Board Public - Task #3251
Digital tool for participation improvement
2020-07-06 17:44 - Daniel Armando Rodriguez

Status: In Progress
Priority: High
Assignee: Daniel Armando Rodriguez
Category: Target version:
Start date: Due date:
% Done: 0%

Status summary: Daniel evaluating on VPS at TDF infra, will then come back with proposal

Description
TDF needs to be open to community participation in a more accessible way to those not used to the computer world.

In this sense, it is clear that the use of mailing lists, IRC/Telegram channels does not allow to reach the majority of LibreOffice users, free software advocates and community members and that is why I would like to propose the adoption of a platform that favours participation, debate, interaction and collaborative elaboration of lines of action between TDF and the community.

There's an argentiniann development which fits that requirements
https://democraciaos.org/

Subtasks:
Task # 3253: Digital tool for participation improvement: Decidim New
Task # 3254: Digital tool for participation improvement: Democracia OS New
Task # 3259: Digital tool for participation improvement: Adhocracy (aka Liquid Democracy) New
Task # 3279: Digital tool for participation improvement: Loomio New

History
#1 - 2020-07-08 18:27 - Franklin Weng
It made me think of We The People (https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/). In Taiwan we have a similar citizen public policy discussion platform https://join.gov.tw (Chinese).

For community participating it seems to be a good idea.

#2 - 2020-07-08 19:33 - Cor Nouws
It is good to listen to ‘all voices’. When it comes to actively involve in discussions, I believe in the distinct position of actual members of our TDF community. This will have influence on what tooling we use/how we use it.

#3 - 2020-07-08 19:45 - Heiko Tietze
Mailing lists are accessible for everyone, can be easily integrated into individual workflows, and have full transparency- even for people who are not subscribed [1]. Typically people dislike a) high-traffic (for obvious reasons) and b) low-traffic, meaning the information is irrelevant or boring. Both are (at least in the past few month) not the fact in case of BoD-discuss.

[1] https://listarchives.documentfoundation.org/www/board-discuss/

#4 - 2020-07-08 19:58 - Daniel Armando Rodriguez
Heiko Tietze wrote:

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What is needed, from my POV, is a tool/platform that allows to integrate people who, for example, prefer forums or a social network type approach and those who prefer classical way. To allow greater participation by providing a space where everyone feels at ease without forcing them to leave their individual comfort space.

#5 - 2020-07-08 20:02 - Daniel Armando Rodriguez
Cor Nouws wrote:

It is good to listen to 'all voices'. When it comes to actively involve in discussions, I believe in the distinct position of actual members of our TDF community. This will have influence on what tooling we use/how we use it.

Of course, and anyone should continue using the same tooling. That's the whole point, allow each and everyone to participate in their preferred way.

#6 - 2020-07-09 08:34 - Heiko Tietze

Daniel Armando Rodriguez wrote:

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The listed tools are for decision making. This uber-democracy has always failed in the past due to missing contribution. At least this happened with the political party The Pirates who tried this approach.

The mailing list has a forum-like archive. But anyway, I can handle a message board like phpBB that pings me on new content. It just turns around the communication. And I like Thorsten's approach to get rid of (at least) one tool if we introduce a new one.

#7 - 2020-07-09 16:15 - Daniel Armando Rodriguez

Heiko Tietze wrote:

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Any of the alternatives proposed here so far have no comparison against anything we currently have, so I'm in doubt if we could shut anything down. However, in the website list it has been commented that there's an evaluation ongoing to replace ask with a forum like software.

Main idea here is to have a channel geared towards a very specific purpose, which is get feedback to TDF governance in a much broader way.

#8 - 2020-07-10 09:45 - Sophie Gautier

So I was part of DemocracyOS (France) for 3 years (see the team on this page https://democracyos.eu/apropos/ -).

Those tools are done to help on decisions making by public and transparent processes. You set a number of topics where people contribute. Contributions can be done by comments or vote on comments. The fact that you can vote on other comments help also to get in those who are not fluent with writing in English or too shy to do it.

You can also have private consultations, where only invited persons are able to participate, comment and/or vote.

It could be completely private, or visible to all but with only some people able to comment (for example the whole community would see the comments but only TDF members would be able to participate). Each participation is signed with a SHA256 footprint. There is a count down for decisions which make the process clear and transparent for every one.

We dissolved the French association because the code of DemocracyOS was too old to make the product evolved as we would have like it and there were some dissensions in the international community. From there members of the FR association moved to Decidim, which has a large community of contributors and is more used in France.

For instance, it's currently used for the FR gov. for public consultation on education (https://etats-generaux-du-numerique.education.gouv.fr/)

Those tools are usually not easy to deploy, lot of settings are available, but once done, it's very easy to set new consultations, voting system and so on. You have the ability to receive e-mails per comment on topics, but you must go on the tool to comment. It's possible to follow the whole debate without being logged, but you need to be logged to contribute.

#9 - 2020-07-22 12:32 - Beluga Beluga

It is possible that Limesurvey could be shut down, if this sort of tool is deployed.

#10 - 2020-07-22 15:46 - Daniel Armando Rodriguez

Beluga Beluga wrote:
It is possible that Limesurvey could be shut down, if this sort of tool is deployed.

IMO we need to deploy the platform, get people on board and confront functionalities to see if everyone is happy.

### #11 - 2020-07-29 15:22 - Florian Effenberger
- **Assignee set to Daniel Armando Rodriguez**

### #12 - 2020-07-29 16:07 - Florian Effenberger
- **Status changed from New to In Progress**

Discussion items from 2020-07-17 board meeting:

- improve discussions/feedbacks (Daniel)
  - propose a platform
  - voting as a feature
- may give advantages to non-native speakers
- love the idea (Thorsten)
- doesn't solve problem of too many communication channels - Telegram, mailing lists, IRC -> one more platform to monitor then
- needs strategy to move people from mailing lists etc. to this new tool
- give a try to the platform (Daniel)
- consolidate things, avoid things getting lost (Paolo)
- differentiate (Uwe)
  - between binding & non-binding.
  - binding: mailing-list
  - non-binding: chat-channels, social media etc.
  - perhaps good to separate these.
  - [further discussion on the board-discuss list](mailto:Lothar)](#)

### #13 - 2020-07-31 10:45 - Florian Effenberger
- **Status summary set to Collecting ideas and sharing with community**

### #14 - 2020-07-31 13:45 - Stephan Ficht

Discussion items from 2020-07-31 board meeting (Daniel):

- first testing with small (hispanic) group
- asking for VPS on TDF infra to evaluate, will then come back with proposal

### #15 - 2020-07-31 14:04 - Stephan Ficht
- **Status summary changed from Collecting ideas and sharing with community to Daniel asking for VPS on TDF infra to evaluate, will then come back with proposal**

### #16 - 2020-08-10 12:04 - Florian Effenberger
- **Status summary changed from Daniel asking for VPS on TDF infra to evaluate, will then come back with proposal to Daniel evaluating on VPS at TDF infra, will then come back with proposal**

VPS was setup in the meantime

### #17 - 2020-10-02 07:57 - Stephan Ficht

Status from board meeting 2020-09-25:

- how are tests running? See last discussion about Open letter MC with the issue to have a better tooling for members involvement in discussions and decisions

### #18 - 2020-10-10 13:56 - Daniel Armando Rodriguez

Decidim is installed at [http://vm162.documentfoundation.org/](http://vm162.documentfoundation.org/), but I encountered problems related to sending mail from the platform. So far I have not been able to make further progress because my availability has changed.

### #19 - 2020-10-11 15:07 - Florian Effenberger

Can you e-mail details of the problem to hostmaster, so they can have a look?

### #20 - 2021-01-13 23:05 - Daniel Armando Rodriguez

Well, finally got some spare and made a clean install. However mail issue stands and now in touch with decidim community trying to get it fixed.