Chapel Technical Steering Committee: Second Kick-off Meeting

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September 18, 2025

Recap

TSC Composition

- Initial TSC made up of current committers who accepted invitation
  - Jade Abraham
  - Brad Chamberlain
  - Lydia Duncan
  - Daniel Fedorin
  - Abhishek Girish
  - Ben Harshbarger
  - John Hartman
  - Engin Kayraklioglu
  - Shreyas Khandekar
  - Anna Rift
  - Elliot Ronaghan
  - Andy Stone
  - Karlon West
- TSC needs to determine how interested community members can apply to become TSC members

TSC TODOs

Short-term:

- ~~Approve the technical charter~~
- Approve the GOVERNANCE.md document
- Decide whether to rename the project now
- Decide how to source a new logo
- Decide whether we want to create a TSC chair

- What else belongs in this column?

Medium- to Longer-term:

- How can community members join the TSC?
  - And whether we want to actively recruit
- What's our meeting cadence and structure?
- How are topics proposed to the TSC?
- What TSC forums should we establish outside HPE?
  - (Mailing list? Slack? Discord?)
- Does LF have a more formal voting tool to use?
- How can community members become committers?

- How about here?

Recap

Kick-off Meeting:

- Held two weeks ago (Sept 4, 2025)

- Covered background of Chapel's application to HPSF and TSC membership

- Voted on adopting the current draft of the technical charter (passed, 13–0)

- Decided to review the proposed GOVERNANCE.md revisions offline (more on that on the next slides)

- Covered some background about the Chapel name and interest in renaming the project

Since then:

- Set up a TSC repository and Discourse group (web-based mailing list)

- Polled on comfort for using non-anonymous voting for short-term decisions (more on that in a bit)

- Polled on concerns with proceeding with legal paperwork (tech charter and transfer docs)

- Created public list of things that would need to change if we renamed the project (issue #2)

- Created an issue about logo design considerations (issue #4)

- Advertised this meeting

GOVERNANCE.md

GOVERNANCE.md

Decided we would treat thumbs-ups or "approve" reviews as votes to adopt

Current Status: 12 of 13 have voted to proceed with revisions in PR [#3](#)

Moving Target notes: A few issues were caught and addressed during this process, mostly typographical:

- stale "last updated" date
- duplicate reference to "TSC Chair" in list of roles
- terminology mix-ups between "committer", "core contributor" (old term), and "contributor"
- list people in each category rather than relying on inheritance ("all of the tech leaders as well as…")
- proposed change to have tech lead serve as conduit from sub-teams to TSC rather than TSC chair

Voting Methodology

Voting Methodology

- Will eventually need an anonymous voting mechanism for sensitive votes (TSC acceptances/rejections)
  - Started getting everyone registered with LFX tools this week to enable making use of their voting tools
  - May also result in access to other technologies (Zoom-based meetings? Calendar? …?)

- In the meantime, have not been worrying about anonymity for these official votes
  - Wanted to see whether this is concerning for anyone, in general, before taking more votes
  - Asked on Discourse and 8/13 said "OK"

- Potential / anticipated upcoming vote topics:
  - timing of renaming discussions / exploration
  - approach to logo sourcing and selection
  - aspects of creating a chair

- Potential first need for an anonymous vote:
  - election of a chair, if we do so

Timing of Discussing Project Renaming

The Chapel Name: A Brief History

- Etymology: **C**ascade **H**igh **P**roductivity **L**anguage

- The name has generally been considered unfortunate since it was first coined
  - Due to potential religious connotations
  - But it stuck before we changed it

- Recently, there's been a reasonably serious movement to rename it
  - Formed a subteam to explore and propose alternatives
  - Focused on "C" language names to preserve the 'chpl' file extension, tool names, etc.
  - "Cascade" came out in the lead due to the connection to original name
  - Failed to successfully rename under HPE
  - Stopped pushing as HPSF started becoming a reality

HPSF and Renaming

- If we were to rename, the HPSF transition would be a natural time to do so
  - "Chapel is now part of HPSF, has this great new logo, and will now be known as _____"
- It would also delay the transition to HPSF further
  - Would need to debate and decide whether to rename
  - Would need to decide on a new name and have LF legal sign off on it
    - note: LF has suggested "Cascade" is a non-starter
  - Would need to update some non-trivial fraction of our resources to reflect the new name
- Not enough time to wrestle with this whole topic today, but could potentially decide when to
- Possible timings:
  - ~~Prior to signing the legal documents (since they create an LLC with "Chapel" in the name)~~
  - After signing the legal documents but before the public PR campaign
 - Once we're under HPSF
  - Never

Potential Options

- ~~We should discuss more before signing the legal paperwork~~

- We should proceed with the legal paperwork

- We should discuss more before the public launch

- We should proceed with the public launch

- We should discuss more before embarking on a logo design

- We should proceed with the logo design

- We should discuss more after the public launch

Logo

The Chapel Logo: A Brief History

- Crowd-sourced by holding a contest to design the logo

- Winner by a large margin chosen by Cray executives and Chapel team:

- Cray branding cleaned it up, creating three flexible forms that we've been using:
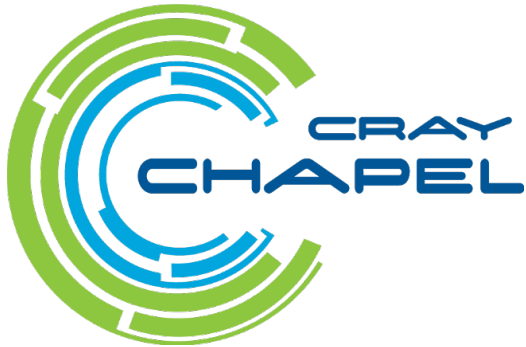
- HPE is retaining the common law rights to the logo due to the potential for branding confusion:

Logo Discussion Questions

- Do we want a new logo?

- Do we want it before we publicly launch?

- Should we form a subteam/working group to focus on this or does the whole TSC want to be involved?

- How should we generate ideas?
    - Linux Foundation has a design team at our disposal (see next slide)
    - We can crowd-source ideas
    - We could do both
        - But we've been asked not to have the LF team generate ideas if we think we'll go with a crowd-sourced option
        - => If we crowdsource, we should give them a head start

Linux Foundation Process

- Provides 3 initial concepts in 2–3 weeks ("but can be done in a single day if needed")

- Iterates on one of them over 1–2 rounds (not sure how long these are)

- Input:
  - 1–2 sentence elevator pitch for project
  - 3 terms/adjectives describing project
  - choose design type: text only, icon + text, mascot + text
  - color palette: provide ~3 color choices in priority order
  - list 2-3 logos you like that resonate with you
  - list competitive brands to avoid visually and why

TSC Chair

TSC Chair Discussion Questions

- Do we want one?

- What would their role be?
  - preside over meetings
  - serve as the primary communication contact with the HPSF (or someone else can be designated)
  - ...?

- Who is interested in being considered for it?

- ...?

Expanding the TSC

Expanding the TSC

- After bootstrapping, the TSC is designed to become open to community members
- Technical charter summarizes key elements
  - TSC votes in new members
    - Can also vote someone out of TSC
  - Members can resign at will
  - Key Qs:
    - What would we want to see from interested applicants?
    - Practically, how will we conduct discussion and voting?

@ChapelLanguage