

NEW ACTIVITIES

How to Start New Projects and Initiatives in The Open Group

You have a proposal for a new work item and you would like to bring it into The Open Group. Here's how to do it.

If in doubt, email your problem or query to the Customer Council.

The Process

Step 1

Prepare a Business Case (can be a few paragraphs) outlining a problem statement, the proposed activity and deliverables, and an estimate of what time and resources you think it will need.

Step 2

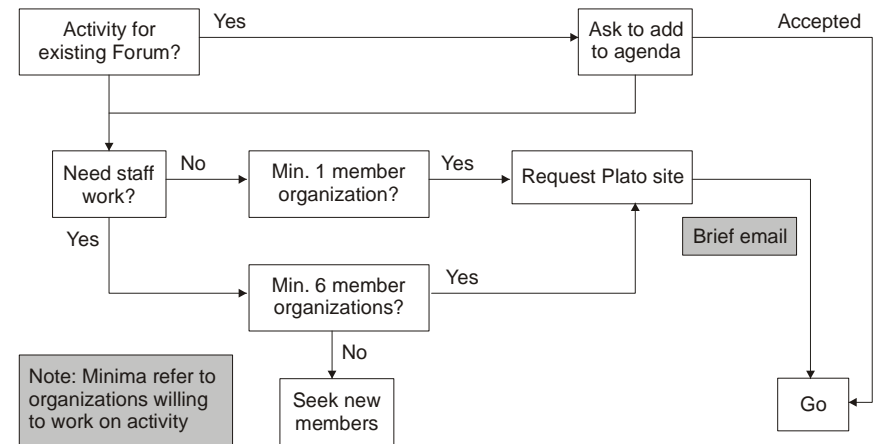
If the proposed new activity fits into the interest area of an existing Forum, take it to the Director of that Forum and ask that the Forum membership consider its adoption as a new project.

- If support for the new activity exists in the Forum membership, the Forum members will further develop the Business Case and, if it has sufficient business justification, then it will be adopted as a Forum project.
- If support does not exist, consider Step 3 or Step 4.

Step 3

If there is insufficient support from the Forum membership for the proposed new activity and it needs significant support from The Open Group staff to get it underway, you can find five other Member Organizations who do support it and present it to The Open Group management. They will then assign a staff member and set up a new Forum to initiate and run the activity within the new Forum.

Members should keep in mind that The Open Group model for Forum activities can be likened to a gymnasium or sports club: you pay your joining fee to use the facilities but you do the work, and the staff are there to help, give training advice, and support you, but not to do your exercises (press-ups, etc.) for you. Occasionally, the staff of The Open Group perform some of the exercises too, but that is the wrong model.



Step 4

If the proposed new activity does not need significant support from The Open Group staff, and can be driven by one or more Members, then the championing Member should request The Open Group management to set up a PlatoWeb site for them to use. The championing Member can then use the PlatoWeb site to drive the activity as they please, with the support of The Open Group facilities for web and email, etc.

What are PlatoWeb Pages?

A PlatoWeb page allows controlled access by Members to information (review/working documents, links to other web sites, actions, events, recent news, email) that Members can upload and so share with other Members.

The example below shows the structure of a top-level (index) PlatoWeb page and the information it provides.

When requesting a PlatoWeb site, The Open Group requires the requester to supply certain minimum information to populate the index page (as shown in the diagram; here the normal links in the left column are replaced with our annotation).

PlatoWeb pages provide for up to four levels of access control:

- Public
- All Members
- Forum/Group Members
- Working/Task Group Members

Not all of the levels below “public” need be used. Access control to each level below “public” is exercised using the “Log in?” link (which appears in the left column of the page), and is based on your membership of the controlling email list.

When you log in to a PlatoWeb page you are given access to the level that corresponds to the email list of which you are a member, and so shown the information and links that match your access rights.

Sample PlatoWeb Page

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Grid Enterprise Services Forum page. The page has a header with 'THE Open GROUP' logo and 'Grid Enterprise Services Forum' title. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, About, A-Z Index, Search, Contacts, Press, Register, Login. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Public level', 'What?', 'Why?', 'Who?', 'How?', 'When?', 'Where?', 'Recent News', and 'Recent Documents'. A box labeled 'Deliverables?' is positioned at the bottom right, with an arrow pointing to the 'Recent Documents' section. The page footer includes '© The Open Group 1995-2004' and 'V4.103'.