of easy access to input data, particularly remote files
- Workbench's complexity

Transitioning to more robust maintenance and governance:

- Share the maintainer role with other people
- Develop a mechanism for assigning support tickets to members of the community
- Develop ways of replicating users' environments easily
- Shift from rolling releases to point releases

Additional points for discussion:

- In operating as a working group, there should be an end date in mind - something to think about as work is discussed
- There should be a purpose and scope statement for the group that can be shared on our website & wiki

Notes:

- Need to create a more structured approach to workbench
- Slack channel is a good place to start but it can't be a single person supporting such a complex piece of software
- We can expand past this working group - the group will determine if we need a committee/more permanent structure to run it
- How can we spread work around more fairly/regularly? (testing, addressing bugs, etc.)

- Should create a roadmap for features
- Because Islandora is configurable, workbench has to be complex to meet all the variations
 - Cary suggested figuring out a way to introspect an Islandora repository's configuration in order to make configuring Workbench easier.
- Rosie: WB is one of the most important features in the IFR right now; must be treated with care and have some guiding principles/intent to help avoid backwards incompatibility or bugs
- Dara: We should be consciously deciding what needs to go on the roadmap rather than adding things without examining how it will affect WB
- Joe: Suggested a move to semantic versioning
 - During the Islandora Con presentation, 57% of respondents voted to adopt feature releases
 - During Open Meeting, there was discussion of when to cut a release - after some ad-hoc bug fixes and/or feature additions, or after completing an item(s) on a roadmap. The former approach seemed to be more consistent with the Islandora release process and would reduce the number of git branches and versions of docs that the second option would.
- Islandora previously hasn't had a roadmap, which caused misalignment with WB, so we can improve this as the roadmap committee moves forward & communicates with WB working group
- Community should agree on roadmap and provide feedback on priorities
- Ad-hoc releases with semantic versioning might be most practical approach (see notes above on semantic versioning)
- Next meeting to go over Mark's workflow around WB and see what duties can be spread out with the working group so we can then move to determine next steps, scope and purpose, goals, etc.
- Will need to determine processes for documentation/testing

- Mark's bullet points
 - slide 18
 - Lack of capacity
 - Local priority bias
 - Difficulty in replicating users' computing environments
 - Lack of easy access to input data, particularly remote files
 - Workbench's complexity
 - 18k lines of application code, 12k lines of test code, almost 200 config settings
 - Inconsistent functionality and maturity across tasks
 - slide 20
 - Share the maintainer role with other people
 - Develop a mechanism for assigning support tickets to members of the community

- Develop ways of replicating users' environments easily
- Create a working / interest group to guide Workbench maintenance
- Shift from rolling releases to point releases