The Future of Faust

Faust Consortium Project

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Introduction

- After 20 years of R&D by Grame, the National Center for Musical Creation in Lyon, Faust is a mature, stable software used by an international community:
- Faust is also used in the industry, particularly by companies manufacturing electronic musical instruments and audio software.
- It is time to structure the community

Next steps

- The creation of *AFFA* the Faust Association: a non-profit association open to individual Faust users
- The creation of the Faust Consortium, managed by INRIA.

The Faust Association

- An association governed by the French law of July 1, 1901, and the decree of August 16, 1901, with the name: **FAUST Association / Association FAUST (AFFA)**.
- The purpose of the association is to develop and promote the FAUST programming language and its use among users, both in France and internationally.
- The association is open to any individual who uses the FAUST language and wishes to contribute to the association's objectives.

The Faust Consortium

The consortium is open to:
- Companies,
- Universities,
- Organisations

that want to:
- Be part of Faust's future development.
- Actively participate in decision-making processes, including defining the *roadmap*.
- Pool financial resources to ensure long-term maintenance and development.

The Faust Consortium

Membership Categories

- **Guest Member**
- **Paying Members**:
  - Silver Member
  - Gold Member
  - Platinum Member

Rights and Obligations (Membership)

	Guest	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Membership fee	Free	€1000	€3000	€10000
Technical support	0 days	1 day	2 days	4 days
Approve Guest Members	0 votes	1 vote	1 vote	1 vote
Approve Roadmap	1 vote	1 vote	2 votes	4 votes

Organization of the Consortium

The consortium is organized around two governance bodies

General Assembly (GA):

- Oversees the consortium's operation.
- Reviews the ecosystem and formulates recommendations.
- Approves the budget and sets work priorities.
- Coordinates communication and promotional activities, e.g., the International Faust Conference (IFC).

Scientific and Technical Committee (STC):

- Defines and updates the roadmap for the compiler and its ecosystem.
- Maintains the formal specification and standard library.
- Certifies third-party compiler implementations.
- Manages documentation, tools, and official Git repositories.

Scientific and Technical Committee (STC)

Responsibilities

- Maintain the official specification of the Faust language.
- Develop a reference implementation of the compiler.
- Publish official releases of the compiler.
- Certify third-party implementations.
- Define and maintain:
    - Standard libraries.
    - Development tools.
    - Architecture files.
    - Documentation and educational resources.
- Manage the official Faust websites and repositories.

Members

- Technical lead appointed by INRIA.
- Members of the Emeraude team working on Faust.
- Optional: 1-2 representatives from consortium members.

Roadmap Development

- The roadmap defines short- and medium-term evolution of the language, compiler, and ecosystem tools.
- Drafted by the STC based on:
  - Proposals from the Faust community.
  - Suggestions from consortium members.

Process

1. **Initial Draft**: STC evaluates feasibility, labor costs, and importance of proposed features.
2. **General Assembly Review**:
   - Chooses items for the roadmap.
   - Ensures workload does not exceed 50% of the consortium's resources.
3. **Approval**:
   - Roadmap is adopted via a vote, where each member's voting power depends on their membership level.

Conclusion

- The Faust Consortium represents a pivotal step toward ensuring the language's long-term stability and growth.
- It provides a structured approach to decision-making, resource pooling, and community involvement, enabling a collaborative future for Faust.