Erlang Solutions Ltd.

A Guide to the Erlang Ecosystem

Tino Breddin

Erlang Factory San Francisco 2011
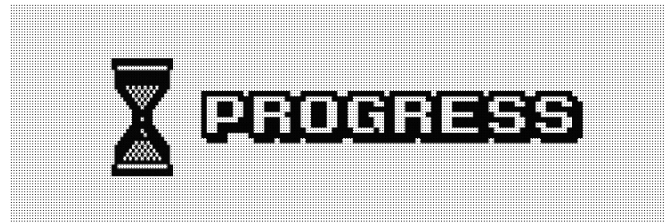
Agenda

- Current Development Process

- Peeking at other Languages

- Comparison - What can we learn?
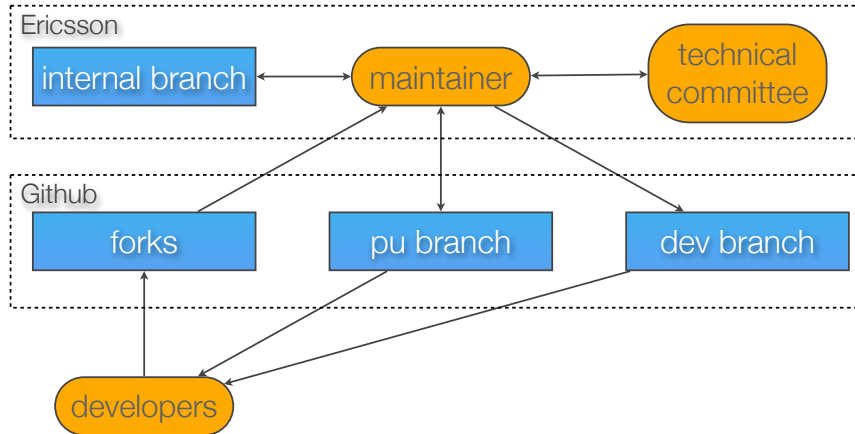
- Next Steps

Current Development Process

Release Cheat Sheet

- 3-month release cycle

- 1 major release per year (planned)

- non-obscure naming

  - R14B02 stands for R(major release number)(release maturity)(patch level)

  - typical release history: R13A, R13B01, R13B02, R13B03, R13B04

- Releases are scheduled by the OTP team

- Made available as source tarballs and Windows binaries

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Development Workflow

- Main source code repository on Github
  - https://github.com/erlang/otp
- "Patches" mailing list for code contributions

Development Workflow

Ericsson

internal branch ←→ maintainer ←→ technical committee

Github

forks   pu branch   dev branch

developers

Contribution How To

- Fork https://github.com/erlang/otp
- Create topic branch
    - e.g. fix-some-critical-bug
- Apply changes
    - ensure test coverage of changes
- Push branch to Github fork
- Send email to erlang-patches@erlang.org
- Iterate if required

Peeking at other Languages

Easy Package Management

- Erlang
  - epm install mochiweb
  - faxien ir mochiweb
  - cean:install(mochiweb).
  - agner fetch mochiweb
  - rebar get-deps

- Ruby
  - gem install jekyll
- Python
  - pip install Fabric
- Haskell
  - cabal install xmonad

More Integration/Diversity

- Erlang VMs
  - Beam
  - Erjang (Erlang on the JVM)
- Interfacing options
  - NIFs
  - Port Drivers
  - Ports

- Ruby
  - JRuby, Ruby.Net, Rubinius
- Python
  - IronPython, Jython, PyPy, CPython

Community-driven Website

- Primary source for
    - documentation
    - news
    - downloads
- A active community requires a actively improved website
- Good examples
    - haskell.org
    - ruby-lang.org

Better Presentation of OSS Components

- What makes a good component
  - usability (API design)
  - documentation
  - test coverage (both white box and black box)
  - communication between users and developers
  - a website
- Good examples
  - RiakJS, Homebrew
  - Unicorn, Thin, Passenger

Even More Community Events

- On meetup.com there are
  - 172 registered Ruby groups
  - 105 registered Python groups
  - 30 registered Scala groups
  - 15 registered Haskell groups
  - and 10 registered Erlang groups
- Groups are not only about presenting stuff, but also talking to people
- Are you running a group in your town already?

Comparison

Already Good

- Release naming
- Regular release cycles
- Open contribution process
- Utilizing Github
- Good quality control

Useful Improvements

- Easy Package Management
- More Integration with other Languages
- Collaborative community-driven website
- Better presentation/documentation of open-source components
- Even more community events
  - e.g. hackathons, user groups

Next Steps

Continuous Integration

- Providing CI for Erlang/OTP itself
  - and any open-source component!
- Raise the quality bar further

- Demo

- contact me for further information at tino@erlang-solutions.com

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Open Discussion

Tino Breddin
tino@erlang-solutions.com
@tolbrino