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Samvera Connect Lightning Talk
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"A Recipe for Success"



The screenshot shows a Duraspace web interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Spaces, People, Polls, Calendars, Create, and a search icon. The page title is "The Samvera Way: a recipe for success" by Bill Branan, dated Jun 16, 2017. The page content includes a disclaimer about its evolving nature, a section on the purpose of the page, and a section on the Samvera Community.

Pages / Samvera

The Samvera Way: a recipe for success

Created by Bill Branan on Jun 16, 2017

This document is a work in progress. As the Samvera Community grows, both in numbers of participants and maturity, our way of doing things will continue to evolve. This document should evolve with it!

The purpose of this page

There are those, we are told, who point to the Samvera Community, previously called the Hydra Project, as one of the most successful, current, open source projects. Whether we deserve that accolade is up to others to judge but we in the Samvera Community **are** proud of what we have done and what we do. This page is an attempt to record just what was and is "The Samvera Way", and why we think it was and is successful.

So what is the Samvera Community?

The Samvera Community is a large, [multi-institutional collaboration](#) which has produced a repository solution that is being used by institutions around the world to provide access to their digital content. The Community gives these like-minded institutions a mechanism to combine their individual repository development efforts into a collective solution with breadth and depth that exceeds the capacity of any individual institution to create, maintain or enhance on its own. The motto of the Community Partners is "if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

<https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/samvera/The+Samvera+Way%3A+a+recipe+for+success>



Key Values

- Agility & Responsiveness to change
- Transparency & Openness
- Learning & Innovation
- Respect & Collaboration
- Participation & Contribution

Samvera is a Learning Community

We believe in building the knowledge and capacity of individuals and institutions. Training, bootstrapping and cross-community support are fundamental strategies. We deliberately cultivate a culture of learning, questioning and knowledge seeking.

Samvera is an Inclusive Community

We believe that everyone has a positive role to play in the community. We proactively reach out to enroll and include new participants. We believe in polite, respectful communication and behavior.

Samvera Values Quality

We believe in building a quality experience for everyone: software users and community members.

Samvera is a Productive Community

We want to get things done. We are results oriented.

Samvera is an Adaptive Community

We consciously evolve our community processes in response to new information, emerging needs, and experimentation.

Samvera is NOT a Directed Project

Samvera is a grass-roots, community-powered framework.

Our success is a direct result of the collective ownership and investment of community members.

Everyone can help. Everyone has a role to play.
Anyone can lead.

So How Do Things Get Done?

Ask 4 Questions

1. What needs to be done?

Identifying needs for advancing Samvera comes from anywhere. Often, the greatest opportunities are most easily seen from those who are newest to the community, or who are on the edges of its current boundaries. Improving the community for the collective good starts with concrete ideas on what needs to be improved.

2. What is someone else already doing on this front?

Recognize what's already happening and 1.) thank them, and 2.) offer encouragement. Building off existing work makes that work better and more valuable; it extends others' reach and validates their contributions. It forms a bigger team that can go farther, together, and sustain what is built.

3. What can I do?

Is there something that you can do, or a part of something you can do? If so, step up.

4. Who can I invite to help?

More often than not, people have the capacity to contribute but may not recognize the need, or how they can help. Inviting them can surmount this low hurdle. It generates the initiative to join. It also builds community ties and by offering and accepting invitations, commitment to the project and its Partners.

Looking for Concrete Ways to Help?

1. Help orchestrate Samvera Connect
2. Curate Samvera Partner Calls
3. Be a Website / Wiki Gardener
4. Help produce Samvera Virtual Connect
5. Check in on and help out other Samvera Partners / participants
6. Represent Samvera at a conference
7. Work on a Samvera sprint (coding, testing, documenting, coordinating)
8. Help deliver Samvera training
9. Be a Developer mentor
10. Be a new community member mentor
11. Participate in an Interest or Working Group
12. Become a Samvera Helper