The Offline Internet Consortium

Newsletter #2
June 4, 2018

This continues our periodic series of updates on developments in the domain of offline internet and our proposed consortium, following on the Tempe summit of February 2018. For any readers unfamiliar with our work, the web site at offline-internet.org has relevant material.

The provisional steering committee (Jérémy Lachal, Jim O'Donnell, Ann Okerson, Muy-Cheng Peich) meets via Skype monthly. Most of what follows was discussed on the most recent call.

1. In late April, we launched the development of the common layer of services for offline internet with the support of the Share-IT accelerator. This platform will facilitate the interoperability of existing offline solutions. Its main features have been defined within the Software working group. The consortium's project has been assigned with a lead developer – from the InTech company – who is currently designing the technical architecture of the platform. The development of the prototype will start in June.

2. We are currently working on guidelines that aim at facilitating the workflow within the Software Working Group. A call will be organized in the coming weeks with members of the Software Working Group to discuss and finalize these collaboratively.

3. We discussed provisional plans for a meeting of as many as can participate at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Kuala Lumpur in August (http://2018.ifla.org). PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND, AS WE WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A GET-TOGETHER IF POSSIBLE.

4. We are also planning to convene a virtual meeting of the whole group via Skype or Zoom, probably in September, with the intention of doing so roughly every six months going forward. Further details and a Doodle Poll will be provided in June or July.

5. The September meeting would provide an opportunity to review and discuss plans for declaring a consortium with defined goals and both members and affiliates. The purpose of creating such a consortium would be to give focus and visibility to the work of interested parties and to make clear what some of the priorities and directions of work can be. We anticipate having a draft consortium proposal in a few weeks. At the present time, we do not imagine a formal consortium, nor do we imagine expecting financial contributions from member organizations.

6. Our colleague Jason Griffey participated in a brief interview on blockchain possibilities with the director of NFAIS (National Federation of Advanced Information Services): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7EQcnVfLVA

7. Professor Laura Hosman, our colleague at Arizona State University, has been awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor at ASU, welcome and well-earned recognition for what she has accomplished and will accomplish in her career in ASU's School for the Future of Innovation in Society.

8. Other members of our community are encouraged to let us know of developments of interest.

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