OSI Board Report on ClearlyDefined

Monthly report in preparation for board meeting March 19, 2021

Summary

The focus for this month has been correcting a systematic issue with the urls stored as part of definitions for Maven components. The systematic issue has been corrected for all new Maven components, but we are still working on programmatically updating all existing Maven definitions (over 800,000). The other focus has been around improving the cloud infrastructure which runs ClearlyDefined.

Resources

We are increasing the capacity of our ClearlyDefined infrastructure. As ClearlyDefined usage has increased, we have discovered some bottlenecks in the infrastructure and are diagnosing those and adding more capacity to them.

Additionally, Nell has started the process of finding contractors to revamp ClearlyDefined’s UI/UX. She has found two that Microsoft has worked with in the past and, with the help of the OSI, is hoping to hire them within the next quarter.

Monetary resources remain stable. Even with increased Azure capacity, we have plenty of credits from Microsoft to cover it for some time. The only time we foresee spending some of our budget is when we hire the contractors.

Technology

This month was mainly focused on correcting issues with Maven URLs stored by ClearlyDefined. Additionally, Nell is also working on documenting the ClearlyDefined infrastructure as she improves it. Another Microsoft developer described the ClearlyDefined infrastructure as “an enigma.” By documenting it, we can make it much less of an enigma and, eventually, capture it’s configuration in an automated provisioning tool.

Nell has also deployed a few documentation updates for ClearlyDefined curators and made them more discoverable than they previously were.
Community

Community meetings continue to focus on feature requests (5 at a time), focusing on gathering context and consensus on whether (and how) to proceed further with the request.

Community members are also contributing more bug reports and helping with troubleshooting, which is greatly appreciated!

Upcoming goals

1. Prepare contracts for ClearlyDefined UI/UX contractor
2. Add two additional types of components (likely chocolatey and something else) to ClearlyDefined. This will help pave the road for adding Go components in the near future.
3. Continue documenting ClearlyDefined infrastructure in preparation for capturing the set up in an automated provisioning tool.