




R Conference Management System

Avoiding the reinvention of the
wheel

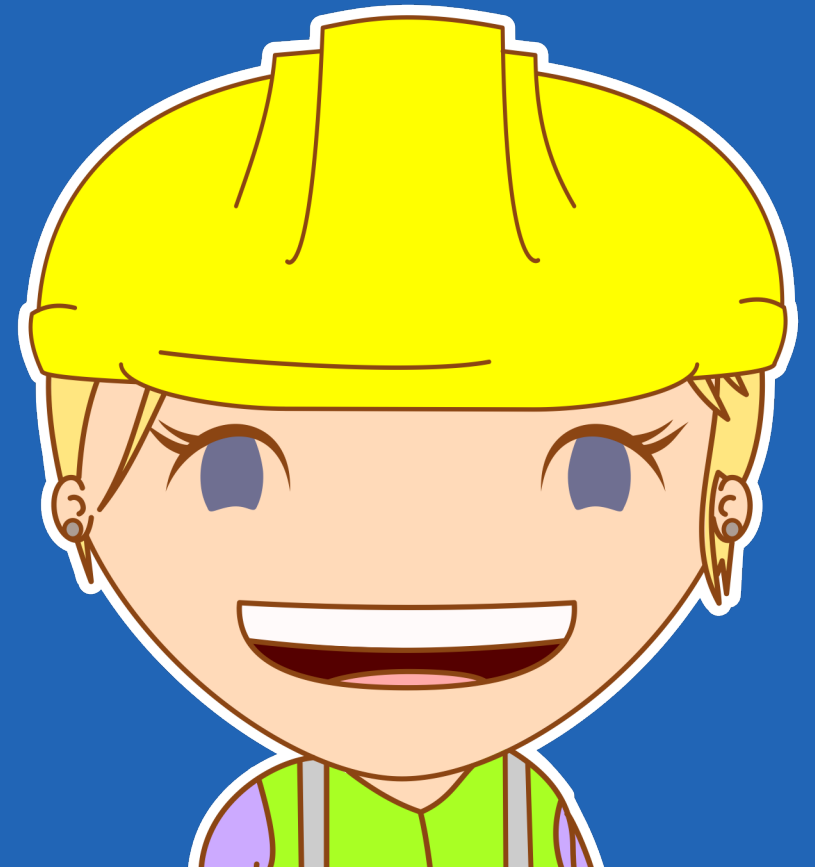
A cartoon character with bright red hair, a large open-mouthed smile, and closed eyes, wearing a light blue collared shirt. A large white speech bubble points from the character's mouth towards the right.

We wanted an open
source solution to
help run conferences.



How will we get one?

We considered a
range of pre-existing
OSS solutions



Desk review

OCS x

Indico x

Frab x

OSEM ✓

Odoo ✓

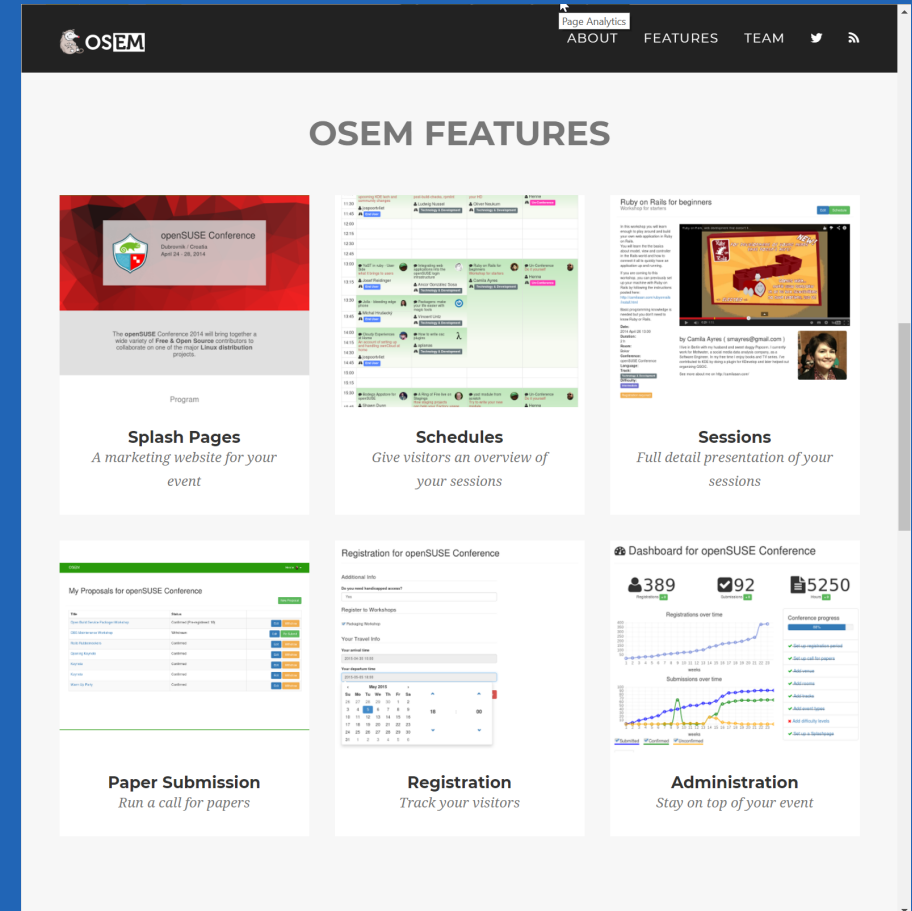
OCW ✓

We tested a shortlist
in-depth



Open Source Event Manager (OSEM)

- Osem.io
- Ruby based



OpenConferenceWare (OCW)

Features

- Anyone can list events
- Anyone can list/show sessions for an event
- Anyone can list/show proposals for an event
- Anyone can leave private comments about proposals to organizers
- Anyone can be informed of new proposals via ATOM feed
- Anyone can list/show tracks for an event
- Anyone can list/show session types for an event
- Anyone can subscribe to a feed of proposals for the event
- Anyone can list/show rooms for an event
- Anyone can create a profile, including a biography, picture and URLs
- Users can login via OpenID
- Users can create proposals until a deadline
- Users can update/delete their own proposals until a deadline
- Users can assign one or many speakers to a proposal
- Users can mark proposals/sessions as favorites
- Administrators can login via OpenID or password
- Administrators can assign/revoke administrator rights of other users
- Administrators can update text snippets throughout the site
- Administrators can create/update/delete events
- Administrators can set deadlines for accepting proposals for events
- Administrators can export proposals and comments to CSV
- Administrators can update/delete any proposal
- Administrators can set status of any proposal (e.g., accept, reject)
- Administrators can create/update/delete tracks
- Administrators can create/update/delete session types
- Administrators can create/update/delete rooms
- Administrators can list/show/destroy private comments for proposals
- Administrators can subscribe to a feed of private comments for proposals
- Developers can customize the site's appearance and behavior
- ...and many more features are planned for the future!

- Openconferenceware.org
- Ruby based

Odoo

- Odoo.com
- Python

Design

Drag & drop editor

Structure your event pages with our premade building blocks. Create landing pages, agendas, speakers bios, calls-to-action, images, links and much more in just a few clicks.

Building blocks system

Edit your events by adding your text and graphics directly within the editable content of your building blocks.

Themes

Pick one of Odoo's awesome themes and change the layout according to your taste without losing time starting from scratch.

Edit menu

Create a menu with several pages for advanced events.

Organize

Talk proposal management

Allow visitors to submit talks and speakers on your event websites. Organize the validation process of every talk.

Tracks management

Follow every step from issuing the call for speakers to managing submissions, content and speakers.

Backend to frontend integration

Directly translate information about speakers into visually appealing speakers' biographies and descriptions of the talks and presentations.

Attendees management

Manage classes and resources, create group of attendees, set min/max capacities. Add custom questions at subscriptions, per attendee or per subscription. Customize entrance badges and analyze attendee profile.

Event organization

Manage calendar of events, multiple locations and organizers.

Event budget

Administration of resources allocation and automated purchases.

Event collaterals management

Obtain accurate attendees list and print ready-made classy badges.

Follow-up

Send automate follow-up emails or satisfaction surveys and allow reviews

Promote & sell

Events

Drag and drop building blocks into place, and share your speakers and agenda information with attendees and prospects.

Email marketing

Schedule automatic communications : save the date, enrollment confirmation, reminders, know before you go, thank you for attending, etc.

Social Media integration

Set a Twitter Hashtag for each of your events.

SEO integration

Get keyword suggestions according to Google most searched terms and improve your SEO.

Google Analytics integration

Track all kind of events related to visits, shopping carts, call-to-actions and more by default.

Link Tracker integration

Add a tracking code to your links and assess each of your campaign's return on investment (ROI).

Sell tickets online

Sell registrations to your events with the multi-ticketing feature. Register several people at once. During the subscription process, the participant will be able to detail each attendee in a new screen.

Online or offline sales

Allow attendees to pay online with a credit card or with the invoice, based on your configuration.

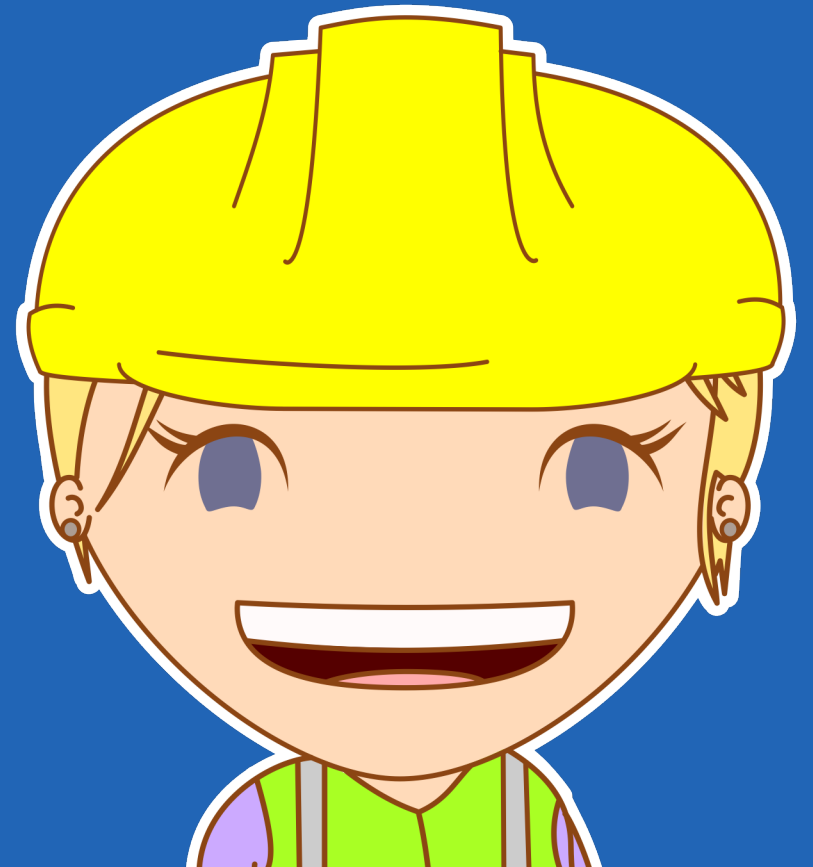
Manage sales & increase revenues

Configure automated invoicing, cancellation policies, specific prices for members and sale conditions like early bird for your event.

Dashboards & reporting

Real time information and data on your event.

We installed three
solutions



Installation experience

- Odoo was easy and used docker containers
- OSEM and OCW were Ruby installs on Heroku
 - These took a day of an experienced Ruby infrastructure person's time
 - There were outdated dependency issues on OCW which can also cause security concerns

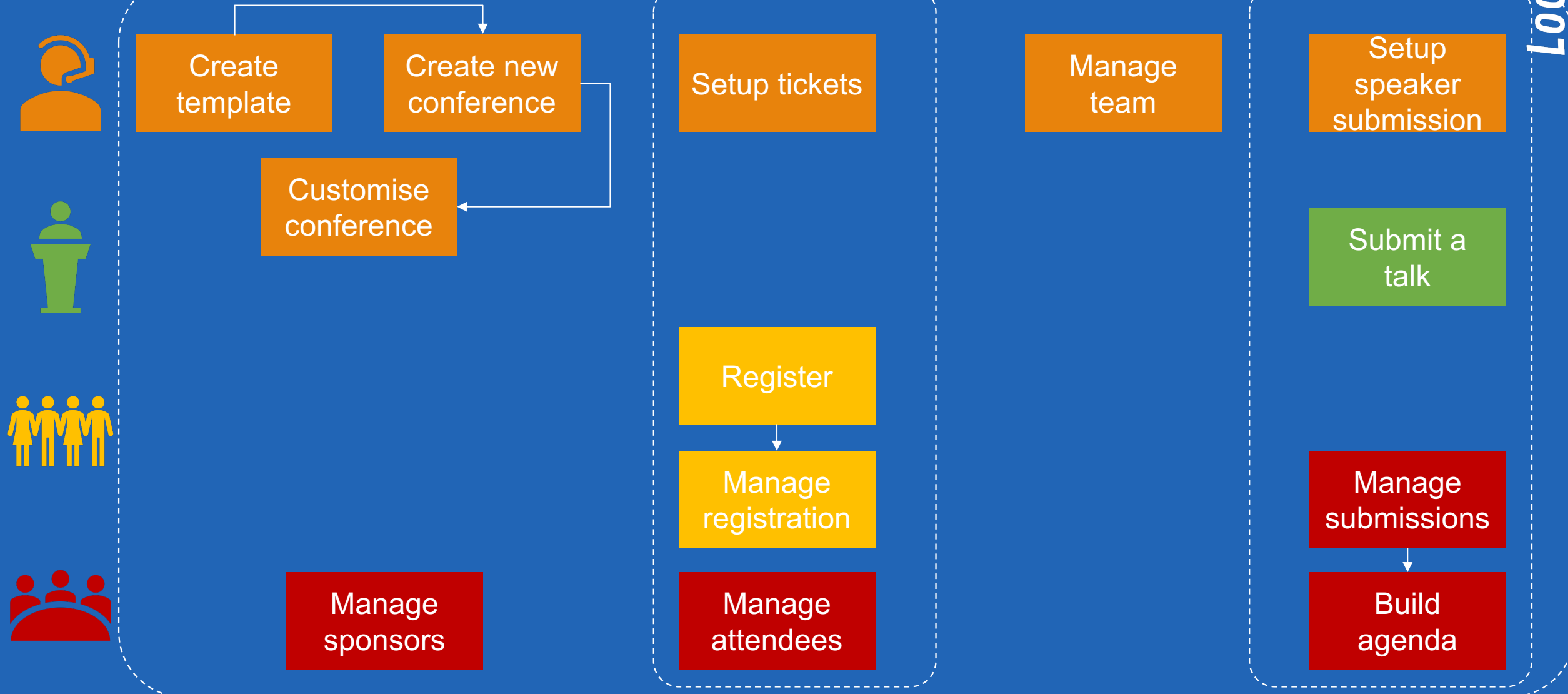
We got individuals to
test the systems



Methodology

- Get R people to try to perform conference activities
- Use existing knowledge, documentation, and Google to achieve tasks
- If motivated R people can't work out how to do the task, it's considered a fail
- Fails upstream can cause task downstream to be considered a fail

Task chains

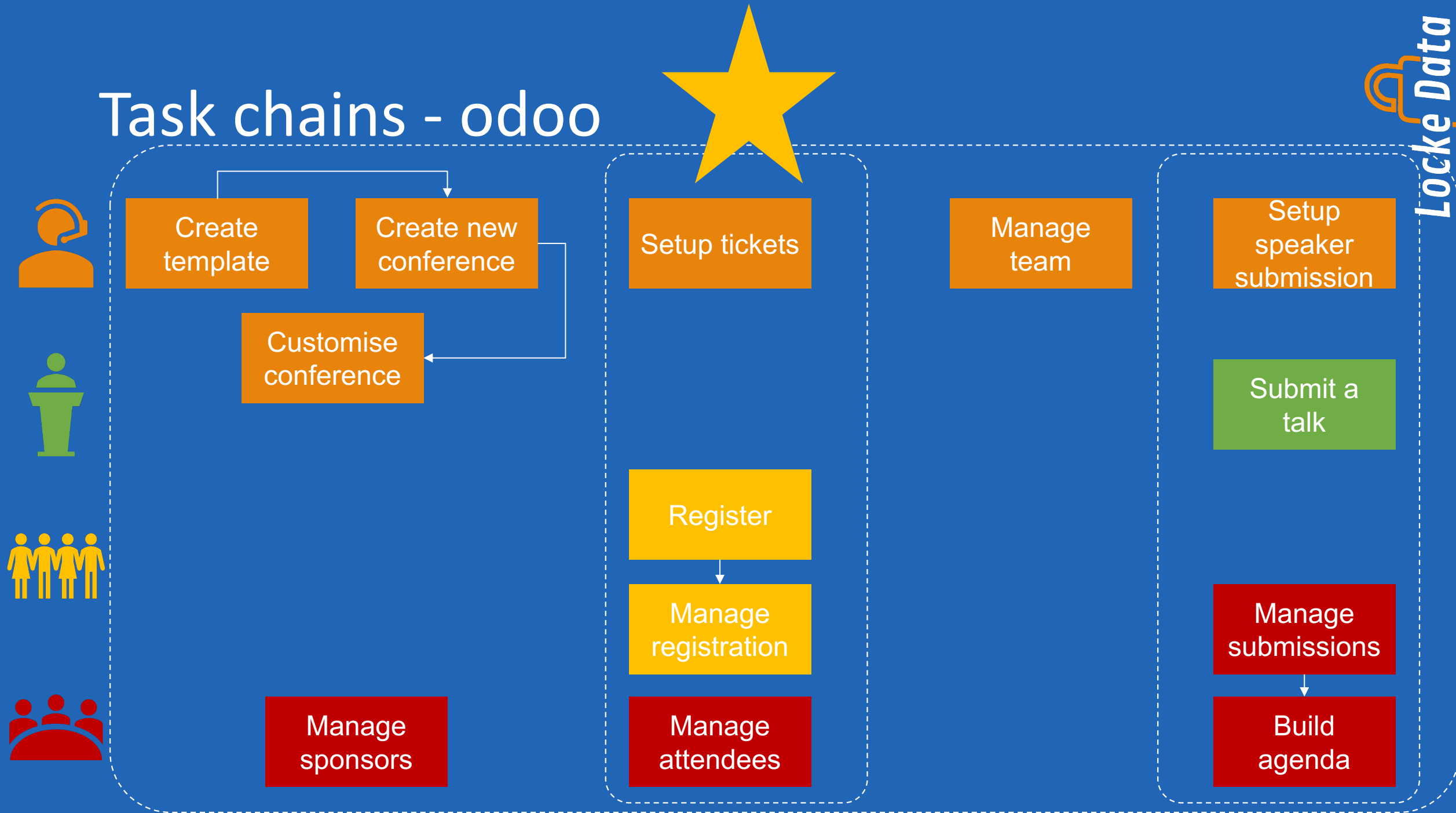


After some time...

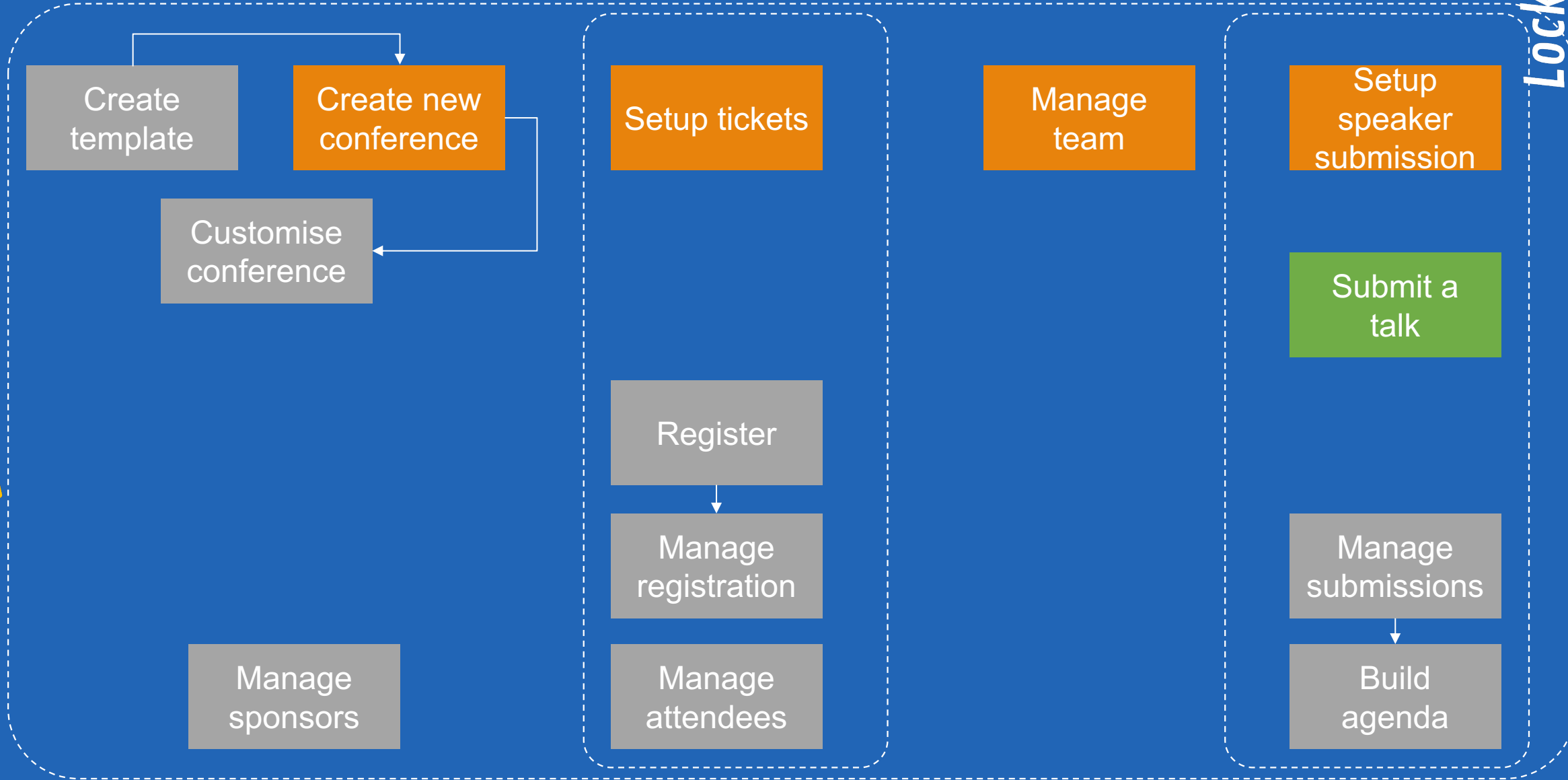
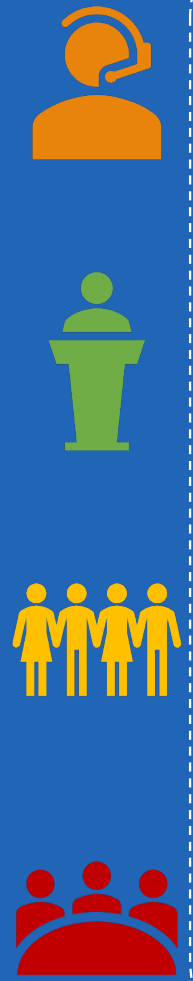


How'd they all do?

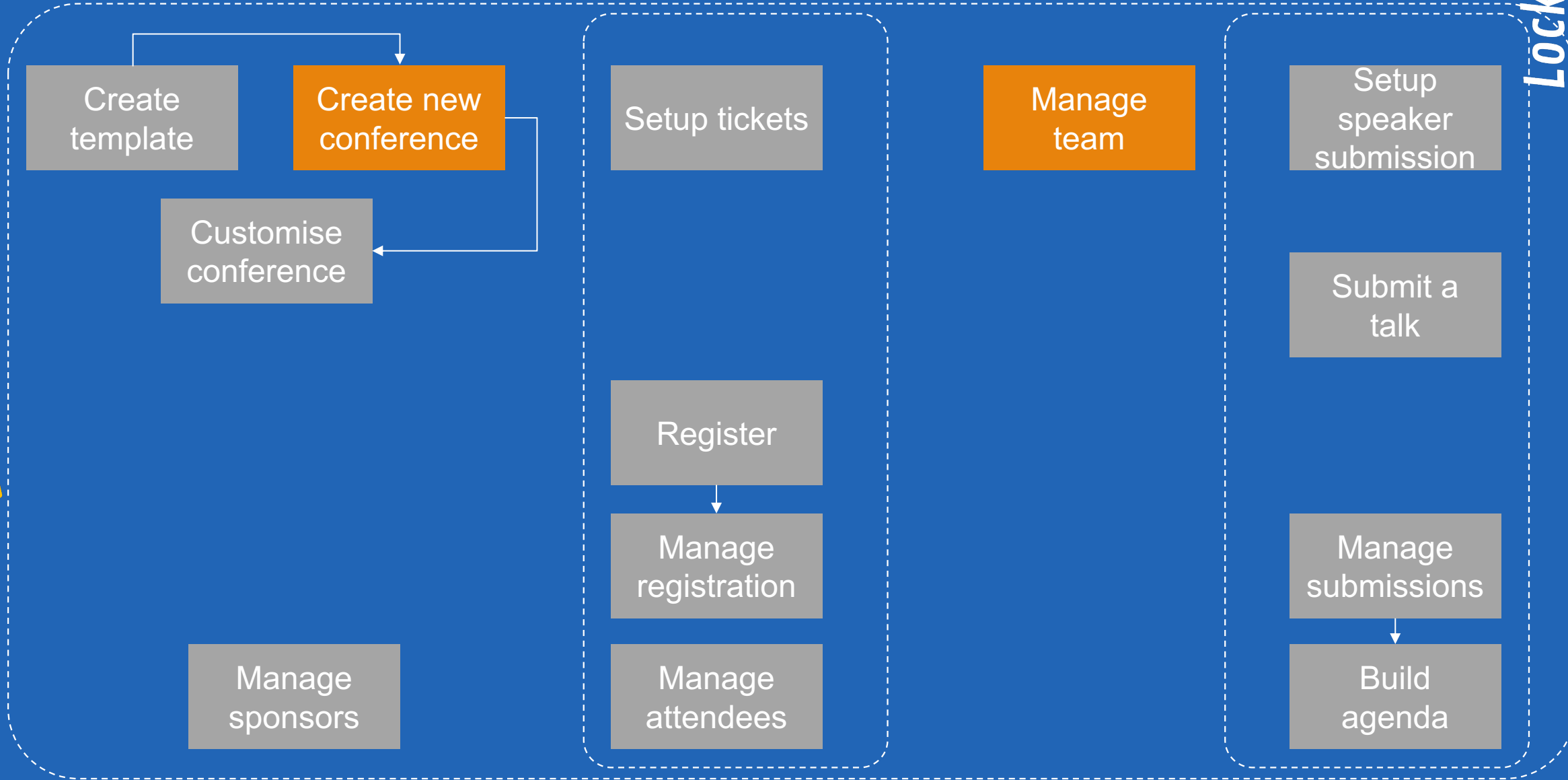
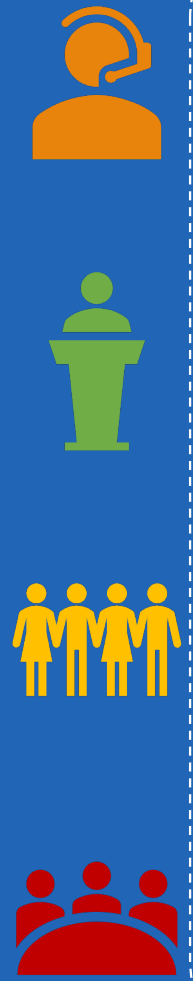
Task chains - odoo



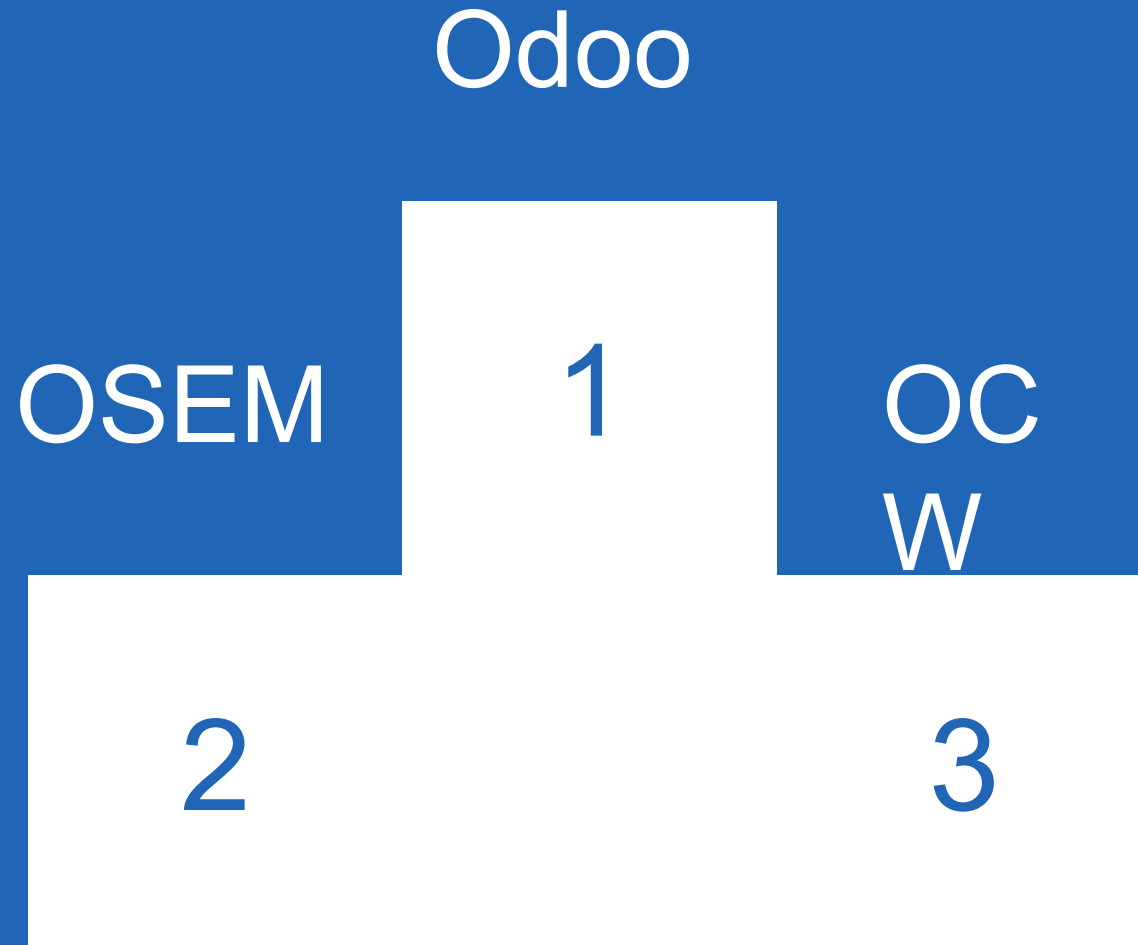
Task chains- osem



Task chains - oconf



Scores



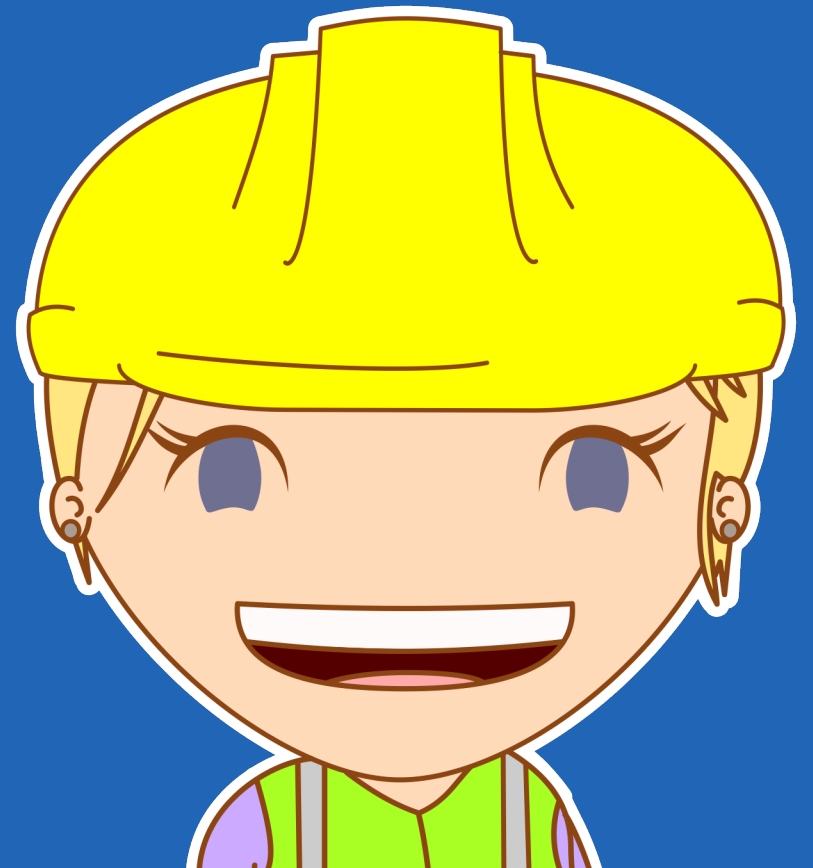


So what next?

None of the solutions
were good with
academic workflows



We could extend
Odoo



But then other CFP
systems probably
can't be used



We could build our
own solution



A cartoon illustration of a young girl with short, bright red hair. She is shown from the chest up, wearing a light blue collared shirt. Her eyes are closed in a squint, and her mouth is wide open in a large, dark brown laugh. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble originates from the right side of her head, pointing towards the upper right corner of the image. The background is a solid, vibrant blue.

What might a new
solution look like?

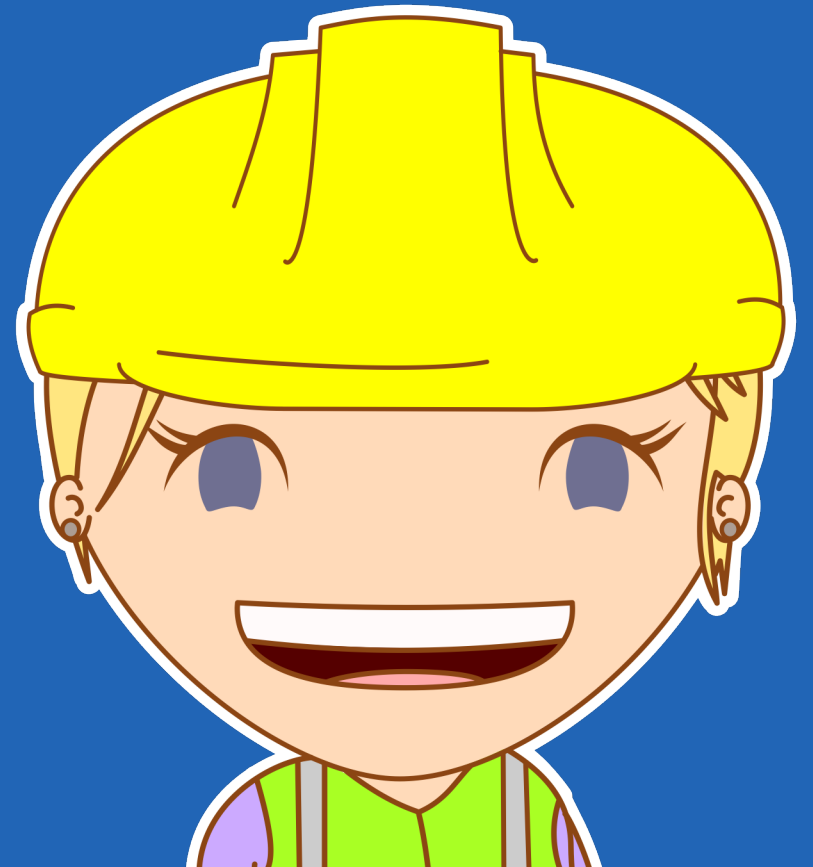
We could use Hugo!!!



Hugo

- Hugo is a static site generator
- It's used heavily in the R Community for blog sites
- Knowledge required to build is mostly HTML, JS, CSS
- Templates can consume data files

We could build
templates and some
initial integrations



Deliverables

Freedom to choose and to add new integrations

SatRdays site template

UseR! site template

3 ticket sale app integrations

3 CFP app integrations

1 agenda app integration



So what do we want
to do?