Zowe Technical Steering Committee Proposal

This proposal is to form a Zowe Technical Steering Committee (TSC) to improve the content, development, testing, packaging, delivery, and consumption of Zowe. The motivations for the formation of a TSC include:

* Attract more consumers and contributors by having at least, 1-2 major releases a year that include “Wow” (aka big-ticket) line items worthy of Open Mainframe Project (OMP) press release headlines.
* Reliably maintain a release cadence of 4-6 weeks as consumers of Zowe will expect timely fixes and predictable delivery dates.
* Harvesting, vetting, and prioritization of the many great ideas for the direction of Zowe with the consensus of the community.
* Improving efficiencies across the teams and – where possible – load balancing of skills and resources to avoid duplication of effort, and to fill any identified resource gaps to help Zowe meet delivery dates as an integrated team.
* Improve and propagate best-practices across the development teams sourcing ideas from individual teams and from outside the community.

The Technical Steering Committee (TSC) will oversee the overall technical direction of Zowe. The responsibilities of the TSC include:

* ~~Serve as a technical implementation team to gain~~ Foster consensus for themes recommended by a clear majority of Zowe consumers, or the Zowe Leadership Committee (ZLC), or cross Squad initiatives
* Coordinating technical direction of ~~the project~~ cross-squad efforts while also encouraging the various squads/sub-projects to drive innovation – especially in the areas of integration
* Running of an architecture forum to explore new ideas for Zowe such as new capabilities or technologies for implementation
* Drive delivery of new Zowe capabilities via discussions, seeking consensus, and where necessary, voting on technical matters relating to the code base that affect multiple Zowe components.
  + Voting will be unanimous by the members of the TSC
* Negotiate and gain consensus of the priority of cross squad activities with squads (squads retain in-squad backlog prioritization)
* Oversee GitHub repository policies and administration for the Zowe community to ensure best practices and adherence to OMP policies. The GitHub administration is to follow the rules of any accreditation badges the Zowe community achieves.
* Establish policy for the development, build, test, and documentation process for Zowe – this to include acceptance criteria for new source code
* Appointing representatives to work with other open source or open standards communities as needed.z
* Define Zowe’s release schedule and release readiness criteria
* Approve Zowe releases in accordance with defined criteria
* Decide when a new version of Zowe is needed according to the community policy
* Raising issues to the ZLC when such issues are either intractable or outside the scope of TSC responsibilities.

The TSC consists of:

* Squad leads of the Zowe sub-projects (the identified components of Zowe but excluding incubator projects – incubators are to be represented by the projects they are associated).
  + Each Squad will have one voting member on the TSC.
  + The TSC meetings will be open to anyone.
  + The Zowe Systems Team will be considered a squad for the TSC.
  + Other voting representatives will be allowed by consensus of the TSC members (such as Documentation/Web Site administration).
* Additional Technical Leaders (such as Architects and/or Distinguished Engineers) that are nominated (and 2nd) by TSC members and voted onto the TSC by unanimous agreement.
  + 1st year technical leaders will be appointed by the ZLC
    - ZLC members assigned to the TSC in year 1 are Mark Ackert, Sean Grady and Joe Winchester
  + The Technical Leaders will be voted on by TSC members in subsequent years.
* There are no term limits for the TSC, Squad leaders are determined by the respective squad members.
* Additional Technical Leaders are up for re-vote on a yearly basis.
  + The Technical Leaders need a simple majority of the TSC to continue to serve on the TSC.
* The TSC elects a Chairperson who runs TSC meetings and a Vice-Chair that organizes TSC meetings, sets meeting agendas, records minutes, and records action items with target dates for follow up.