Open Source Collaboration and Companies: Finding the Right Balance

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LF Open Source Summit, August 2019

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Whoami

- Geek, traveler, reader
- 20+ year tech career focused on community & open source (Intel, Puppet Labs, Scale Factory, etc.)
- PhD from the University of Greenwich concentrating on Linux kernel collaboration
- Kubernetes contributor
- CHA OSS Governing Board / Maintainer

Photos by Josh Bancroft, Don Park
Collaboration in OSS Projects: individuals, companies, and communities
Individuals

Contributions

Leadership
Companies

Employees Contribute

Recruiting

Resources

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Communities

Community = People

Small World
Contribution Strategy and Plans
Contribution Strategy and Plans

- Align with business goals
- Execs understand importance
- Employees see their impact
Which Open Source Projects?

Already Use
Existing Contributions

Image by Colleen Simon for Opensource.com CC BY-SA
Resources Required

Grow vs. Hire

Funding for Membership
Resources Required

Guidelines / Processes

OSS Program Office

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Measure Success

Criteria for Success

Data Required (CHAOSS)
Good Corporate Citizen
Getting Started

Join

Read the Docs

Lurk & Understand

Start Small

Image by Filip Maljković CC BY-SA
Learn from Feedback

Avoid Getting Defensive

May Need to Iterate
Work with the Community

Discuss Changes
Early and Often
Lack of Control

Image by The Linux Foundation CC BY
Relationships

Attend Events

Get to Know People

Image by The Linux Foundation CC BY
Upstream your Patches

Reduces Your Overhead
Benefits the Community
Right Thing to Do
Maintenance Expectations

Small Contributions vs.

Large Contributions
Open Sourcing Your Software

No Dumping

Maintenance

Community

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Resources / References

Learn more about open source collaboration and related topics.

Linux Foundation TODO Group
- https://www.linuxfoundation.org/resources/open-source-guides/

GitHub
- https://opensource.guide/

Red Hat’s Opensource.com
- https://opensource.com/resources
Thank You and Questions

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