

# Lessons From the Java.net Migration

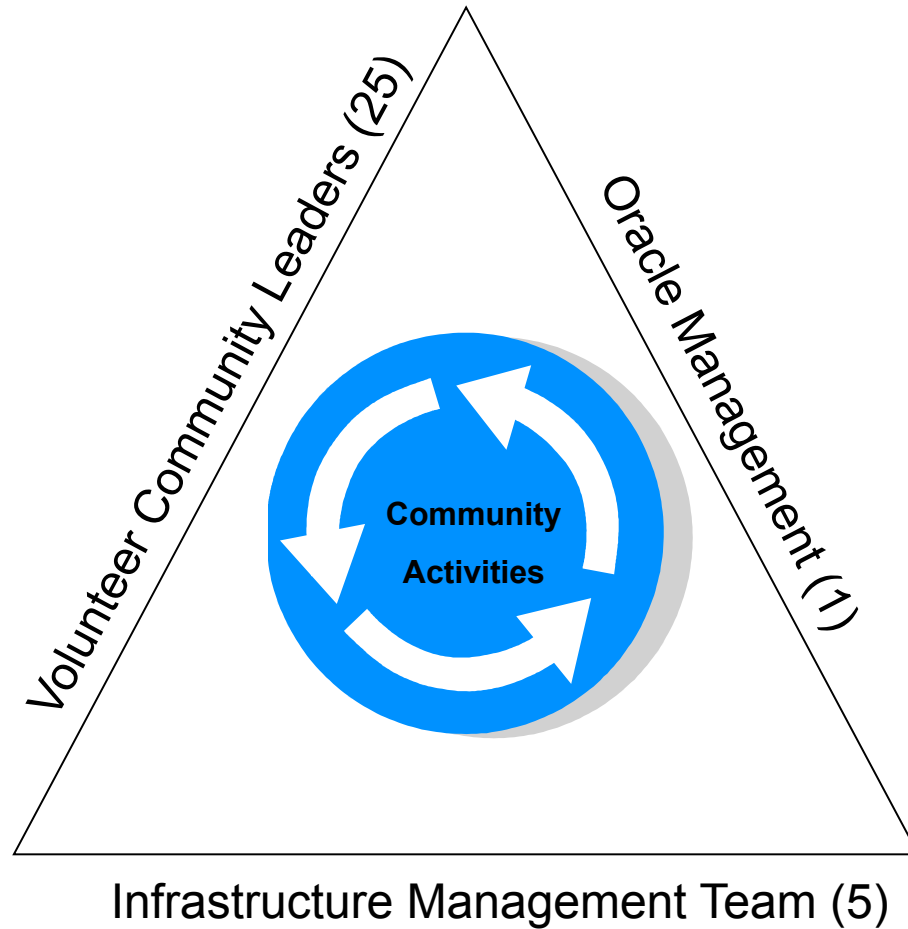
Managing an Open Source  
Community  
Through Major Change



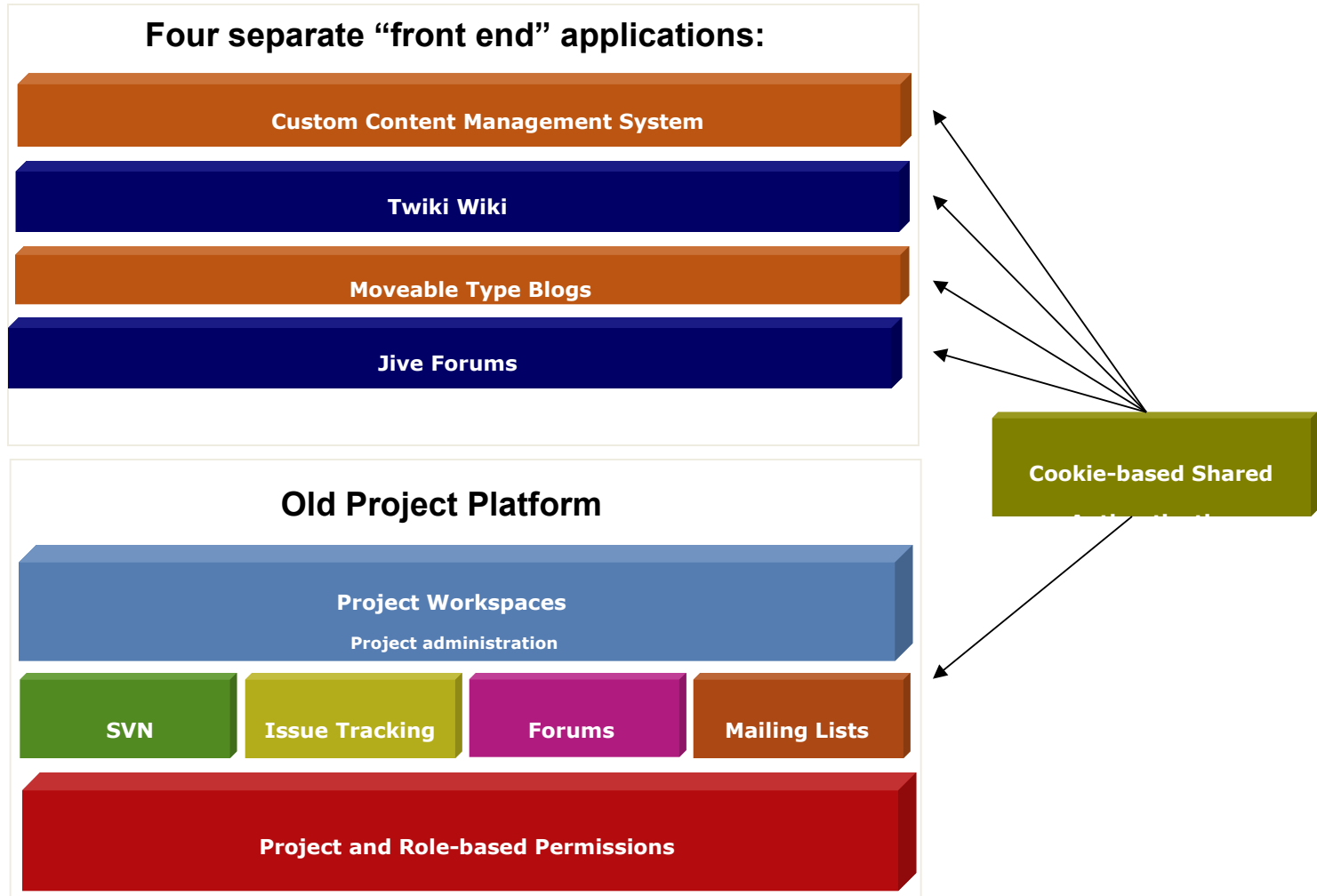
# What is Java.net?

- 600,000+ registered users
- Free hosting for 2000+ Java, JVM, or Education related open source projects
- Technology communities within the larger Community, with their own leads
- Editorial content
- Blogs
- Forums





# Java.net Architecture - Old



# Why did we need to move?

- redacted
- redacted
- redacted
- Too expensive
- Outdated infrastructure and tools

# How did it get so bad?

- Sun cutting back on staffing/budget
- Painted ourselves into a corner with upgrade failures over the years
- Infrastructure built for a much smaller community and never expanded

As of February 2010, Sun management planned to pull the plug entirely on project hosting, if not the whole site.

# Oracle saves the day? Really?

Yes.

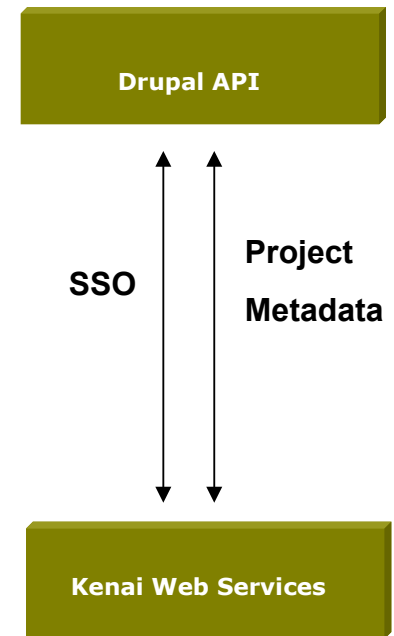
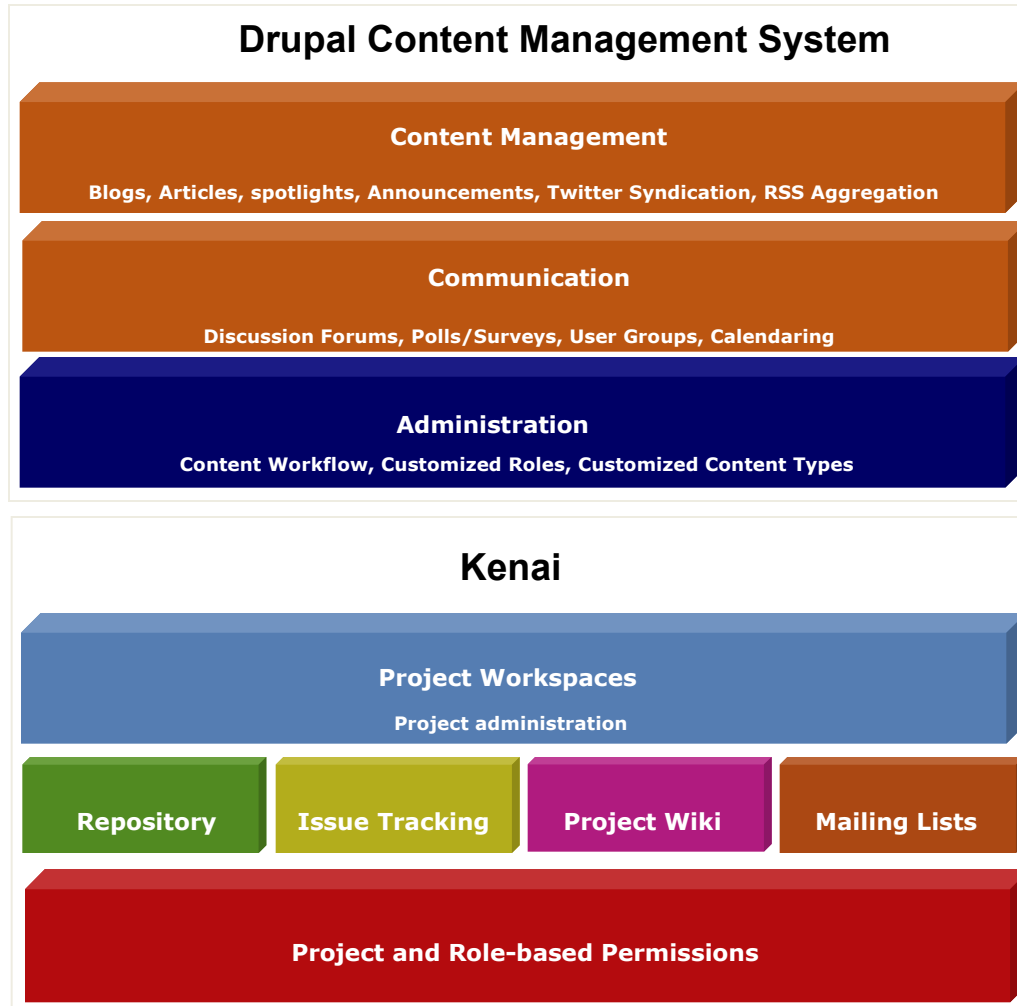
They recognized the value in Java.net and our community, but our expenses were unsustainable, especially given the state of our infrastructure.

Deadline to move: December 2010.

(We didn't make it.)



# Java.net Architecture - New



# Planning – what was our goal?

- Better concentration of quality projects
- Code, bugs, mailing lists moved and usable
- Leave paths open for more community features in the future

# What were the biggest issues?

- Significant downtime for working projects
- Data had to be moved AND converted (cvs to svn, IssueTracker to JIRA, mailing lists to SYMPA)
- Users had to be moved and roles mapped
- Passwords would not be exported

# Options

1. Turn off the site. Wait for data delivery. Turn on the new site.
2. Move projects in small batches, having two completely separate Java.net sites at the same time. Pick a fixed date to move the front door (editorial, blogs, forums) of the site.

We chose option 2.



# Phased Migration!

- First projects move in November 2010
- Moved Drupal presence to the new site
- Turned off old site in March 2011
- Final wave of imports completed in June 2011

In retrospect, this was absolutely the right choice. Data delivery was so slow we would have been down for months.



# Sacrifices had to be made.

- No time to move (minimally used) project based forums
- Project owners would be required to fix up project home pages

# Unexpected Issues

- Communication – there is a fine line between not enough information and too much, and many users interpret that line differently
- Abandoned projects – several major projects had been quietly closed over the months or years prior

# How did we do?

Unscientific poll, June 2010:

65% say the site is significantly better.

What do people think failed?

- Abandoned projects
- Forums

# What would I do differently?

- Invent a time machine
- Streamline communications
- Spend more time on the opt-in form and process

# Q&A

Thanks for coming!

