

appendix B

The Camel

community

As with any open source project, the community behind Camel is extremely important. We think of *community* as an all-encompassing term for the official website, mailing lists, the issue tracker, Camel users, projects based on or extending Camel, and much more. Measuring the vibrancy of a community when it has this many moving parts can be hard, but it's important. Having a stagnant or small community will make your (the user's) experience more difficult when things go wrong and during development in general. Camel's community is highly active and expanding, so you're in luck!

This appendix covers main aspects of the Camel community.

Apache Camel website

The Apache Camel website, <http://camel.apache.org>, will be your main resource when using Camel. You may have already noticed that we reference pages from the Camel website throughout the book. It's a good resource for us too. On the Camel website, you'll find links for downloads, documentation, support, and many other topics.

JIRA, mailing lists, Gitter, and IRC

When things don't go as planned, you'll need to get help from people in the Camel community. If you know you have a problem with a demonstrative test case or have a feature request, you can create a ticket in Camel's JIRA instance:

<https://issues.apache.org/jira/browse/CAMEL>. From there, one of the Camel developers will take the ticket and possibly commit a fix for the issue. If you want to fix the issue yourself, add a comment to the JIRA issue and then use GitHub to contribute the fix, as explained in the next section. More information on contributing is also available at <http://camel.apache.org/contributing.html>.

When you have general questions, you can send an email to the Camel user mailing list

(<http://camel.apache.org/mailling-lists.html>). Your question will be answered by one of the Camel developers or another Camel user.

You can even chat in real time with a Camel developer or user on the Camel Internet Relay Chat (IRC) chat room (<http://camel.apache.org/irc-room.html>) or Gitter channel at <https://gitter.im/apache/apache-camel>.

Camel at GitHub

GitHub has revolutionized open source collaboration. It's hard these days to find an active open source project that hasn't moved over to GitHub! Camel can be found on GitHub at <https://github.com/apache/camel>. For folks wanting to submit a potential bug fix, submit a fix for docs, or contribute a new example, GitHub pull requests (PRs) are an easy way for Camel maintainers to review, provide feedback about, and merge your code. PRs are the preferred method of code contribution.

While you check out Camel at GitHub, it's also nice to star the project to make the maintainers feel appreciated. ;-)

Camel at Stack Overflow

These days, Stack Overflow is the top question-and-answer website for all things related to programming. Many people use Stack Overflow instead of posting questions to the official Apache Camel mailing list. This is fine and can be considered part of the wider Camel community. Committers frequently search out and help folks posting questions on Stack Overflow. Be sure when asking or answering a Camel-related topic to use the tag *apache-camel* so it's noticed. At the time of writing, more than 7,000 topics have been discussed:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/apache-camel>.

Commercial Camel offerings

Plenty of companies specialize in Camel and offer paid support as well as consulting. The full list is at <http://camel.apache.org/commercial-camel-offerings.html>.

One company on that list is Red Hat, where both authors are employed. Apache Camel support at Red Hat comes from the JBoss Fuse product line, which is an open source integration platform. Red Hat does the same for other popular Apache projects as well, including ActiveMQ, Artemis, CXF, Karaf, ServiceMix, Tomcat, and Qpid. The JBoss Fuse team includes founders, PMC members, and many of the committers to Apache Camel, and they know the code better than anyone else does.¹ The JBoss Fuse website

(<https://developers.redhat.com/products/fuse/overview/>) includes free downloads, documentation, training videos, webinars, and other tools to help developers get started and be successful with JBoss Fuse and Apache Camel.

¹ What else would you expect us to say about our coworkers? They rock. :-)

Camel tooling

Since the first edition of this book, tooling for Camel has expanded such that we've had to devote an en-

tire chapter to this topic. None of the GUI tooling is developed at the Apache Camel project, so it can be considered part of the wider community. Check out tooling projects such as hawtio, JBoss Fuse Tooling, and the Camel plugin for IntelliJ IDEA in chapter 19.

Camel-extra project

Camel ships with many components, but other components are available separately from the camel-extra project at GitHub (<https://camel-extra.github.io>).

The main motivator for not including all Camel components in the main distribution is licensing. Apache Camel is developed and distributed under the Apache License, version 2. The camel-extra project contains components that integrate with libraries that have GPL and LGPL licenses, which are disallowed by the Apache Software Foundation.

At camel-extra, you'll find components for integrating with the following, among others:

- The Esper Event Stream Processing library
- The IBM Customer Information Control System (CICS)
- CIFS/SMB networking protocol

- The Hibernate ORM tool

The components from camel-extra aren't officially affiliated with or supported by Apache. In addition, the project doesn't always follow Camel's release cycle, so is more likely to be outdated.

Becoming a Camel committer

Yes, it's possible to become an Apache Camel committer yourself. To do this, you must contribute to the community. Contributions could be a combination of answering questions on the mailing list or Stack Overflow, contributing new features or bug fixes via PRs, or writing blogs or articles about Camel. The key is to keep up with contributions over a period of time. There isn't a set period of time or amount of code you need to submit; it varies. But after a while, someone from the Camel Project Management Committee (PMC) will invite you to become a committer on the Camel project. After you accept, you'll be able to commit code directly to Camel yourself.

Videos

There have been many presentations on Apache Camel over the years. Some of them were video recorded and are available online on popular sites such as YouTube or Vimeo. You may also find video recordings from the Camel team showing some cool new functionality that are on the way.

Other resources

The Camel website has an extensive collection of links to external articles, blogs, books (<http://camel.apache.org/books.html>—there are nine books out now!), projects, presentations, videos, podcasts, and other sources that cover Camel (<http://camel.apache.org/articles.html>). There's also a collection of links to other third-party Camel projects and companies that use Camel (<http://camel.apache.org/user-stories.html>). Dozens of projects and additional Camel components are listed here, so it's worth a look.

If you've written a blog entry or article, or your company uses Camel and wants to have a link added, please contact the Camel team.

